

# **PHALLACIES:**

## **Creating Healthy Masculinities through Dialogue and Theater**

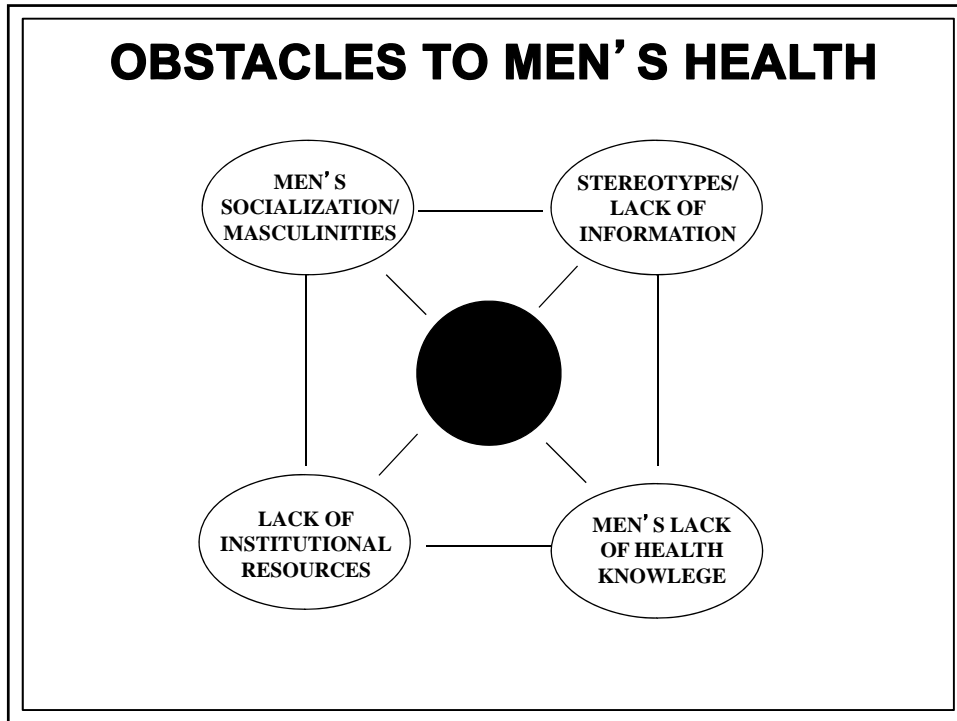
Presented by:

Taj Smith, Williams College  
Tom Schiff, University of Massachusetts Amherst  
Michael Schurter, University of Massachusetts Amherst

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## **The History of Phallacies**

- The formation
- Origin of a name
- Why is it important for us?



**Large Group Activity:**

**What are obstacles on your campus?**

## **Hegemonic Masculinity**

Men who adhere to “hegemonic masculinity” are:

- less likely to engage in health promoting behaviors
- more likely to engage in risky behaviors
- more likely to accept violence as part of the masculine norm

(Connell, 1995; Stanistreet, Bamba, and Scott-Samuel, 2005; Courtenay, 1998; Hong, 2006; Funk, 1993).

## **Acceptance of hegemonic masculinity on & off campus makes one more likely to:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be sexually violent</li> <li>• Engage in other risky sexual behaviors</li> <li>• Practice relationship violence</li> <li>• Engage in and seek out fights</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drive unsafely</li> <li>• Abuse tobacco, alcohol and/or drugs</li> <li>• Use dietary supplements</li> <li>• Higher levels of homophobia &amp; sexism</li> </ul> |
|--|--|

(Courtney, 1998; Davies, et al., 2002; Noar and Morokoff, 2002; Harper & Harris, 2010; Harris, 2010; Edwards & Jones, 2009; Edwards, 2010; Edwards & Harris, 2010 ).

