



# Library podcast

## #WeToo: New Visions Of Consent & Reproductive Justice

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[00:00:35] Welcome to tonight's program too. I was in here for the hospitality and housekeeping announcements but you probably know we have some yummy snacks. Too I'll give it up for a sassy black. Girl with her. I wish every program at the library had a deejay as fly a sassy black you know if you are a regular at our programs that we began by acknowledging that we are on Duwamish land throughout 2018 we are looking forward to doing programming all throughout the year that is native led and centered and celebrating Coast Salish and urban Indian experiences. Tonight's program is made possible with support from the Seattle Public Library Foundation. So if we happen to have any donors or supporters in the audience thank you so much.

[00:01:22] Can we give them a hand.

[00:01:28] I also wanted to let you know your voice matters to us. So at the end of the program we'll pass out program surveys and comment cards. Please share your opinion helps us make better more relevant programming. So tonight's program is called Reto and it offers a space of witness for discussing consent and reproductive justice in the most inclusive way. We want to center native voices people of color and trans and nonbinary folk and everyone who's queer. So later on when we do the open mike that'll be reiterate it. But we wanted you to know that we're going to begin with four features. We have a fabulous emcee so I'm not gonna tell you everything about the features. That's what our MC is going to do. I also want to see if any of you all noticed that we had Otts police say doing a really cool art activity that helps us gauge what our conversation is. Is also going to be live tweeting throughout the night. And if you happen to have your cell phone on I know I asked you to silence it but that doesn't mean you can't use it so please live tweet because the more people who talk about reproductive justice and consent in places like libraries the more we can make that a very normal part of our lives so we can get beyond talking about rape and talking about loving one another. So please please please use your phones for good in a moment I'm going to tell you to turn and talk to your neighbor while we're bringing Carland but our hash tag for tonight is we. And you can tag search on Twitter. Shout Your Abortion and Seattle Public Library. That way we can keep it all in the conversation and I think using the hash tag we to tonight you can follow the conversation in a

moment. I am going to bring our MC Carland new house but we do have a tradition here at public engagement where we ask people to meet their neighbors.

[00:03:19] Everybody's heard the stereotype of the Seattle Freeze. We don't believe in stereotypes but we do believe in getting to know people so just take the next two minutes.

[00:03:28] Introduce yourself. Share your gender pronouns

[00:03:32] And have a moment where you say just for yourself. What does it mean to talk about reproductive justice what does it mean for you and also what does consent mean for you. So just two minutes to get to know somebody you don't know.

[00:03:44] Right. Did you get a chance to meet your neighbor. As the head nods and people make eye contact which is nice.

[00:03:53] I would've loved to bring the effervescent amazing extremely talented as she she's on her way to Howard University so we were gonna have to give her the warmest round of applause because we have Carland new house as our MC.

[00:04:10] Wow that was a little enthusiasm. OK we're a small minority and we're here to talk about really important topics so. I'm going to. Ask you guys. Like you

[00:04:25] Just ask. OK. We're going to. Raise. We didn't have that conversation happening I was in the room we're going to try this again.

[00:04:37] Asking you that question for the first time my name is Carlin. I'm really excited to be here today so I have like some housekeeping things I do. I'm a little bit of talk a little bit and then we're going to get some cool things with these artists that we've got here right. But my job right now is to make sure that you all know why you are here and what you are here to do. So the first question that I'm sure a lot of people in the room have if you don't have it I'm still going answer it for you is what is reproductive justice. So reproductive justice. The movement birthed by women of color and in particular Loretta Ross who founded sister song based in Atlanta given up for women of color. Reproductive justice pays attention to access and abortion. But that's not all. The choice is affecting people of color are impacted by our economic security the historical traumas of genocide and slavery. Our immigration status our access to health care we believe reproductive justice will be achieved when all people have the social and economic power and resources to make healthy decisions about the genders bodies and sexualities given up for that. And. Families for ourselves through collectively with our community. So can we just snap if we agree to all of those things. These are important things. So we've got a couple of organizations with us today. Thank you guys all for being here. I'm going to talk about who these organizations are. Search for search for. Birger. Is an all volunteer is

[00:06:06] A non-profit reproductive justice organization working to mobilize communities of color and other marginalized communities through representation education community Gaydamak and policy advocacy. Give it up for that.

[00:06:22] I hear you are losing losing enthusiasm quickly.

[00:06:27] There we go. We have a long night of amazing artists and amazing poetry and songs and thing so I'm gonna have you guys like be just as enthusiastic when I say something as if it was your first time cheering because this is practice for the real cool. Things are about to happen. These are the cool things with the artist about y'all. Y'all ain't ready for it. So the next group that we have is S.Y. shout your abortion and please give it up for them

[00:06:53] Shout Your Abortion. Game became a viral hash tag in 2015 when Emilia Bhanot and Lindsay West abortion disclosures and fired hundreds of thousands of people to share their own abortion experiences online. Subsequently S.Y. has evolved into a fully legit organization and a full blown movement in the third year of operation. OK S.Y. a word to create places for people to discuss their abortions in art media in real life events like this one all over the country look for their. Shout out look for their first book in the fall. When in the library used to come back and get the book and read it. S.Y. works in support of the people and organizations working on the ground to provide abortion and expand abortion access. Take our legislative fights to the highest courts OK and fight for a truly inclusive movement. That's why I worked in solidarity with the movement for reproductive justice. Please give it up for all that amazing work. To some artists

[00:07:52] I said Are we ready to get into them. Before we do that. I want to thank the people who allow funding and supporting all the cool thing. Thank you Rainer Valley and the help of a community engagement team. Given that space and snacks please give up for that.

