

advice, etc. | O

# A Million Ways to Save the World

Award-winning playwright EVE ENSLER resumes her monthly mission: to canvass the best brains around the globe for their earthshaking, world-fixing ideas. So that by April 2008, the tenth anniversary of V-Day—the movement to end violence against women and girls—we'll have a gold mine of strategies to help us, alone and together, make sorely needed changes.



**DENIS MUKWEGE, MD,  
AND CHRISTINE SCHULER-  
DESCHYVER**

*Founder of Panzi Hospital in Bukavu, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and advocate for Congolese women*

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), we are losing the country's most precious resource—our women. As part of a conflict that has killed four million so far, a massive campaign of rape—unthinkably savage—is destroying our girls and mothers and decimating families, while the men who commit the sexual terrorism go unchecked. The rape of these women impacts all of us because when violence of this proportion takes place anywhere on the planet, human rights are threatened everywhere. You can help protect your sisters in the DRC by demanding an end to impunity and supporting the work of lifesaving organizations on the ground [visit [vday.org/drcongo](http://vday.org/drcongo)].



**AMY RICHARDS AND  
JENNIFER BAUMGARDNER**

*Coauthors of Manifesta and Grassroots*

It's likely that you have at least one thing you're ashamed of. Say it. Some of the most profound shifts in social justice came when individuals told the truth about their lives, going against the social constructs of the time. In the late 1960s, women told the truth about their illegal abortions in public speak-outs, ushering in legalized abortion and reproductive rights. By the late 1980s, pop stars, professors, and even some politicians told the truth about loving people of the same sex, and partner benefits, acceptance, and even gay marriage came to be dinner conversation for average Americans. Telling the truth invites others to be honest, so you learn that you are far from alone. Speak the truth and witness your power. **O**

*For more ideas about how to save the world, and to tell us your own, go to [oprah.com/magazine\\_talk](http://oprah.com/magazine_talk).*



**LINDA VAN ORMER**

*Former principal chief of the Cherokee Nation*

When people cease waiting for great leaders or prophets to solve entrenched problems and look, instead, within themselves—trusting their own thinking, believing in their own power—and to their families and communities for solutions, change will follow. In traditional indigenous communities, there is an understanding that our lives play themselves out within a set of reciprocal relationships. If each human being in the world could fully understand that we all are interdependent and responsible for one another, it would save the world.



**VAL KILMER**

*Actor*

What if we made it mandatory to teach love in schools? It would be a subject you study, like algebra. You'd have to pass a test to get married or have a baby, after learning how to love. Our children would learn to be nurturing. It would be safe for boys to be loving. I heard a quote once: "Men have come and for a time made evil victorious, but they never win.... Love always prevails." If we taught love, it would do more than prevail. It would manifest through our actions. Total love would liberate us all.