



Dear Friends and Supporters.

COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE FORGIVENESS PROJECT AND SYNERGY THEATRE

'The Long Road' – a new play by award-winning playwright Shelagh Stephenson – will be performed at the Soho Theatre in London from 19th May-6th June with an outstanding cast including Denise Black (*Coronation Street*), Alison Newman (*Footballer's Wives*) and Steven Webb (*The History Boys*). 'The Long Road' is a collaboration between The Forgiveness Project, Synergy Theatre* and Soho Theatre. The play evolved out of a period of research with prisoners and explores the aftermath of a futile murder.

** Synergy Theatre works towards rehabilitation with prisoners and ex-prisoners through theatre*

Tickets on sale:

Soho Theatre, 21 Dean Street, London W1, 8pm Tel: 0870 429 6883 www.sohotheatre.com

There will also be a programme of weekly pre-performance talks:

The criminal justice system in crisis:

20 May, 6.30pm

Are super jails the answer to the prison crisis, or what are the alternatives?

27 May, 6.30pm

Is knife crime the product of a deviant subculture, or a logical reaction to life on the street?

3 June, 6.30pm

Does forgiveness have any part to play in the criminal justice system?

For details of the excellent speakers refer to www.theforgivenessproject.com/news

PRISON PROGRAMME

During the past three months we have piloted our revised prison workshop programme at HMP High Down. This has been extremely successful with courses oversubscribed each time

The aim of our prison workshop programme is to help prisoners explore the role of forgiveness in their lives by using personal testimonies, film and role-play as well as discussion in both large and small groups. It is stressed that no one is *obliged* to forgive and that the aim of the workshop is to enter into a personal exploration. Prisoners are given cell work to complete in the evenings to complement each day's discussion. The three-day workshop is preceded by a one-day introduction workshop presenting the issues of forgiveness and the aims of the project. Prisoners then self-select to join the three-day workshop.

We are currently piloting a creative communications workshop as a follow-on at High Down for those who wish to explore forgiveness through story-telling (creative writing, digital media, documentary making etc). This is a fore-runner to our Open College Network accredited digital media courses which we plan to run from the summer.

On Nov 2007 The Forgiveness Project was awarded a special commendation by the Longford judges in re Longford lecture was given by Irish President, Mary McAleese and the prizes awarded to winners by broad



PROMOTIONAL FILMS

Our short promotional film has now received over 2,500 views on YouTube
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pLozrICkisE>

Desmond Tutu has recorded an endorsement of The Forgiveness Project - also on YouTube
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fholYHy7YvY&eurl>

THE F WORD EXHIBITION

The F Word exhibition continues to be hired by faith communities, schools and prisons three universities – Reading, Thames Valley and Bournemouth - have all recently used understanding of forgiveness and conflict resolution.



Jo Berry and Pat Magee speaking at The F Word event at the University of Reading

The F Word is available for hire in the UK at £300 a week. We now have three editions in different formats.

For further information contact: info@theforgivenessproject.com

For The F Word in America please contact Sophie Levy – 1sophielevy@gmail.com

THE F WORD IN THE NETHERLANDS

In 2004 Women For Peace in collaboration with Museum for Peace and Non-violence in an exhibition. Since then it has been used 28 times including five weeks in 2007 at the G... where 32,000 soldiers killed in the Second World War are buried

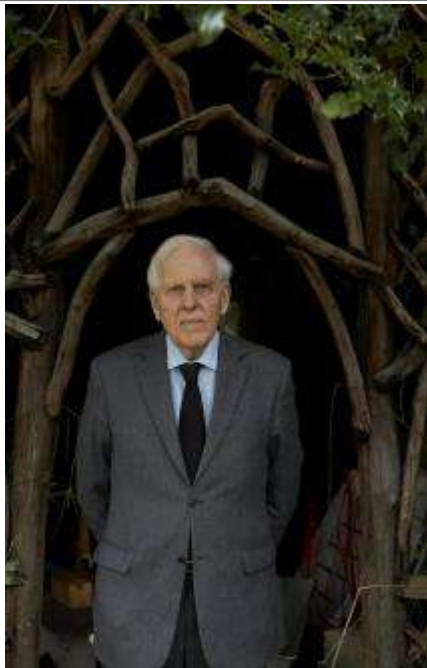


NEW STORIES

A recent story posted on the website tells of the magnificent work done with *restorative circles* in Hawaii on t...
<http://www.theforgivenessproject.com/stories/Linda-Apo>



"I worry that in my case forgiveness is too easy because it hasn't cost me anything. I think forgiveness should cost", says Norman Kember in a new story on the website recounting his 117 days as a hostage in Iraq. <http://www.theforgivenessproject.com/stories/Norman+Kember>



VICTIMS FOR RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

The Forgiveness Project is proud to be on the steering committee of a new lobby group called *Why Me: Victims for Restorative Justice*. The group was set up by and for victims of crime who have benefited from their experience of Restorative Justice, and want others to be able to benefit from the same opportunity. The idea for the group grew out of a life-changing moment for Will Riley after meeting his attacker, Peter Woolf *, at an RJ conference over five years ago. If you have been a victim of crime and conflict and want to support the group please contact info@why-me.org

* Peter has been helping facilitate our prison programme along with ex-offender, Robert Scott, who has played a leading part in devising the workshops.

BOOKS AND ARTICLES

The Damage Done, Peter Woolf's extraordinary story of life as a career criminal and subsequent transformation is published by Transworld this May. Camilla Carr and Jon James (whose story features in The F Word exhibition) have just published their story - *The Sky Is Always There: Surviving a Kidnap in Chechnya* (Canterbury Press). The book will feature on BBC Radio 4's Book of the Week w/c 28th April.

For those interested in the knotty topic of forgiveness, check out an interesting exchange of views from Charles L. Griswold (author of *Forgiveness: A Philosophic Exploration*) and Father William Meninger. The arguments for and against unconditional forgiveness are particularly well stated.

<http://www.tikkun.org/magazine/tik0803/frontpage/forgiveness>

FUNDING

If you would like to support us in our work just go to <http://www.theforgivenessproject.com> and click on 'donate online' via CAF.

Any amount would be much appreciated, but to put it in context:

-£50 covers speaker's expenses at a school.
- £200 covers all our materials for a 3-day forgiveness prison workshop
- £500 allows us to collect (interview, photograph, print) a new story.
- £1,000 covers nearly half of our costs for one 3-day prison workshop.

And finally, a big thank you to our recent funders – the McGrath Charitable Trust, The Wates Foundation, The Hilden Charitable Fund and The Hillcote Trust. And also to Sarah Greene who has been a supporter of this project since the very beginning and recently raised £2,000 by organising a Quiz Night. Many thanks!

With very best wishes

Marina Cantacuzino
Founding Director
www.theforgivenessproject.com