[00:08:09] There we go. But we have four different features for you guys tonight. Each of them are sharing something personally. Thanks in advance for all of them for giving full attention. I might differ from it and say yes. All of these amazing people also be some. Oh yeah we confirmed this earlier use some dope ass artists who are about to say. I'm sad. About world renowned city right now. People are people would pay to be in the space now but you're here for free. I want you to act like you're here for free. Engaged to be here for the wine. The second the third and the fourth. We're going to test the stage but. We don't start with the first artist and this person is very dear to my heart. So if you've got them on stage right I will make you do it again. That's the type of person I am. Being gay. Being gay. Before I bring the artist onstage. I want to make sure that we all know how to engage with artists. Onstage. So what is one way that we can respond when somebody is on stage. If you enjoy something or you felt something snap. Poets and people who have been the poet things in the room you know you can stop your feet. Also can we practice that OK.

[00:09:16] Word word you can moan like you just ate some of those Bonomy sandwiches over there. Word. It's not weird if everybody does it together. OK. Work. Work work. Amen. Whatever you need to say. Personally. Responsible. The artist knows that you hear them and know that you have a whole

room was faith to take up please take it up. And also be respectful to the artist when you're doing. The first part is that we have on stage is evil. Martin. Harden. The transgender and nonbinary black and Filipino poet and artist as a representative. Representative of the ILO they compete as the individual. And with teams at National slams their most notable poetry slam accolade as placing fifth in the world in 2016. Ebola wrote and directed the award winning play rising up. Side if you didn't. The eight year miss out. They and their work have been featured in Seattle Weekly the adult game New York Review book and Kraska. Then everything their work. Touches and touches political issues from a personal standpoint of view author's birth the struggles of living in the identity that they are evil believe the power of language and art as a tool for revolution. Now given that you have so much love for and you were on that. First

[00:10:33] Job they give me that for Ebola. Hey y'all Nice to see you all today. Thank you for being here. I'm going to reach out to poems and the first one is a little hard both. Both homes I don't read often because the way oppression works is sometimes we become vehicles to our own oppression and we stay silent so the first one is a little bit harsh so I just want to make sure that folks know that that's a thing and language will happen. Cool. Great. Thanks for being here with me.

[00:11:00] I am walking down Pike Street at 11 p.m. and I see a man who smells like a misery and testosterone hangover I know. Despite the drunken street party he can smell me too and for 30 seconds I am also a man. I am no threat or danger because his eyes see me as an equal at 50 feet. The man's eyes squint as if to find a place for me and his perception his brain and eyes converse over what they might be looking at. His eyes do not hesitate to lick my body from ankles to neck. I am no longer a man. I am no danger and in danger in a harmful event or threat to survival. It is said that animals will react in a fight or flight. Automatically your brain will make a decision to take on a threat in fight or flight to safety. I am now a house cat in the wild. He is a coyote. I am nothing more than his prey. He calls me as if I belong to him. I do not respond. This does not bode well for a cat. His ego relies on being acknowledged being seen being heard being obeyed. His brain and eyes are in debate about my body.

[00:12:17] I want to run from my body I want to leave it there for him to feast on. I will return for the bones. He does not consume and rebuild myself like I have before.

[00:12:26] His mouth interrupts. He shouts at me. Are you a bitch or a faggot. I stop and now because I am animal I am supposed to fight or flee bitch or faggot as if these are my only options to live.

[00:12:42] Fight or flight fight and become just another murder on a news story you will scroll past in your timeline. A series of incorrect pronouns and interviews with people who do not know me. My blood sacrifice on a bar chart. My name will escape me what you will always remember my cause of death. Just another story to keep people like me home before the streetlights as if darkness is what we are afraid of light and become a coward on flyer a flame running down the street an unexpected explosion from the beer boys that chew on my masculinity the whiskey women wanting my attention but don't actually want my attention. The Uber driver who keeps staring at me in his rear view

everybody out on this street right now who is doing nothing while my body is on fire. They all want to know am I a bitch or a faggot.

[00:13:33] Fight and I will lose my masculinity because I will lose because I am nothing more than a bitch or a faggot. Pick one. Pick One. Pick one bitch or faggot flight and my depression becomes the weather. Anxiety is a locked window in my home. The post-traumatic stress is the shake the tremble my head down when walking down the street fight and look him in the face and say this is not the first time I've tried to kill someone who threatened by life. But you want it to be the last flight and your brain will betray you.

[00:14:04] You will get home and crumble because I will wonder what it is about me that was not good enough to be chased. Thanks for sitting me with me through that Pike Street is some shit now so be safe be careful. And this is another one that I don't read very often because it's something that I often think about to the next person I love there will be a day I do not flinch when you go to reach for me that your hands will not look like traps.

[00:14:40] There will be a day that when you yell at me I will not crumble or fire back or disappear but I know there will be a day that you hug me and I will not hold my breath that your arms will not feel like caged bars and one day I may be able to sit still and let you or anyone else hold me without pushing back without wincing without being afraid. I am so afraid that you will swallow me whole that I may get stuck in your throat that no one will see me without hearing your thoughts. There will be days that I rip stories from my body and hand them to you. My step brother's name is David. I was I was eight when I learned what a virgin was but I was six when I was when I couldn't call myself one. I rip these stories from my body and hand them to you. I was pregnant at 23 by my rapist. I will rip these stories from my body and hand them to you. I need to know if you will hold them and not try to fix me. I need you to know if you will hold them and not judge me. There will be a day. I tell you that I've dressed myself in shame and silence for as long as I can remember. Like they're synonyms like they match like they're my best shoes and shirt. I need to know if you will hold them and understand that this day was a day I've been waiting for that love for me means that I can tell you that I've tried to claw my way out of grief and for an entire lifetime full of people trying to kill me and I survived.

