



BOND STREET THEATRE

peacebuilding, empowerment & healing through theatre

Dear Joanna,

A midsummer day's dream: world peace and protection of our resources. Bond Street is doing its best to make it reality! Here's some good news:

Kicking off the summer, Artistic Director Joanna Sherman was honored by the Cooper Union Alumni Association with the Peter Cooper **Public Service Award** and inducted into the **Cooper Union Hall of Fame**. Joanna spoke to the audience about the power of theatre to educate, empower and promote mutual understanding across borders. She was introduced by ART/NY's Executive Director Ginny Louloudes who gave a heartfelt overview of Bond Street's 40 years of creative efforts.



Audience members pack the house for a performance in Afghanistan, created and performed by our Provincial Youth Leaders.

Meanwhile, our staff in Afghanistan are just finishing our *Provincial Youth Leader Mobilization for Peace and Justice* program, funded by the **US Institute of Peace**.

Our Youth Leaders have been working for a year and a half on anti-corruption campaigns that use theatre, media and workshops to promote rule of law in their communities.

Afghan citizens regularly deal with nepotism, harassment, and bribery. Our youth groups developed plays that illustrate corruption and offer viable means to hold local institutions accountable. Often, citizens accept daily bribery as normal with no recourse for justice. The project trained the youth groups on citizens' rights, access to justice, and conflict management -- all with a vision of a unified, stable Afghanistan.

The performances also inspired action! A shop owner who had been forced to pay a bribe to police each day to open his shop, gathered a group of shop owners who all confronted the police headquarters together and ended the daily affront.

Surveys taken before and after our programs indicate an 80% increase in public understanding of what constitutes corruption and how to confront it, the 200+ shows reached 81,000 people.

As one community leader exclaimed:

"Such kinds of programs will have a huge impact not only on the district and provincial level, but [also] on the national level."



Young actors in our program for NYC teens in a scene from "The Law of the Jungle" at Downtown Art. Shown above L-R: Daniella Rodriguez, William Natal and Ally Agudelo. Also featured Meghan Haag.

Also this summer, **we concluded our theatre program for NYC teens** with a performance of *The Law of the Jungle*, a play first developed with Nangarhar Theatre in Afghanistan about laws and lawlessness. From Afghanistan to the US, we are heartened to see young people eager to speak up for personal responsibility toward

making a better society.

The play was directed by Bond Street Theatre's Ilanna Saltzman, and also featured BST's Josh Wynter and Michael McGuigan, with lighting by intern Nai'ya Willis-Hogan. We thank Ryan Gilliam of Downtown Art for their dedication to community arts.

Coming up this fall:

Rostov-on-Don, Russia - We have been invited to the International Theatre Festival in Rostov-on-Don this fall to conduct performance-oriented workshops and speak about our creative work in conflict areas. The festival is hosting artists from around the world.

Kolkata, India - Bond Street Theatre has again been chosen as Arts Envoys in India. In 2010, three BST artists were selected as Arts Envoys in Myanmar.

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia - We continue our work with refugees in Malaysia, especially Rohingya refugees from Myanmar, plus Somali, Afghan, Syrian and others.

Stay tuned for more exciting announcements coming up!

To keep our work going, please support this upcoming work with a one-time or monthly donation to help these programs sustain and grow.

We look forward to continuing this journey with all of you.
the Bond Street Theatre team

P.S. One of the best ways that you can contribute to the continuation of our work is to **become a monthly donor**. A sustained donation ensures that we can continue to build a global movement of artists speaking out for justice! ***Thank you!***



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