## **College Male Gender Identity Development**

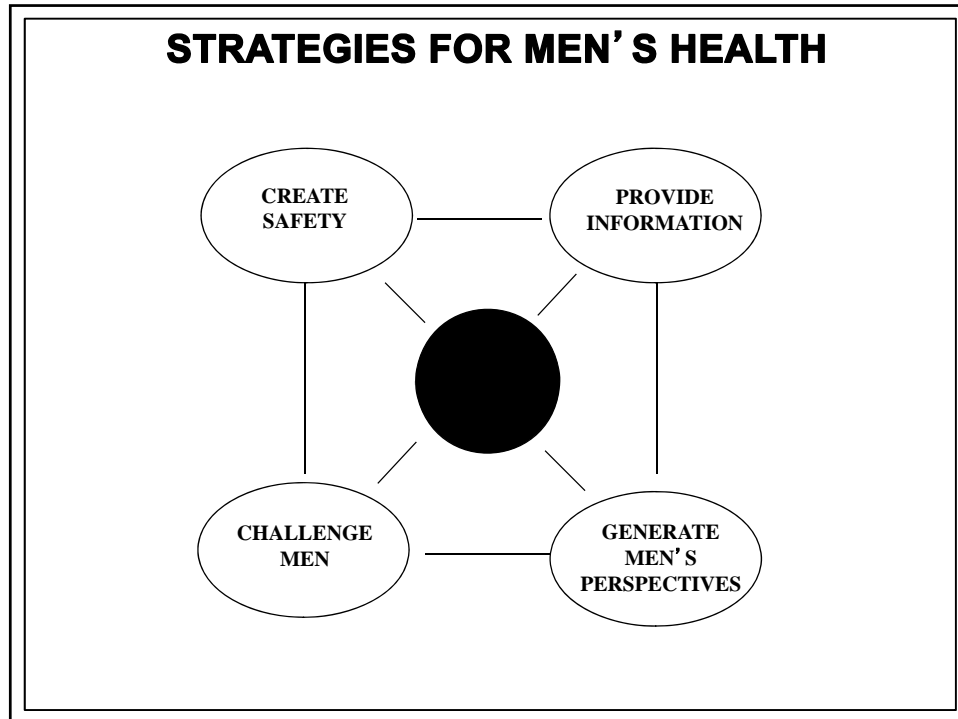
‘Wearing a mask’ or ‘putting on the man face’ :

- College is a space of reinforcement, ongoing negotiation and personal growth/social change
- Fear of femininity/homophobia
- Performance of hyper-masculinity
- Ongoing search to be authentic selves without guidance or resources.
- Intersections of various social identities complicates but also supports current understandings of hegemonic masculinity on campus.

Edwards & Jones (2009)

### **Brainstorm Activity:**

### **Hegemonic & Alternative Masculinities on Your Campus**



## **Creating Effective Programming for Men**

- Operates with a foundation of scholarship, experience, insight and passion
- Are more effective when conducted by all-male facilitators and groups members
- Men are approached as partners in creating change
- Interactive discussions that encourage honest sharing of feelings, ideas, and beliefs
- Space for critiquing the prevailing understandings of masculinity and men's discomfort with them

## **Effective Programming Cont' d**

- Highlights healthy aspects of men' s experience
- Models positive anti-violence values and intervention
- Culturally relevant in terms of race, ethnicity, social class, sexual orientation, religion, and other identities
- Incorporates assessment and evaluation

Berkowitz (2004) , Hong (2006) , Schiff & Smith (2011)

### **Pair Share Activity:**

**What programming is being done on your campus?**

## Pedagogy & Structure

- Pedagogy
  - Feminist
  - Critical Masculinities
  - Social Change/Justice Oriented
  - Intergroup Dialogue
- Weekly Meetings
  - Check Ins/Outs
  - Activities
  - Dialogues
  - Rehearsal
  - Performance

## Role of the Facilitators & Theater Directors

**Facilitators: Taj, Tom & Anders**



**Theater Directors: Dennis & Michael**



## **Past and Present Members**

45 members since inception (2009):