[00:16:02] To get right here to this day. Hold your hand to touch you hug you and breathe. Today. Thank you all so very much.

[00:16:17] I just want to remind everybody we do not have the API child.

[00:16:22] The kids here today unfortunately but I would like everybody in the space to please make sure you are always take care and taking care of yourself so that means you stepping out if that means you're taking a moment to breathe me into one of your bodies and what you leave for yourself and be respectful.

[00:16:37] Also talking about consent afterward we're going to have an open mike which is this sheet is going to be passing around which you should get on be respectful of every artist who touches the

stage with a feature or somebody who's performing and ask for consent to touch or ask or have conversations with them after we spent because being an artist and being vulnerable is very hard word.

[00:16:59] Word awesome.

[00:17:01] So can we just take the breath the other route. Okay let's take one deep breath.

[00:17:07] Let it out. So the next artist we have coming up is Ferne Renville

[00:17:13] Of the Dakota theater artist she's committed to sharing traditional stories with contemporary art audiences short and sweet she's about to show you what she's doing what she is you'll give her that preferred.

[00:17:24] Thank you. Thank you for being here this evening. I am going to share a traditional story with you from the Lakota people but I also on my way here on the bus I just had this thought when I asked myself what is consent look like for myself as a native person. I would have to say that Dakota people by and large have very our consent has not been required. And by and large we're still a people who are struggling to establish a consensual relationship with the federal government. So for me consent must include land and all of our animal relatives and water. We must expand our definition of who is worthy of consent of a consensual participating in consent culture. The story is called White Buffalo Calf Woman. I'm Dacota I'm an eastern Sioux tribe originally from Minnesota and this story comes from my Lakota cousins and it's been widely adopted as Sioux mythology especially amongst Sundance culture which is far beyond just Lakota people. But this story tells of a very difficult time and one of the things it talks about is how the Sioux people have in fact survived adversity before. Right now the last 500 years this hasn't been the first time that we have struggled through difficult times. Now I don't know what the circumstances of this great struggle was when this story takes place but I do know we survived it.

[00:19:11] It takes place 19 generations ago when during a time of great famine. Two hunters were out. They were out looking for food. They were looking for game and times were scarce buffalo herds had not been seen for some time. Some people say this was in the recovery period of a great flood that happened. I don't know. I only speculate but at this time these two scouts were out looking for game and from a distance they could see a figure approaching them this figure drew closer to them and they could see that it was a young woman and as she drew closer still they could see that she was. She walked in Scituate she was almost floating. She was almost floating the way she moved so smoothly. And as she drew closer they could see that she was beautiful. She was very beautiful these two young men saw this beautiful young woman. One of them said she's so beautiful. I want her. And look at her she looks well-fed. She must have food. Her people must have food. Let's take her with us. Let's catch her. The other young man said Can't you see that this woman has won. That she's sacred. You can't do this. No but the other young man didn't wait for permission. He reached forward and he reached out to grab the same woman as she approached them just at that moment.

[00:20:46] A cloud descended from the sky and surrounded the woman and the young man the other young man was terrified. He stepped back and fell to his knees and watched as this cloud encompassed the two and slowly the cloud dissipated and the young woman was still standing there. Beautiful young woman but the other young man was not. There was just a pile of bones. The young woman said you've treated me with respect. Go back to your village to tell your people that I am coming in four days time and I have teaching's for you. A teaching's for you that will help me through this hard time right now. So the young man went back to his village and shared what had happened to him and the villagers built a medicine lodge centre of their village and they prepared for this young woman and four days later she came she approached and she was carrying a large bundle. As she grew closer the village could see that this beautiful young woman was carrying a buffalo robe the buffalo robe was wrapped in a bundle. She walked into the village and she went directly to the medicine lodge and the entire village came in. All the elders all the wise people and unfollowed they wanted to learn from her. She opened the buffalo robe and she took out a pipe a sacred one by

[00:22:19] This pipe was made out of two pieces. It was made out of red stone. The bowl was red Pipestone and this. As she handed it to the villagers she said. This red Pipestone is the blood of our ancestors. This is the bull and it represents the female. This pipe stem made out of wood. From the Tree of Life and it represents the male put these two together. And you can be sure sacred herbs and smoke it. And when you smoke it and you send that smoke up to greater. This is a very direct way to stand up for prayer so the people did as they were instructed. They kept the pipe. They were also given seven sacred ceremonies although some people say there used to be more. And that was influenced by the Catholic Church. But in any case like a lot of traditional stories this I told you the whole thing. We've been here all day so this is just a piece of the story. But at the end of four days of teaching the people about the ceremonies about the seven ceremonies of pipe about how to be good to one another. The woman the young woman said I will return. I will return some day in the in the form of a white buffalo calf. And she walked from the village and she rolled over and she turned into.

