

I would like to add three more resources to the discussion and submit that one can use most of the excellently discovered and curated written and electronic resources for this project to make some sense of both the sensory and rational responses.

If you have the time, please watch/read (in this order)

- 1) A video from the May 2026 Video Music Awards with Swedish performer Yung Lean and crew performing the dance sequence (about 3 minutes) from the 2026 video “Storm” by Gener8tion https://youtu.be/kPnN4IE_a98?si=fmiiMxix9ZyY-ckW - Turn on CC to get the words
- 2) An Article from the October Atlantic Monthly - [The Breakout Video of 2026 Has a Message for Men](#) - written by Spencer Kornhaber
- 3) The original seven and a half minute video of the full version: https://youtu.be/x6_mbnsh6VU?si=btPTgJl3binnkdDU - Kornhaber’s article is important to a fuller experience

I suspect most of you might not get past the first minute of the first video, which shows a 20-something young man expressing anger by breaking things and standing alone while other young men dance around him, All of the meme’s seem to come together - quest for power, control, attention with no apparent inclusion of empathy, equality, emotional openness.

Kornhaber interviews the choreographer - Damien Jalet - who directed the dancers as follows: It’s not about showing strength and flexing muscles. *“No, no, it’s not just about throwing this at us. You actually have to have it coming back at you—right in the chest. It needs to be something that you internalize, that you experience more than demonstrate.”*

The gist of the Kornhaber story was Jalet’s creative purpose:

*I mentioned to him that some of the praise I’d seen for “Storm” had come from right-leaning accounts thrilled by the sight of young men stomping and hooting together. **He replied that anyone who sees an authoritarian or masculinist bent in the video should watch more closely.** “Usually, dancing men is not something that fascism is promoting—not at all, and especially not in that way,” he said. **Although there is anger in the dance, “it’s catalyzed in a way that it’s a catharsis.”***

I was haunted by the reference to this “story” taking place in 2034 in the context of a British boarding school (is this not the ultimate poke at privileged men?) - The presence of the dancers was secondary, I fell right into the path of the message dominance, superiority and privilege

I found it compelling that the choreographer is Belgian, gay, and 50 years old – and a lifelong fan and frequent choreographer for Madonna. The description of the dance as being one that could

be taught to amateurs in a short period of time, taking its power from the mirroring and opposite movements of those in the rows above and below has generated numerous copy-cat videos (some even created with AI)

Of course, I fall happily into the AWFUL (Affluent White Female Urban Liberal), and strongly hold the position that children come to us as pretty much a blank slate – values of strength, courage, ambition, and competitiveness are no more the province of a male human than the values of empathy, equality, care, and emotional openness are the province of a female human.

The use of gender differences to create divisions among and within human societies are not that terribly different from the use of skin color, education or lack thereof; religious creed, country of origin or any way of defining “the other”. As our numerous resources point out, the push towards the extremes of gender differentiation have led to significant challenges to working out ways for people living in our diverse neighborhoods, schools, communities, states and nation to turn away from the use of hate and fear of loss as the driver of values and beliefs.

A 1985 book *Myths of Gender* provides a biological and sociological case for this point of view:

 *Myths of Gender* - 1985

Finally in the category of “there really is nothing new under the sun” -

In response to the question: *What would a positive vision of masculinity look like, and how can society nurture it?* I offer the following:

A positive vision of masculinity would balance STRENGTH with EMPATHY, COURAGE with VULNERABILITY, AMBITION with CARE, and COMPETITIVENESS with EQUALITY. No single value would be strictly “masculine” or “feminine”. It will be difficult for societies to balance the tensions on these continua so long as capitalist, winner-take-all and power through force (financial or military) are placed above long held community traditions of respect and kindness and a “live and let live” perspective that befits a highly diverse community.

Respectfully

Pat Newcomb