Voices of Pride: Drama Therapy with Incarcerated Women

April 14, 2006, 12:00 p.m, 330 Hendricks Hall, University of Oregon

A presentation and video on drama therapy as a tool for assisting incarcerated women to free themselves from internalized oppressive beliefs. In the context of a drug and alcohol treatment program for incarcerated women, drama therapists assist the women in building three distinct bridges to healing: a new relationship to one’s self, to other women, and to the community. Writing exercises, performance techniques, and group drama therapy empower women to express their diverse voices. As the women risk sharing their personal stories and journeys of recovery, they begin to actively envision a different future for themselves. The participants discover talents that offer them an opportunity to experience themselves in a different light, no longer bound by the stigma of being in prison.

Presenter: Abigail Leeder, MA is currently the Project Coordinator for the Alliance for Sexual Assault Prevention at the University of Oregon. She is the advisor of the Sexual Wellness Advocacy Team, a peer educational group that uses theater to engage students in dialogue about healthy sexual relationships. Ms. Leeder was formerly a Primary Counselor at Project Pride in Oakland, CA. She is the creator of “Stories Gone Wild” and “Pandora’s Treasures”, interactive theater workshops for women that use theater as a tool for social change and personal transformation.

Sponsored by the Healing Arts Research Interest Group, Center for the Study of Women in Society, University of Oregon.