[00:23:51] They say a black buffalo calf and then she rolled over again and turned into a red buffalo calf. And then she rolled over once again and she was the golden yellow buffalo calf. And then one final time she rolled over and she was a white buffalo calf and she walked away and that's why they call this story White Buffalo Calf Woman. But that story is nineteen generations old. There is a man in South Dakota named Arbel looking horse his 19th generation. He proved that bond that was given to him by White Buffalo Calf Woman and many people say that right now we are in a time prophecy. We are in a time of prophecy when change is coming. Huge changes and I think that we see them all round us right now. So as a Dakota person this is one of the stories that I can look to for guidance for right now. How to survive what's happening to us right now. How to survive being a soup person in a country where the federal government is still violating my people with pipelines and by taking our kids. So thank you for letting me talk and I take a moment to also say thank you guys for one being here.

[00:25:10] Give it up for yourself. I'm going to get you guys to be enthusiastic by the end of the night. I swear I promise I will but all I wanted to say is that like

[00:25:20] You guys could have so many places to be here tonight but you made the decision to be here on these important conversation and there should be more people here and there will be because you guys are doing the work to have these conversations. Thank you. And also make sure when you go home today and you have the conversation with your co-workers with your family members that the voices of black and brown and native and trans and queer artists are touching the stage today are being shared because it's more than about just what we're seeing in the common media. I am worried more about also just all of the stories that we don't typically hear consent is so much larger than that correct. I think we're learning that a lot today. So thank you guys so much for your stories. Thank you guys for being here. Our next artist is at surfaced

[00:26:07] J.m. C on Dack and you're going to be closing out the s surface as a curator writer and photographer in Seattle. This is going to be so amazing. Thanks.

[00:26:17] I'm usually a curator writer photographer not so much a public speaker in this way so this is my first time not only telling this story but telling a personal story. And I will preface this by saying you're going hear about my previous life as an architect a little bit and one of the reasons I studied architecture was to get health care. This took place before the Affordable Healthcare Act ever preexisting condition and one of the reasons I went to graduate school in the first place was so I could see doctors so leave it at that. In November of my first term graduate school I was 7 weeks pregnant. My health insurance covered the costs of abortion but instead of providing services at the school clinic I was sent to the local Planned Parenthood. That backlog meant I had to wait three weeks for an abortion which was two days after my final presentation of the term. The atmosphere of an Ivy League graduate school of architecture is best described as frenetic. I protected the classmate with whom I'd become pregnant. There was no reason two of us should stress instead of one. If I waited any longer to make the appointment it would have been even later if we decided to abort after finals. We were ready if we decided to not read council. It didn't occur to me that sharing responsibility and demanding support were reason enough to tell them.

[00:27:29] I focused on work and tried not to think about it until it was time. The miscarriage began around midnight the day of my own final presentation. I told my professor that I was ill and asked if I could present on the second day of Kretz rather than the first. He said no to reschedule would have been unfair to the other students. I couldn't explain my illness. If I had I think you would have let me go but architecture school was not the place to be honest about pregnancy. The video circulated that era of Ardian explaining that women's design careers end because they have children and all anyone did was roll their eyes. It was just curmudgeonly and. It was not addressed as bias. That must be shut down if professionalism hadn't been used to uphold sexism I could have told my professor I was rescheduling rather than ask permission. So I presented the building I designed and a lot of pain suffering from food poisoning from Boston cream doughnut. The reason had to be funny. While blood clots soaked for my black skirt I talked for an hour past the absorbent capacity of the diaper I'd fashioned out of toilet paper and tampons before a bunch of old white cis men humiliated beyond carrying what they thought I believed in the quality of my work and was also angry enough to face criticism without fear.



[00:28:38] My presentation went really well. Afterward the professor congratulated me in the hall as they ran to the bathroom to rinse my thighs. He said that was amazing. I don't know how you did that. That meant the dean had praised my work finally got to the clinic. Driven by a sympathetic neighbor and fellow architecture student the only person I knew who owned a car it didn't question me when I showed up at his door demanding a ride right now. Of course the campus clinic had everything they needed to do a DNC right away. The same procedure I would have had anyway. There was no need to make me wait weeks or send me to Planned Parenthood afterwards he picked me up put me on the sofa with mine and left me alone. I guess the medical obstacle course was meant to avoid controversy or health insurance covered abortion. So advocates were satisfied. But elective abortion happened offsite deflecting opponents away from the institution and outsourcing the burden of protest to an overburdened non-profit because I was made to wait long enough for an abortion to have a miscarriage instead and delayed from extracting it. I got a bad infection I withdrew from a required class to address my health which earned me my reputation in the architecture field as lazy and incompetent beyond the medical expenses dropping and repeating the course added 20000 dollars to my student debt as a scholarship student there was no backup for anything but the standard for your path.

[00:29:49] All because I couldn't get an abortion when I needed to. I would have had an elective abortion but my body beat me to it. I regret not having the choice because the miscarriage raised questions like maybe architecture's school killed the baby from little sleep and bad diet or exposure to fumes from making architecture models. Maybe I was normal. Miscarriage is common. An abortion would have provided closure because I would know what happened. Designers are taught to build stages for other people's lives. We don't learn to be citizens but experts outside communities we learn to be service providers to transform values and abstractions so they don't become personal. We make ourselves small. We design abortion clinics but we don't ever say this work matters because we have abortions. The work matters to me because I've had abortions. But through that presentation in front of those men then got a copper IUD so I wouldn't have another unplanned pregnancy than work for my education and then worked and worked and worked. Nine years later I got pregnant again.