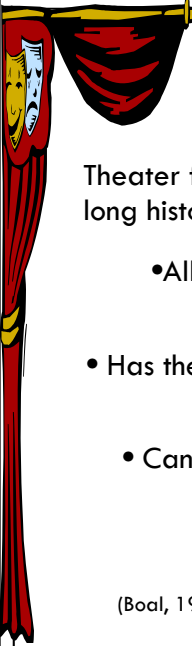
- 24 White
- 10 Black
- 7 Asian
- 2 Latino
- 2 Multi-racial

Ethnicities: English, Irish, Haitian, Polish, Puerto Rican, Vietnamese, Korean, Israeli, Cambodian, Dutch, Armenian, African-American, Eastern European Jew, Pakistani, Portuguese, Italian, Ecuadorian, Puerto Rican, Japanese, Ghanan, and Italian

## **Past and Present Members**

- 10 Gay
- 2 Bisexual
- 32 Heterosexual
  
- 80% of participants stay involved for 2 or more semesters
  
- 20% participating for 4 or more semesters.



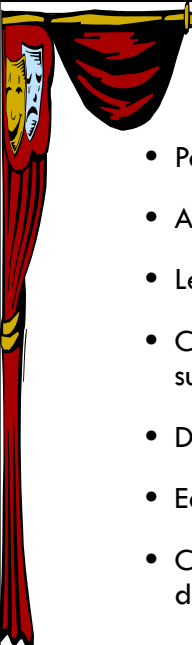


## Theater

Theater for the purposes of education and social justice has a long history.

- Allows the audience to engage with the material on an intellectual and emotional level simultaneously.
- Has the capacity to create changes in knowledge, attitudes, and behavior.
- Can increase self-efficacy for individuals and communities.

(Boal, 1979; Himelstein, 1963, Martin, 1990; Park-Fuller, 2003; Rodriguez, et al. (2006).



## Peer Education Theater

- Peers educating their peers.
- Appeals to different senses and learning styles.
- Learner chooses level of engagement.
- Challenges social norms and socialized beliefs while offering support.
- Delivery of education in a non-traditional setting.
- Education is delivered through entertainment.
- Chosen messages portrayed through both comedy and drama.

## Inter/Intragroup Dialogue Pedagogy

- Intergroup dialogue fosters critical and reflective conversations about differences and commonalities in a small, facilitated co-learning environment.
- 4 Stages of IGD: Group Building, Exploring Differences and Commonalities, Dialogue about Hot Topics, Action Planning
- Dialogic Skill Development
- Importance of Trained/Experienced Co-Facilitators

(Zuniga, Nagda, Chesler & Cytron-Walker, 2007).

## Student Learning Outcomes

As a result of their involvement in the Phallacies program, participants will be able to:

- Describe characteristics of hegemonic masculinity
- Reflect upon how their own expression of masculinity influences their health choices
- Apply hegemonic masculinity to individual assessment of their own health behavior
- Identify how their individual experiences and identities affect one's role as a men's health peer educator
- Demonstrate ways to challenge hegemonic masculinity
- Articulate men's role in challenging men's violence.

## Data Collection & Assessment Tools

Since our existence we have built in assessment, and evaluation methods for participants and audiences. In addition, I am currently using my dissertation to conduct additional research.

- Personal Observations & Reflection
- Audience Evaluation Forms
- Pre-Post Survey (each year)
- Control Group (17 male participants)
- Interviews (current and former members)
- Aligning Learning Outcomes & Activities

## Member Evaluation via Pre-Post Survey:

Describe Characteristics of Hegemonic Masculinity

*“It means going with the flow...and if something really sexist happens, you just participate in it, its like the path of least resistance, you don ’t challenge it.”*

*“Men can ’t cry, men can ’t be vulnerable kinda thing. There ’s always this sense that if I am vulnerable to another man, you know, its like I ’m lesser than him in some way.”*

