

Proposed Workshop Title:

“On Death & Dying: An Open Conversation”

Presenter: James W. Jesso

Address/Phone Number



Abstract

If there is one aspect of life that we all share, it is death. We will all die, we will all face death, and yet many of us will not acknowledge this reality until it is upon our doorstep in one way or another. And Why? Why do we not talk about this? It’s frightening, yes. It’s vulnerable, yes. It’s hurtful, yes. But it’s an essential part of being life.

In this small, limited-attendance workshop we will gather in a talking circle and share with each other about death. We will talk about grief, about dying, and about what we believe it all means. The content of this workshop will be very real and probably challenging, bring a close friend if you can. This will be held as a safe, respectful, and welcoming space for all religious and non-religious views. Do not attend unless you are able to uphold this respect. Anyone breaking this respect will be asked to leave.

Workshop Format/Required Materials:

This workshop will benefit from 90mins – 2 hours length. It will be facilitated in a ‘talking circle’ format, with a ‘talking stick’. Attendance will be limited to 15-20 people (depending on length of times slot) in the space. This is because the content and the structure require people to be vulnerable and open. Limited the number of people will enable people to feel safer and opening a greater benefit for the whole. Furthermore, it is a workshop that requires participation, and too many people will hinder the ability to have each person’s voice heard.

Insofar as the tech, it will require nothing but a space to hold this conversation. It will, however, need a means to close off the space to the public, as well as a space to place a sign up form. (I will supply materials for the signs). It is possible to run this workshop multiple times throughout the festival.