[00:30:43] I learned the uterus dissolves copper long before it's told your deadline. My Udy stripped to its plastic skeleton. I didn't want to be pregnant but was fascinated that my body was capable after all. So driven to eat metal to do so. My doctor asked which options I wanted her to describe surgical abortion abortion pill adoption or parenting. And I said tell me everything I knew of the options but I wanted to hear them aloud and make someone spend the time on me. And this time I said I'll talk to my partner we'll decide together. The doctor asked me Do you want to see what I see on the ultrasound. And I did. I was grateful for that time with my aqueous tadpole shape child heart be clearly visible. I thought while looking at it I see all of you and all you can see is me. I am your world and I'm not going to bring you into my my lover and I agreed on medicinal abortion and I scheduled another appointment this time. It was fast at the hospital I swallowed the first pill Mithat first stone and the pregnancy. Later at home I took the second misoprostol to induce labor. Then the third an opioid to blunt the pain I felt the moment it died Register my uterus in an unceremonious toilet block during one of many sprints between the sofa and bathroom.

[00:31:57] I wish I'd refused the opioid not to punish myself but to be fully present. Eventually I experienced plenty of blood continuously for nearly three months after that and never wish I was raising that child. But I'm not confident that I did right by my aging body and the sense of right as in correct. Not right. As an ethical. The future can feel impossible when it brushes against bodies doing what bodies do. We can become parents in our teens and grandparents in our 30s. But this has become disempowering or even trashy seems cruel. Choice is incomplete when your livelihood can be gutted by the facts of your body. If I faced support in abundance not loneliness and hardship I might have stayed pregnant. And my Japanese heritage. We recognize life at conception. We also maintain the right to send a soul back into the spirit realm before it comes into the earthly one to be in a spirituality of reincarnation is to be unbound to embodiment when all life is sacred and the highest moral call is do no harm. Abortion can follow the call to minimize suffering and consideration of the child parent family and community. Altogether we know we harbor life and our bellies not meaningless clumps of tissue.

[00:33:11] We grieve our aborted miscarried and stillborn children we call them water babies or in Japanese musical when we know what is right. As an ethical and correct to turn a child into an ancestor. I wish I had chosen to end my first pregnancy. I'm glad I ended my second pregnancy at the right time or go between feeling relieved and sad and uneasy and grateful. And my belief in the absolute right to abortion never falters. Life is intricate. I cannot imagine simplifying and constraining our options.

[00:33:44] Complexity is what opens to us the entirety of joy Kinyara given that for surface one more time we are going to do some mix switching but why we're doing Mike's wedding.

[00:34:02] I'm going to introduce you that to the next artist Pop Quiz What is the hash tag for today.

[00:34:09] Y'all are so smart. Oh my gosh. I'm so proud of all of you guys. So if you know it then you should be deleting it. I haven't seen many phones out because your very attentive in-between the artists tweet talk about why this thing is amazing and why everybody who's not here is missing out.

[00:34:25] So we met the next artist coming up you have a fresh new microphone. That's how special you are. That's incredible. So. Our final feature of the evening is Jay May's. Jamis as a black trans poet and educator that has been featured on the root BuzzFeed MSNBC the New York Times essence live and more. No big deal. He is founder of awkward the first trans and queer people of color a talent agency given that. His work in musings can be found at or about to give you all websites. Be ready to write them down. W W W J Mays I the third. Look at. Roman numeral was. Dot com

[00:35:12] Or a W W W dot awkward talent dot com awkward with the Q not a K because weirdness and Instagram ad Jane Mayes the third eye. Yeah. We

[00:35:24] Had such an amazing night of artists and it's not done yet because next we have an open mic. I see the sheep passing around so having Don on there. Please get on there like now. But first y'all better give it up and give so much love for J Mays

[00:35:44] So I feel a lot of feelings you all feel a lot of feelings. I feel a lot of feelings.

[00:35:49] There's so many feelings. I wrote a haiku. I was sitting here it's like listening to everybody's feelings that we are OK with haikus.

[00:35:55] Do we like haikus. Do we like haikus.

[00:35:59] Ok. So yes especially since we're talking about consent and everything here today. It's a haiku and consent.

[00:36:08] Wouldn't it be nice if all rape poems were merely works of fiction. And so today what I'm sort of thinking about as we talk about reproductive justice I think what comes up for me and what's so important to me about reproductive justice is that I think that one there or why I think it's important for me to be up here talking about reproductive justice is one I think there are so few spaces for trans people to access to even talk about what our options are reproductive justice number one and number two I think as we talk about consent and all those things we're often taught to be just grateful for any old body who's interested in our trans bodies. And so we don't often again get to have full long conversations with our partners with people that we've been intimate with with people with consent or not about what the implications of those things are.

[00:36:52] Yeah.

[00:36:52] And so today as I'm going to share two other pieces are ones short and ones a little bit of a longer piece and they're both about the same situation. And so I moved to Seattle about a little over two years ago actually to get away from a very violent situation I was experiencing I'm on the East Coast. And so it was with a partner of mine and I remember for myself as a trans masculine person as a trans man sort of experiencing especially domestic violence and all those sorts of issues. When I was telling people about what was happening in my life their response was sort of like well if you were really a man you would have fought back if you were really this you would have done this if you were really this you would have done this. And so this is a short piece from actually black boys from the show that had to do folks that is about what people sounded like to me when they were saying that men weren't made to love they were made to destroy things with their bare hands.

[00:37:52] Is it your heart broken. Are you not defeated. Have you not experienced manhood now.

