

## Thank You from Elkins Park

Dear Matt, Golan, Megan, Rebecca, Yvonne, Jesse and Zack,

Thank you for blessing my life this weekend. Being with you has been the most life-giving experience I have had in a long time.

On my way into work, I listened to NPR and heard the story about White Pines Productions and Dzieci performing Makbet, and I decided to look you all up. Then, I decided to go to the performance...and the workshop...and your meditation...and we'll see what comes next...

I work companioning people who have recently lost a Loved one at the Medical Examiner's Office here in Philadelphia. I am one of the first to meet them as they come into our office and often the last to say goodbye to them as they leave. Primarily, I give my attention to families of homicide victims. This is by design as they are entitled to special help outside of our office which I am able to tell them about and also as they are the only group required to come in person to complete the identification process (which is done using a photograph).

I am not sure exactly what happened yesterday during the time immediately before and after falling into your arms in the trust exercise. What I do know is that I was not just crying for myself alone. I was crying for the people and families whose lives have briefly touched mine who have lost a Loved one to violence or betrayal. I probably could have continued to cry for a long, long time, but I am grateful to the person who helped me to raise up my head and become part of the circle once more.

What you have done is still with me. I keep thinking about the spirituality of your work and how blessed it is that your work is not tied to any particular dogma or set of rules that might selfishly prohibit individuals from bringing their full selves into the gift you want to give them. I keep being reminded of the Frederick Buechner quote, "The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet."

Thank you for allowing me to walk with you this weekend. Thank you for your gifts to the people you connect with and in particular for your gifts to me this weekend. I did not realize how deep my own need was when I met you.

Amber Brubaker

Hello Matt,

I wanted to thank you so much for everything, for giving us an opportunity to not only watch you all perform and work with you in the workshop, but most importantly for not ripping your hair out in frustration when we never wanted to leave :) I can really tell that you've realized your goal of having a troupe of actors who are not only magnificent performers, but genuine and welcoming people. You were all so nice and each time we came to see you I left feeling as if I had just spent time with close friends. Please do share with everyone how much I appreciated this unexpected experience and that I wish everyone nothing but the best until I see you all again!

Stephanie Heinz

\*\*\*

Dear Dzieci Friends,

First of all, thank you SO much for an incredibly inspiring, joyful and challenging workshop Saturday afternoon! I love your spiritual and work process. I will definitely be there to enjoy Ragnarök Monday evening!

At 63, I am happy to report that my body seems to have survived the rigor of the workout Saturday except for a toe blister and a very minor complaint from my back!

Sending You All Thanks and Light,  
Bayard Walker

\*\*\*

Dear Ben,

Thanks, and thanks again for hosting Macbet and the precious and loved Dzieci performers. I was very moved by the performance Friday night and am grateful for the passion, talent, and commitment of everyone involved. I can't help but love actors, it's in my blood (what a thing to do - the courage, the audacity, to do such a thing in space, for any actor), and these dear beloved souls gave so much. I love them and hug them and kiss them and thank them.

Bill George