



---

## Review: Conversations with My Molester, A Journey We All Should See

By Sparkman Clark

Times Square Chronicles: July 21, 2014

Michael Mack had a Catholic boy's dream in the 1960s — to become a priest when he grew up. And there was no one Mack admired more than his church pastor. But all that changed when the man he looked up to and trusted abused him sexually at age 11. What followed were years of pain and devastation until Mack resolved to track down his former pastor for a conversation. That's when his story takes a shocking new turn.

Now, decades later, Michael Mack shares his journey on stage in the one-man act *Conversation with My Molester: A Journey of Faith*. The play will take you on an emotional journey stretching over Mack's lifetime. You will feel his wonder and passion for faith as a boy. You will experience the fear and anxiety that consumes his later years. You will be taken through anger, resentment, and shock... but also compassion, forgiveness and resolve. The intimate space of the Jewel Box Theatre allows Mack to connect with every member of the audience in a truly extraordinary way.

One word accurately describes this play: profound. Mack recounts his memories as if he were giving a sermon, his delivery soulful yet captivating.

Mack has the audience traveling with him through his past, and reliving his memories with him. I felt fear and anxiety as Mack recounted how his pastor invited him up to the church rectory and shut the door behind them. My stomach churned as Mack revealed how the single word "suck" haunted him in the years following. And I sat at the edge of my seat, stunned as the revelations Mack experienced in his later decades brought the play to its striking climax.

An award-winning poet, playwright, and actor, Michael Mack invites his audiences to look through a window into the darkest corners of his life. And with his story comes a heartwarming sense of healing and resolution. Mack's writing and performance commendable, but the most remarkable aspect about this play is his courage; the courage to reveal one's soul in the manner that he has is truly (as I said before) profound. This play is deeply inspiring and more than worth the time to see.