[00:38:00] And so the last piece of do this is a poem so the person I was dating was a minister. I grew up in a Christian and Muslim household. I do a lot of work on faith right now I'm cool editing a book with a friend of mine called the Black transfer book. We're looking at the Divinity of Black trans people and lots of different contexts. And so this is once I was sharing with folks in religious spaces about

Hey so this thing is happening. This is sort of the experience I had with one reconciling what does it mean to come from a religion that doesn't always make space for your reality. So around your blackness around your transitions around the fact that oftentimes we have theology. So for my nerdy theology people in here in the room anyone that prays ever right prays ever oftentimes Zera theology is presented to us about why we can't physically harm people or how much we can physically harm people but nothing about that center.

[00:38:51] Survivors of violence and says something I think about a poem called Bad Theology my by the allies over the my by the lies over the sea my by the lies over the ocean bring back my body send me Rame back.

[00:39:33] Bring back bring back my body to me.

[00:39:43] Is your god a white supremacist. Do you run your fingers through Jesus as long silky hair do you hang a photo of a blue eyed on your wall. I wonder if you ever summoned a demon. There was something about the way he grabbed me in the middle of the night like touch was urgent like maybe conjured something he couldn't look back and this embrace was a spell to ward off a beast that haunted him since childhood. Our bed was infested with gin and Poltergeist that sometimes slipped between the cracks and our fingers and possessed the space between our bodies and the sheets that were churned from the devil's manifesto. He prayed to Jesus every day. Blue eyed bushy tailed pasty as Jesus rescue us kindly Negroes from evil the devil's hours somewhere between 3 a.m. and 4. The way he joked. Oh wait you think something was pulling from inside his skin. Something nasty something that wasn't alive anymore something burning something ancient and sharp. He stared at me the space between these breaks and our realities and his fists would be hungry like they needed to be fed by something at table a lamp a chair the wood of this wall and sometimes a break in my skin. This thing needed blood.

[00:40:55] So here and my offering this creature craved. But it was never enough. So what colonize our apartment like a Spanish conquistador like manifest destiny. Like when you're prayed to God is it all yours you only manifest creatures that will deny the holiness of your birth. Is your god a violent God. Does it keep you up in the middle of the night. Doesn't excuse away its indiscretions at all hours and try to make peace with you and they like does your god pray with you. Does it acknowledge or shut shmucks from your pain or does it get off on them. Pastor tell me what's up. I must say I have truly inspired to get all that grief is your god one that is drives of destruction. Is he always like this. Is God always like this pastor. This god that has escaped and these walls of this church. I think it was something for me. It was my ancestors bones. It was me weak and wants me believing that the right to rescue come for me Pastor did it make me out of love. Did it make me an image. If your god is out to kill me does that mean it's trying to crack me open to get closer to my soul.

[00:41:57] Pastor tell whoever you've been praying to that this is my body.

[00:42:03] It has been broken from what your followers have done to me. This blood has been spilled remembrance of you Pastor. Where. Is. My

[00:42:11] God. I've lost them I've lost them I've lost them my by the lies. Over the oaths mined by the allies over the sea my by the allies over the old thing back my body to be

[00:43:07] Please give given that for Jay one more time. You're saying to what you just did multitalented right

[00:43:22] Up for the vote.

[00:43:26] Will you give it up for every feature. Touch the stage tonight please.

[00:43:35] Look at Salvini again. I love it. So now that you've been blessed in just overwhelmingly anointed by all of the people who've touched the stage it's your turn.

[00:43:48] So there's an open mike sheet floating around here somewhere to be in a black. Thank you so much for being on

[00:44:02] Rosenbach island new Carlen is such a fantastic emcee.

[00:44:11] We all know our work at the library and it's an open mike so we are working with Serge and what I love about working with surge is they honor our work around equity and inclusion. So can I just hear from the audience. Are you all in agreement that you would love to hear queer and trans people of colour voices. First if you can can you clap and make some noise for. Me. And you all have been a little bit shy with the open mike. So if you have been feeling shy please give your yourself permission especially if you're a person of color who's queer trans nonbinary to be unshod and graced the stage. Once we wrap up the open mind we are going to listen to music and unwind and eat the rest of that bond. Me So I just wanted to make sure we had a little bit of understanding of what we're going to do next and handing it back to Carlat now. Thank you. Did they get for the day again.

[00:45:13] Burgo queen. I love her. Also this new microphone is amazing so you should come up here and bluster itself with bluffs yourself with being on the stage with this microphone. It's incredible. So we're going to start with the first artist that we have on the list. Can we. Given that is Daithi

[00:45:32] Aberdare.

[00:45:39] So I didn't have anything prepared and I just wrote this four minutes ago and it's based on something I saw just a few hours ago at the park.

[00:45:52] A father basking on the beach with his cherub toddlers chubby hands gently grazing grass father forces a flaming hot Cheetos bag in front of his empty spacious cheeks. The boys seeks a glance away from the Mylar and the ink and the stink of corn syrup maltodextrin sodium. Why do you feel the need to fill my bowels please give everydays the one more time.

[00:46:35] I know but it's really scary to be on the stage up here.

[00:46:39] I'm going just give you a quick statistic because I like not math but statistics. I want to be a psych major.

