



Elliott Cherry <afinishedheart@gmail.com>

"A Finished Heart"

Mary Peterson

Fri, Jun 6, 2014 at 8:45 AM

To: Elliott Cherry

Good Morning Elliott,

I didn't fully understand the process of how the comments on your website work, so yes, below is a re-cap of my experience.

I attended the performance of "A Finished Heart" on Sunday, May 25, 2014 at the Unitarian Church in downtown Portland. As a hospice chaplain, I was eager to hear Elliott's story. I sat in the front row so I could see and hear plainly. Not long after I was seated, a woman whom I did not know asked if anyone was sitting next to me. I said, "no, but you are more than welcome." We introduced ourselves by name and had a brief exchange before the performance got under way.

From the start of seeing and hearing Elliott, I was drawn into the power and beauty of this incredible story of love and companionship, and the truth-telling of journeying together through life, into death, and more life. My heart was broken open to those deeper places within me that long for connection, reconciliation, and belonging. I was moved with gratitude and wonder.

After the performance ended, we were invited to enter into a short time of silence for reflection and contemplation. I felt moved to touch the woman next to me, so I reached out and placed my hand on her knee not knowing how she would respond. She in turn, took my hand in hers. In the silence, we held on to one another. The movement and power of Elliott's performance created an unspoken bond between us that was both profound and ordinary.

Thank you, Elliott, for creating space within my heart and the hearts of many to give and receive love in ways unimagined. I know for certain that I will show up again for "A Finished Heart."

Peace,
Mary