*“We ’ve all grown up knowing that there are certain ways men are supposed to act and operate in society on a day to day basis, ways men are supposed to be, and that ’s what hegemonic masculinity is - a very rigid construction.”*

## Assessment Of Own Behavior

*"I've certainly engaged in high risk drinking and in many cases I've done so because I felt like I had something to prove. My use in drugs is absolutely the same way: I've felt like I've had something to prove. So in doing so, has it made me feel more like a man?"*

*"...you're in a place and you have choice a and choice b, choice a is easy, and choice b is really difficult. And when everyone around you is choosing choice a, why choose choice b? and A in my case is being a sexist, misogynist, objectifier...I had no conscious idea of what I was doing to myself and people in my life, and my ideas, and my humanity in a lotta ways...I have the power to change myself but I don't..."*

*I do allow the hegemony of masculinity, these rigid constructions, to impact me, in a lot of ways, when it comes to my health, body image, just some of the very stubborn, pig-headed sort of ways that men are supposed to kind of conduct themselves too.*

## Power of Performance & Dialogue

*"The reality is, yes we're acting (in the show), we're taking on roles that aren't us, but the beauty of this is that there's a little piece of all of us in every single one of these roles; there's truth to every story and every character and they're not very far from who we are as men..."*

*"...we just started talking about a lot of issues, especially being emotionally vulnerable, and we had a good conversation about not being able to do that with men, even sometimes women will think you're less of a man for doing that...and like having that conversation with them was surprisingly easy....we'd been waiting so long to do that, and it felt so good...it wasn't planned, I didn't go out and say I was gonna tell my buddies about Phallacies..."*

## Current Member Voices

- Scott
- Muhammad

## Audience Reaction/Feedback



## What did you learn about masculinity and men after watching the performance?

95% Responded Yes

“This show increased my knowledge about masculinity.”

- We can stop perpetuating gender norms
- Men can & do challenge or speak out about hegemonic masculinity
- Masculinity is can be and should be decided by the individual; but also masculinity is performed or encouraged via societal norms. That I act in a way which is expected of me, not what I want
- There are various representations of masculinity, and it is multi-sided
- That men can talk about consent without feeling weak or ‘gay’

## What did you learn about masculinity and men after watching the performance?

96% Responded Yes

“As a result of the show, I have learned at least one way to challenge unhealthy aspects of masculinity.”

- Being confrontational, speaking up amongst peers (i.e. express discomfort with cat calls, viewing women as objects is wrong)
- Not holding stereotypes, not putting down other men for not reaching them
- As a woman, I should be able to dress the way I want!
- Talk to my guy friends and with their girlfriends about how they treat them
- Embrace uncommon and peaceful forms of masculinity

## What did you learn about masculinity and men after watching the performance?

91%

Responded Yes

“The show provided me with skills to challenge violence.”

- Voicing what’s wrong to a friend
- Feel more comfortable confronting
- Talk about it or speak out
- Empowerment, “I’m not responsible for a man’s sexual needs, not my job!”
- Possible to explain that consent is real and normal
- How to have a rape discussion

## What did you learn about masculinity and men after watching the performance?

Three Primary Categories:

- New awareness of masculinity
  - Masculinity is an “act” or social construction
- Masculinity can be redefined, challenged or changed

## Ripple Effect

**“No other word for it, awesome indeed. I have to say your skits were a true highlight for the event. The humor of Hugology was perfect for the moment and wonderfully on point for the core issue of homophobia. Today, I participated at a military observance of WRD at Hanscom AFB. And Commissioner McClain also spoke. And do you know what example he gave about yesterday's event? Yep, Hugology. And he demonstrated all of the types of hugs for the military audience... perfect!”**

# Thank you!

## Q + A Discussion

For further discussion, feel free to contact us at

[tschiff@uhs.umass.edu](mailto:tschiff@uhs.umass.edu)

and check out

[www.phallacies.org](http://www.phallacies.org)