[00:46:45] So people's number one fear in the world is talking in public. Their second biggest fear in the world is dying which means people would rather die than talk in public in front of people so please give them for anybody who talks in front of people and touches the stage as hard and incredible. So the next artist that we're going to have onstage are about to introduce them but I'll be sitting up here in the front with this beautiful golden ticket you sign and then you get to come up here and say things so please come talk to me. If it if you have something prepared wonderful if you don't that's OK too. I'm always here and I recognize artists in the crowd one because you are all creative and beautiful and also because you've been inspired by the things that were said today. So I know people always say that I don't have anything but you have your phone. I know you do. And most people who say that they don't have something have something in their notes or an old note flag or something like Just think about it if you have something dope if you don't know pressure just a little bit of pressure because I'm that person.

[00:47:50] So the next artist that we're going to bring onto the stage is Alex Henyo give it up for Alex.

[00:48:00] And that was the one quick reminder I was also going to give you guys we're keeping each performer to about three minutes when they test the stage because we want to hear all the beautiful amazing words you have. We also want to make stage for make space for each artist touching the stage where it Hi guys my name Alex Silverman.

[00:48:17] I don't get to speak.

[00:48:18] I speak every day in Council chamber from Tacoma to ever succeed.

[00:48:27] Guice my opinion about this and of course I might come more than 30 years ago.

[00:48:33] Ulica political effigy some I come from some union. Oh my life fighting for human freedom you know ice because I am a Jew.

[00:48:52] You know what this means. It's in my blood for thousands of years. So my opinion about why I come to this meeting reproductive point is family choice. Nobody can touch family. It's not a question and I'm not care about hope for or not. It's pity. That's it. No question but what does a man spoke to. Guys. It's very interesting for me Seattle look absolutely identical. I can see before in Moscow. Yes. So Seattle is number one for every city in America in pure A.C might exceed. Is it very interesting. What is a seeker for 30 plus years. What is interesting has come from government. I have a trust pass from Seattle City Hall for nine hundred day only because I have different opinions and maybe because I should be honest Dyce because it's this problem for a thousand so why for me Seattle look like a pure fascism in anti-Semitic because it's very important guys. One party system is

always fascism. So in Seattle a one party system. Who is everybody who have different opinions you understand by talking. It's not matter about what you're talking. It's a freedom of speech in America is this freedom of speech in for 250 years. But Seattle government totally who it set uses. I'm probably a man not too much sure about is. Every 50/50 woman 50 men that's not the point. Who's doing this. So Gonzalez a woman Mesquita a woman Bucshon a woman. Why white to Mexican about this I called Mexican Nazi make me trespass for 9 Condry day. Why. It's exactly what is a talking. I'm talking about what they feel it you talking about your feelings. I'm talking about a feeling. Why am I wrong. Don't interrupt me tremendously.

[00:51:09] Okay.

[00:51:13] I do home sometimes and I feel really inspired. I also want to acknowledge this. I'm pulling this up on my phone. The privileges I have standing on this stage as a straight cis Ally and I just want to say thank you to everybody touching the stage and recognize the space I take up in the world and it's based on taking up in this room today.

[00:51:37] This is this is true this is true. Is this please tell me this.

[00:51:44] There we go. So I'm actually doing some some things this year that are different including releasing poems for the first time. This is a poem in a chapter I'll be releasing.

[00:51:59] And I just want to talk about I think consent also comes around the ways we allow people to speak to us and the ways people choose to speak to us even when we don't allow them.

[00:52:14] And I've had a lot of beautiful and beautiful.

[00:52:18] I mean disgusting cis male men on the street harassing me lately and I think that's an experience a lot of people who are not cis men experience in the world. So this is my response to a dude who followed me on the street last year and all the other trash dudes from this year shout out to y'all this is for you.

[00:52:43] Dude on the street begins to follow him. He is loud and taking up too much space. Like men are supposed to do. I guess he tries to get my attention.

[00:52:54] Hey you you with the glasses yeah you.

[00:53:01] His masculinity taking up so much space there's only room left for my silence on the sidewalk. Feel adrenaline spike heart pounding against my chest saying it needs to escape saying I need to escape and when he passes by.

[00:53:15] I know I did the right thing which is to say I did the woman thing. Which is to say I did the silent thing which is to say I didn't swallow your word.

[00:53:27] And hopefully he will leave you alone thing. Dear men who harass women on sidewalks and bus stop in grocery stores everywhere else. Men who make women feel of insignificance pine needles on the busy street.

[00:53:41] I hate to.

[00:53:42] Instead of following me please take a long walk off a short pier please disappear. I do not care about your pick up line. I don't care how big you claim to be. I already know you're a dick. You both wanting to make feest out of my fleshy forest fire you wrecking ball. You men who think women are breathing blow up dolls you men who think you're so cute. You mean so ugly. Draped in your bravado dude at the transit center the other day said I'm lookin like I'm trying to fight someone.

[00:54:13] And once again I did the woman thing the silent thing.

[00:54:18] Watch my mouth become a cavern of tombstones for all the women who did not get away. I do not tell him that he might be right that my body is in constant fight or flight mode.

[00:54:30] I cannot afford to freeze the dude on the street following did you text your mother to let her know that you got to your destination say I did just tell her just to remind myself just sure both of us at least for today I'm OK.

[00:55:04] And now we're going to listen to some music any snacks if somebody's going to tell us about. Please. Up

[00:55:15] Ok I'm doing this because I really hope other people will also step up. I really heard what Carlin said about like you have something somewhere written down somewhere.

[00:55:24] So yeah.

