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Bond Street Theatre Artistic Director Honored by League of Professional Theatre Women

Joanna Sherman's Extensive Work in Theatre for Social Development Earns Lee Reynolds Award

New York, NY, February 20, 2014 - Joanna Sherman, Artistic Director of [Bond Street Theatre](#) is the recipient of the 2014 [Lee Reynolds Award](#) from the [League of Professional Theatre Women](#). The award is given annually to a woman "active in any aspect of theatre whose work through the medium of theatre has helped to illuminate the possibilities for social, cultural, or political change".

The award will be presented at the League's [2014 Awards Celebration & Big Mingle Reception](#) to be held at 6:30 pm on Monday, March 10 at the Pershing Square Signature Center. Fellow honorees include renowned actor Zoe Caldwell, who is receiving a Lifetime Achievement Award.

"The League's mission of promoting visibility and increasing opportunities for women in professional theatre is only strengthened when we honor women like Joanna Sherman who are making great inroads in the field," said League Presidents Lorca Peress and Maxine Kern.

Joanna Sherman is being recognized for her long-standing commitment to theatre as a vehicle for peace-building and social change in post-war and disadvantaged communities worldwide.

As founder and Artistic Director of Bond Street Theatre, Ms. Sherman has been working for more than thirty years for the benefit of women, children and others. Under her directorship, the company received a MacArthur Award for its innovative intercultural programming.

Ms. Sherman has been conducting theatre programs in Afghanistan for over a decade sponsored by the US Embassy and US Institute for Peace. The ongoing projects bring informational theatre to women's prisons, shelters and isolated villages.

In addition, Ms. Sherman is collaborating with local artists in Myanmar on a new production that reflects current political and social challenges. Concurrently, the company is initiating a project to engage youth in conflict resolution. She is also developing programming for Syrian refugees in Lebanon and Turkey.

"We are bringing theatre to places that have had little opportunity for artistic and cultural expression after decades of warfare and repression," says Ms. Sherman. *"In Afghanistan we created four professional women's theatre troupes. They are now bringing crucial information*



directly to women through the immediacy of live theatre."

Ms. Sherman is a frequent speaker and advocate for Theatre for Social Development and has lectured at the United Nations, UN Conference on Women in China, National Council on Women, Columbia University, Georgetown University, NYU, and other universities and arts forums. She has been featured on CNN, BBC, NPR and in American Theatre Magazine. She was Cultural Envoy to Myanmar in 2010 and received a Distinguished Achievement in the Arts Award from NYU in 2004.

[Cynthia P. Schneider](#), former Ambassador to the Netherlands and Professor in the Practice of Diplomacy and Co-Director of the *Laboratory for Global Performance and Politics* at Georgetown University, will present Ms. Sherman at the awards celebration.

For further information or interview requests, please contact [Joanna Sherman](#) or [Anna Zastrow](#) at 212-254-4614.

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[Bond Street Theatre](#), founded in 1978, creates theatre that crosses cultural borders and initiates theatre-based projects for education, conflict resolution and healing in areas of conflict and poverty globally. The company collaborates with local artists to enjoy the benefits of artistic exchange and promotes the value of the arts in shaping a peaceful future. Recipient of a MacArthur Award, the company has also received support from the Trust for Mutual Understanding, ArtsLink, the Theatre Communications Group, Mellon Foundation, Ford Foundation, Association for Performing Arts Presenters, Asian Cultural Council, US Institute for Peace, US Bureau of Educational & Cultural Affairs, NEA, US Embassies, and others.

Bond Street Theatre is a non-profit organization, and an NGO in association with the UN-DPI.

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