

# StirFry Seminars & Consulting

June 2013

## An Interview with Lee Mun Wah

### **What's special about your newest film, *If These Halls Could Talk*?**

From the moment we started filming in the summer of 2010, I was struck with the honesty of all the students. Particularly when Jon (Black American) introduced himself and said that this forum was the only place he could speak and be heard without having a Ph.D. From that moment on, it was what we call in group process 'a moment of entrance.' Other issues that the students talked about were how classism and racism intersect, the struggle of whites to talk about their whiteness, trust issues between whites and people of color, what people of color want and don't want from whites, what makes it unsafe for students of color to be themselves, whites confronting their shame and guilt, being gay on our campuses, and how to create a sense of community in our classrooms and campuses.

Another aspect of this new film is that we have the students, Vera (Palestinian Muslim) and Maiv Ntxhiav (Hmong), as cast members. They bring an intimate perspective on what it like to be an immigrant in this country and all the taunts and abuse that they have to endure as they each are forced to assimilate into an unrelenting and often narrow definition of who is considered and embraced as an 'American'.

### **What did you learn from the students?**

What comes to mind is that so many of the things that they said, previously, I had no words for. When Jahmelia (African American) shared with Joe (White) in the film that he seemed to be angrier at the students of color for making him feel uncomfortable rather than about their condition, I was stunned by how that suddenly made so much sense to me. Because up to this day, I was always made to feel that I had done something wrong or inappropriate if I talked about or pointed out racism to whites.



Another key point was when Will (Black, Haitian, Dominican), pointed out to Leif (White) that Leif's "not knowing" was really more about his 'numbness' and his loss of humanity. I have seldom heard of that perspective before and it sent me into deep thought about how many times I had heard that from whites, "I don't know how I feel."

### **Why did you decide to do a film on college students?**

I think the primary reason was that so many students kept sharing how difficult it was to bring up diversity issues in their classes because professors were untrained, frightened, or biased when it came to truly talking about racism, sexism, heterosexism etc. Also, many students of color felt intimidated or trivialized by white students whenever they tried to talk about diversity issues in their classes and on their campuses.

I did this film because so many students are dropping out or committing suicide because they feel they don't belong or have anything to offer. It is my hope that this film will model for teachers and students what it is like to truly connect with each other from a place of understanding and curiosity, compassion and empathy. As Mother Theresa once wrote, "Perhaps we have no peace, because we have forgotten that we belong to each other."

**Pre-Order *If These Halls Could Talk* today by calling the office at 510-204-8840 x 100!  
Huge savings for a limited time!**

# Cross-Cultural Facilitation Techniques

5-day Intensive for Diversity Trainers • Facilitated by Lee Mun Wah

Two workshop dates to choose from:

**July 31 - August 4, 2013 or August 10-14, 2013**

Wednesday: 2 pm-9 pm; Thurs - Sat: 9 am - 5 pm; Sunday 9 am-2 pm

Quan Yin Training Center • 2311 8th Street, Berkeley, CA

Facilitating a group with many cross-cultural perspectives and experiences requires a keen understanding and knowledge of how cultural differences can impact group dynamics, relationships and their sense of safety.

In this unique training, Lee Mun Wah will guide each participant through a series of exercises and mindful techniques that will enhance their understanding of the impact of culture on relationships, conflictual cultural situations, as well as how to develop a deeper and more authentic sense of community and openness within diverse groups. Participants will explore their perception and attitudes about diversity issues through the use of films, books, vignettes and personal stories.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, OR TO REGISTER, PLEASE VISIT [WWW.STIRFRYSEMINARS.COM/BTC](http://WWW.STIRFRYSEMINARS.COM/BTC)

## On Demand Digital Streaming Rentals of StirFry Films!!

For the first time, Stirfry is making our films available on line/on demand for students & individuals via digitally streamed video. Here, you can view films such as *The Color of Fear*, *Last Chance for Eden* and *Stolen Ground* from the comfort of your own home for a small rental fee; rentals provide a link to the films online, good for 24-hours of viewing. Please note StirFry Seminars' Copyright and Use Agreement prior to purchase. (If instead, you prefer to own a dvd copy of our diversity training films, you can purchase them on the Stirfry Seminars & Consulting website at [www.stirfryseminars.com](http://www.stirfryseminars.com).)

For questions, contact us at: [products@stirfryseminars.com](mailto:products@stirfryseminars.com) or call 510-204-8840 x100. [www.diversitytrainingfilms.com](http://www.diversitytrainingfilms.com)

## End of Academic Year Sale!

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Get **30%** off for a limited time off of **all** regularly-priced diversity training materials (including Lee Mun Wah's newest book *Let's Get Real: What People of Color Can't Say & Whites Won't Ask About Racism* as well as his book *The Art of Mindful Facilitation*) Enter coupon code **NEWS30** upon online checkout at [www.stirfryseminars.com/store](http://www.stirfryseminars.com/store).

\*Some restrictions apply. Expires July 15, 2013\*



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## StirFry Calendar of Events

June 19-23, 2013 ** Berkeley, CA	Cross-Cultural Facilitation Skills for Diversity Trainers, Educators & Therapists: Five Day Intensive Open to the Public
July 31-August 4, 2013 ** Berkeley, CA	Cross-Cultural Facilitation Skills for Diversity Trainers, Educators & Therapists: Five Day Intensive Open to the Public
August 10-14, 2013** Berkeley, CA	Cross-Cultural Facilitation Skills for Diversity Trainers, Educators & Therapists: Five Day Intensive Open to the Public
August 27-28, 2013 Edwardsville, IL	An Unfinished Conversation Some Events Open to the Public
August 29, 2013 Lebanon, IL	If These Halls Could Talk: Film Showing & Diversity Dialogue Open to the Public

\*\* Held at the Quan Yin Training Center, 2311 8th Street, Berkeley, CA

For StirFry's complete Calendar of Upcoming Events, please visit [www.stirfryseminars.com/events](http://www.stirfryseminars.com/events)

Contact Us: 510.204.8840 Trainings, Films & Diversity Products, ext. 103 • [www.stirfryseminars.com](http://www.stirfryseminars.com) • [www.diversitytrainingfilms.com](http://www.diversitytrainingfilms.com)