



**BOND STREET
THEATRE**

Peacebuilding,
empowerment and healing
through theatre



L: Post-show discussion after our 3rd show in Oskemen. **R:** Joanna Sherman in action!

Greetings from Kazakhstan!

Greetings!

We are moving, shaking, learning, and educating local Kazakh audiences on the realities of **domestic violence** and its effects on families.

Bond Street Theatre has been in Kazakhstan for 3 weeks now and what a jam-packed project it has been. Collaborating hand-in-hand with **Union for Crisis Centres (UCC)** of Almaty, an NGO established in 2000, our team of 9 artists, educators, and community members has developed the 40-minute original play, *'Crystal Heart'*, which is currently on tour across 4 cities, reaching over **800 audience** members across the country. Themes of

"I want to work towards a world without domestic violence. It's a difficult task but I'm convinced that we can make the world a better place step-by-step."

Alyia, UCC artistic collaborator

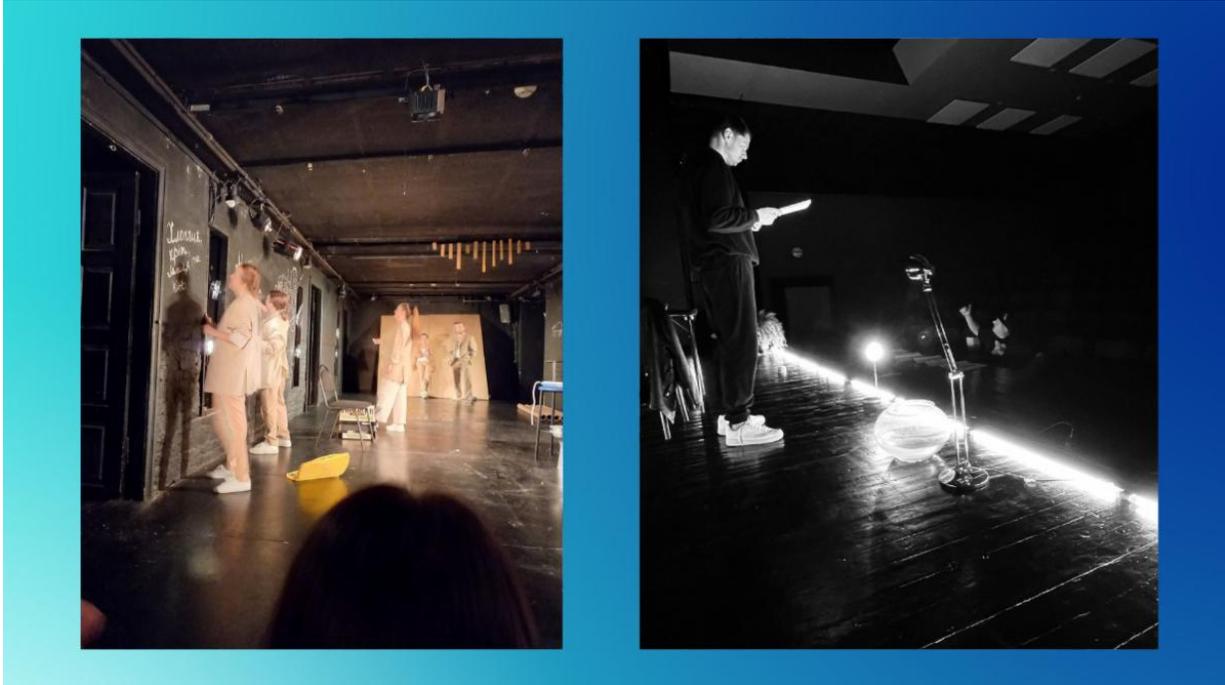
Thankfully, UCC is Kazakhstan's most **formidable and experienced network** of public lobbyists, community partnerships, and women shelters, all working toward the elimination of **domestic violence**. This is where we come in - **Bond Street Theatre** has provided over 60 hours of theatre training and used empathy-building techniques to bring sensitive stories to life. Shows are followed by interactive workshops in which community members have a chance to discuss their thoughts and feelings about the content of the show.

"Some people in the audience asked us for a happy ending to our performance, but we're here to show the reality...Creating a happy ending is the task for all of us as a community."

Joanna Sherman, BST Artistic Director

We are so thankful to the [US Embassy in Kazakhstan](#) for this opportunity - without their support, this project would not be possible. Look out for live video updates on this project

News from Ukraine:



L: Opening night of the show, "Thank you" in Kyiv by Zoloti Vorota Teatr. **R:** Strength is in unity as the Lithuanian and Ukrainian artists met in the creative process and our friends find refuge in another country.

Working tirelessly with Lithuanian, German, and other Ukrainian theatres, our partners from Kyiv, [Zoloti Vorota Teatr](#), continue to develop pop-up plays about the pain, loss, and hope they hold onto for their beloved country, as well as charity readings, and fundraisers to support their local artists.

"We don't know what tomorrow will happen, but the most important thing is to know that we love each other. When the dark clouds pass by... Keep going, don't stop! The storm will pass... but after the storm..."

Anastasiia Babii, artist at Zoloti Vorota Teatr

Please take a look at the incredible [Zoloti Vorota Teatr](#) here, and consider donating to support their network of artists across the country and those seeking refuge elsewhere.

Meet the Bond Street Theatre Interns:



L: Maihan looking cool on stilts, she's a natural! **R:** Rukhsar and Michael playing around!

"Bond Street Theatre has shared stories of Afghan women who walked on stilts, especially how much they enjoyed practicing it and how quickly they mastered the skill."

- Maihan Naimi, BST Program Administrator

We are always thrilled to have Summer interns join us in the office in New York, and in June, we welcomed Maihan Naimi and Rukhsar Balkhi from Bard College's Globalization and International Affairs program. Both of these smart, diligent, and passionate students transferred from Afghanistan in August 2021 - Maihan is a Computer Science major and Rukhsar works in Human Rights. They have formed part of a powerful team who will continue to work with BST leadership to develop partnerships and programming in the US for Afghan refugees in the years going forward.

Keep your eyes out for our new [blog posts](#), they will be updated in August!

"During my internship, I've seen videos, pictures, and programs which were taken in my home country, Afghanistan, and I can truly feel the connection and see the positive effect BST had on those youths, women, and children of war. I believe BST implemented programs which feed the soul in a deeply conflicted country..."

- Rukhsar, BST Communications Associate

Our hopes are high as Bond Street Theatre continues to serve as cultural ambassadors, **using the arts to support healing, learning and connecting.**

Thank you for your [unwavering support](#) throughout our journey as a company.

With love from Kostanay,
the Bond Street Theatre Team

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