[00:55:27] And I'm like getting all intimidated. For me I talk myself out of it I'm just going to do this. I've read this poem before but it's called for her and for her it's like one version of the story of my survival and for parts. So write one first time. I don't really get to meet her. She was gone before I knew it but I knew she was smart because she escaped a man who told me that if I said anything to anyone he would hurt my sister. And I thought if I said a word he would never stop coming in at night to watch me sleep because perhaps if I kept really quiet he would stop coming in. When I was about to take a bath I felt dirty for years. And every year for four years it was the same but the year that she escaped that's when I understood I refused to go back. My grandfather died a few months after the escape. And my grandmother died a year later and after that the girl who escaped she came to me and said Now it's time to speak.

[00:56:38] Now to my mother was on her knees grasping my leg begging for forgiveness.



[00:56:47] I couldn't predict my survival from day to day. Father decided to travel there. And I think the girl who escaped. I think she went with him because when my father returned home we were his only family left. He let all of them go and when they refused to stand with him he has been isolated from them ever since. So I still think sometimes can I forgive myself for doing this to my father. The girl who escaped she reminds me my father chose me three the day I met another survivor. She was a 72 year old black woman who lived in Albemarle County Virginia and over a glass of sweet tea. She told me the story of her survival. One part to get three minutes I poured myself another glass. And with each sip I received and I told her the story of my survival.

[00:57:42] It took me 13 hours.

[00:57:47] More recently I met her and when she came I wasn't scared was no pain. There was no anger. Not even a little bit of rage. Not even a drop of guilt. And when she came I was pretty happy. From indiscretion from deviant behavior from joy from the very core of my sexual being from foists because this time no family only faith and amidst my conversations with God in a matter of days she left for I knew her but now I know her because she's the girl who gave me a choice. Now

[00:58:27] Please give Lovedale my one more time.

[00:58:38] Would anybody else like to bless this beautiful stage and bless us your existence yes.

[00:58:47] Yeah.

[00:58:49] What's your name. Cute glasses.

[00:58:56] May I ask what's your name.

[00:58:58] Can you please give it up and give so much love for Sam.

[00:59:06] I remember we were and we were friends and we dated before and I liked my whiskey. It numbed everything. I remember they told me I was so strong because when they found Wayne and heard my stories I didn't let it wasn't me it was just a story and it was an out of body experience.

[00:59:33] And I remember that night I woke up there on top and it was interesting because it was one of those stories that with me too it's it's so similar. But we were friends and I remember when they came inside me. I sat there going I'm in Canada. I was planning this and I waited. Then the next day we print and it's like it didn't happen. And we kept our trip. I ended it later. And then years later we started dating again. It was interesting.

[01:00:12] I never told them when we started talking about kids later I remember coming up and mentioning the name that I should have named and I remember they didn't care for it and all the I never said anything that in my head there was the dialogue that just kept going and with me too. It

was always just this thing that when talking about who happens to it's not the narrative that you don't see.

[01:00:52] When you're a survivor and you start doing it to their loved ones as a child you carry that with you. And it's just not that cut and dry.

[01:01:19] I'll give that first Sam one more time.

[01:01:30] I just want to say thank you because when you share your story it inspires other people to share their stories as well and get healing and love themselves. So thank you God for everybody who's touching the stage. Somebody else is about to do that right now. Mask your name.

[01:01:43] Gorgeous haircut Seante. Oh my gosh.

[01:01:49] Oh my gosh.

[01:01:50] Oh my horrible eyesight your gorgeous glasses I need them. Pina Vernon it's such an incredible artist. Person singer activist everything all the things. I'm so sorry. She's incredible job at a reclass give up so much love. Sean

[01:02:11] Oh yeah I went digging back through an old Tumblr for this. I know you said it. You said it's in there somewhere.

[01:02:19] So I founded quiet.

[01:02:22] You mustn't speak now. Our men are dying our sons are dying. Our treasure troves of masculinity run low on fuel and are in need of reserves. You mustn't speak now of the reversals of menstrual flow. Running backward up through your gut to your heart pumping blood where life is now reticent to live. You mustn't speak now of the death and decay settled there around your girlhood like powdery rust in the grooves of your young bones. You mustn't speak of the shards of silence swallowed deep now ripping through your insides plaited lumps of flesh and your blood seeping out from every orifice. You mustn't speak now of the canvas upon which his rage is painted. The Welts the bruises those shades of scarlet aren't for you. It isn't time now for your stories of too many hands too many screams too many passers by bearing witness to the dismantling of your frame. You mustn't speak now only when the pool is full and all the bodies float when the blackness is pitched and the earth is bare. Then you speak they will need you then to gather the moisture from your mouth to give them back their lives. She says I keep my feelings yeah. So what are you going to do with them.

[01:03:46] It's a circular game going round and round just sort. Where to begin. I learned it early folks is scared. Can't deal with mind can't deal with there's imminent death is asking them to tell me which ones should go where. So I do keep them. I don't repeat them. Quiet locked away and hid. I placed them there inside somewhere with a list of those things that the feelings did because I remember

going crazy staring blankly at myself with the sense that I'd be better off masquerading as someone else someone static with steady laughter always ready to console someone solid and not so sensitive with no openings and no holes. Chest out breasts out smiling eagerly to please all those waiting to milk me of those feelings of course I do not need the trickling Sepe the mother and the lover weak relentless in the suction that would or would arrive me at depleted. But I'm a feeler by birth it seems. I figure this between the screams I know now tumbling through the city careening broken open as I go. I've got nothing but my heart beating out against my skin and feelings nothing more than feelings trying to get out to let you. Thank you.

[01:05:06] Please give it up for Seante no one more time. You don't. Get

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