

A TWENTY FOUR HOUR TRUCE

Presented by Arnolfini as part of the *Still I Rise* expanded programme, *A Twenty-Four Hour Truce* is a public reading and reconstruction bringing to life the atmosphere and fierce debate between anti-sexist men and feminists in the early 80's.

This performance and re-enactment collages transcripts and academic texts highlighting theoretical and personal tensions between men attempting to challenge and change established notions of masculinity and their feminist contemporaries.

Expect strong language and sexual references as anti-sexist men are shaken out of their complacency. Prepare to participate and express your opinion.

This event is part of Albert Potrony's *The Achilles Heel Project*. Through excavation and re-enactment, Potrony addresses *Achilles Heel* by bringing to life some of the ideals and intense arguments within the anti-sexist men's movement: arguments that have, across time, echoed and mirrored the struggle to combat sexism in wider social structures.

Achilles Heel was a publication produced between 1978 and 1999 by a collective of men. It aimed to challenge traditional forms of masculinity and male power, and support the creation of alternative social structures and personal ways of being.

A TWENTY-FOUR HOUR TRUCE - Credits and Sources

Performers

Finn Hanlon
Juliet Prague
Nik Howden
Recorded speech read by John Moraitis.

Soundscape (played during audience arrival)

Music (Feminist bands and bands involved in Rock Against Sexism):

You Gotta Shout - Spoilsports
Dear John - Au Pairs
Stereotyping - Jam Today
Mind Your Own Business - Delta 5
Song About Myself - Jam Today

Voice Clips:

Andrea Dworkin: From *I Want a 24-Hour Truce During Which There is No Rape* - a speech given to an anti-sexist men's conference in Minnesota, 1983.

Robert Bly: Performing his poem *Iron John* to a male audience in Austin Texas, 1990.

Speech on tape recorder

Introduction from an edited transcript of a public talk given by Michael Singer on *Male Sexuality and Sexism* at the Berkeley Men's Centre in the US, 1978.
Transcript published by Achilles Heel in 1978. Read by actor John Moraitis.

Script sources

I Mean, You Can Have a Male-Chauvinist Fantasy...

Transcript of the discussion held at a meeting organised by the *Achilles Heel* collective at the East London Men's Centre to listen to a taped talk by Michael Singer on *Male Sexuality and Sexism*. Transcripts of both talk and discussion were published in the 1st issue of *Achilles Heel*. Summer 1978.

Anti-sexist Men: A Case of Cloack-and-Dagger Chauvinism.

Article by Marianne Hester published in *Women's Studies International Forum*, 1984.

Transcript of the Achilles Heel workshop on *Women, Men and the Left*, held at the *Beyond the Fragments* day event in Leeds, 1980.

I Want a 24-Hour Truce During Which There is No Rape. Speech given by Andrea Dworkin to an anti-sexist men's conference in Minnesota, 1983.

Thanks to Rob Hale for script and performance advice.