



BOND STREET THEATRE

peacebuilding, empowerment & healing through theatre



May Newsletter

Greetings!

It has been an incredible spring for Bond Street Theatre (BST). After having returned from Azerbaijan in February, the past few months have been busy with performances by the Shinbone Alley Stilt Band, the beginning of our after school program Actorbats!, and our continued efforts working in theatre for social development.

The Shinbone Alley Stilt Band has been very busy performing and conducting workshops at a wide variety of venues throughout the tri-state area. Pictured above in NYC are members of the Shinbone Alley Stilt Band,

Michael McGuigan, Joanna Sherman, Joe Schuffe and Sean Nowell, parading through the audience during the The High Line's springtime celebration called, Culture Shock. Earlier in April, the Shinbone Alley Stilt Band was invited to Seattle to perform at the Moisture Festival, a yearly assortment of highly skilled comedy and variety acts. The Shinbone Alley Stilt Band has been entertaining at private and public events and will continue to do so throughout the summer!

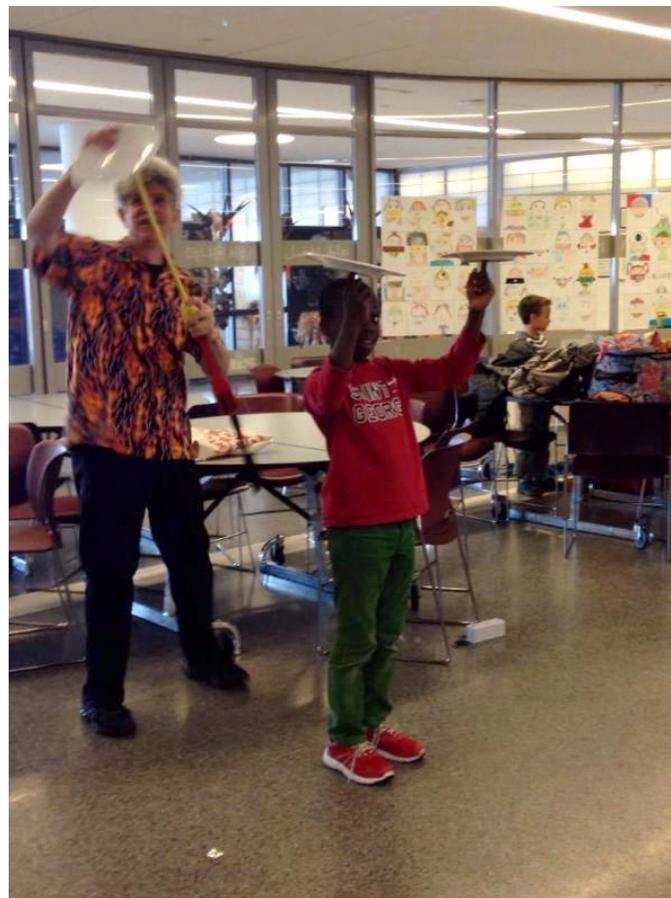
Here's a list of upcoming dates where you can get a chance to see the Shinbone Alley Stilt Band perform, don't miss out!

Saturday May 21st - Carnival of Cultures in Harlem, NYC

Sunday May 29th - Governor's Island for Family Day

Thursday June 16th - Re-Create Queens in Sunnyside

Saturday June 25th - Friends of Stryker Park



BST's growing after school program, Actorbats!, offered in multiple schools around NYC, blends Bond Street's extensive experience collaborating with artists from a widespread of disciplines around the world. Combining theatre and circus, acting and acrobatics, children train in

physical theatre, achieving precision and proficiency of movement, balance, physical expression, dexterity, improved communication skills and creative thinking. A wonderfully fun opportunity for children to learn mime, masks, circus arts including tumbling, juggling and stilt walking, creative movement and storytelling! It is also a lesson in cross-cultural studies, as the program explores techniques and skills used by artists throughout the world and history, including Peking Opera from China, Commedia dell'Arte from Italy, and Stilt-Walking Moko Jumbie from West Africa. We are looking forward to working with more schools throughout the NYC area, offering after school programs, workshops, assembly entertainment and summer camp classes!

If you would like to know more about our young audiences programs moving into summer and fall, send us an email at Afterschool@bondst.org



Lastly, BST had the honor to teach a workshop in April at NYU College of Global Public Health, alongside Blessed Unrest and New Ohio Theatre, to UNICEF workers from around the world, as part of an intensive two-week program. Everyone jumped in right away and we explored how theatre can be used to communicate important health issues, like the Ebola and Zika virus crises, and how we can endeavor to change social and cultural behaviors. Theatre is a resource unlike any other in developing listening

skills and understanding between cultures and an asset more and more of us are relying on.

Going forward, BST continues our hard work in Afghanistan, working with 50 youth groups on their Community in Action programs across 25 provinces. We are also looking forward to beginning a collaborative project in Lebanon this fall working Zakira, a Lebanese NGO working with Syrian refugees, using photography as a way to document their experience and self-express. We are planning a Zakira-BST collaboration to create a multimedia performance aimed at Syrian refugee populations and host communities in Lebanon.

These are busy and exciting times for Bond Street as the company continues to grow and work with more and more people from an array of different backgrounds and work experiences. It is wonderful to see how our *Theatre for Social Development* methods resonate with so many and we thank everyone for all their support!

Happy Spring!

Joanna, Michael & all of us here at Bond Street Theatre

P.S. Check out this fun video of the Shinbone Alley Stilt Band below!



Shinbone Alley Stilt Band

Bond Street Theatre initiates theatre-based projects for education, conflict resolution, and healing in areas of conflict and poverty globally, currently in Afghanistan, Myanmar, Kenya and Lebanon.



[Click here to support our work around the world!](#)

Bond Street Theatre is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization,
and an NGO in association with the UN-DPI.

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