

For Immediate Release –
ALL MEDIA OUTLETS – July 26, 2017

CALENDAR LISTING

Death Talk Project presents "A Finished Heart"



**FREE ONE-MAN SHOW, "A FINISHED HEART," at CLINTON STREET THEATER to
INSPIRE COMPASSIONATE CARE and STRENGTHEN SOLIDARITY WITH LGBT LIVES**

Death Talk Project presents ***A Finished Heart***, written and performed by Elliott Cherry. ***A Finished Heart*** is a love story – a solo performance of real conversations between a dying man and his husband to inspire compassionate care and strengthen solidarity with LGBT lives. A panel discussion with the performer and audience will include experts in palliative care, end-of-life decisions, loss, grief and the struggle for marriage equality. The audience will have a chance to learn about community resources and to share experiences and questions. Free admission!

WHERE: Clinton Street Theater, 2522 SE Clinton Street, Portland, OR 97202
WHEN: **Tuesday, September 26, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.**
TICKETS: Free. No ticket required.

PRODUCING ORGANIZATION NAME: Death Talk Project
CONTACT: Holly Pruett, Organizer
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PHOTO CREDIT: Elliott Cherry [Link to photos: <http://afinishedheart.com/photos.html>]

PORTLAND, ORE —
(September 26, 2017)

When his husband of sixteen years, Chris Chenard, was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, author and composer Elliott Cherry cared for him at home. He also recorded their conversations in his diary. After Chris died in 2007, Elliott wrote poetry, prose, and music and combined these with his journal to create ***A Finished Heart***. By immersing the audience within the intimacy of two men who have committed their lives to each other, Mr. Cherry hopes that ***A Finished Heart*** will stimulate participants to broaden their perspectives on life and loss. He wishes to help people strengthen family bonds, inspire caring communication and build understanding of the diversity of human relationships. This event is made possible in part by funding from the **City of Portland** and **SE Uplift's Neighborhood Small Grants Program**. SE Uplift assists citizens and neighborhood associations in Southeast Portland to create communities that are livable, socially diverse, safe and vital. See: seuplift.org.

MORE:

Elliott Cherry is working to bring ***A Finished Heart*** to diverse audiences throughout the country. Cherry writes: "In our current political climate, minority individuals are feeling ever more marginalized and fearful. With emotion and gentle humor, I want to draw everyone deeply into the universal experiences of love and death to build complete acceptance of same-gender marriage and LGBT lives." Discussion panelists will include individuals associated with Compassion & Choices, Dougy Center, Portland State University, OHSU, PDX Death Cafe and historic marriage equality campaigns. ***A Finished Heart*** has been performed 37 times. It has received support from AARP, Multnomah County, Regional Arts & Culture Council and numerous additional grants and organizations in Oregon and Maine. To learn more, please visit: afinishedheart.com.

Rogue Pack youth will be invited to the performance. A nonprofit theatre for underserved youth, Rogue Pack facilitates storytelling theatre workshops for Portland area youth to empower and connect with their community. Please visit roguepack.org to learn more.

Death Talk Project organizes workshops, rituals, Death Cafes, a monthly movie night at Clinton Street Theater, and other events to foster useful, honest conversation about how we die, how we mourn, and how we care for and remember our dead. More information is available at DeathTalkProject.com.