



# BOND STREET THEATRE

peacebuilding, empowerment & healing through theatre



## February Newsletter

### Greetings!

This month, Bond Street founders and company members Joanna Sherman, Michael McGuigan, Ilanna Saltzman, and Meghan Frank travelled to the capital of Azerbaijan, Baku, to conduct a two-week long workshop at the Azerbaijan State University of Arts and Culture. The workshop, Community Drama for Peace, is a perfect illustration of what Bond Street's work is all about: integrating theatre-making with conflict resolution, and providing communities with the tools and confidence to constructively discuss issues important to them and create a resolution plan.



**Students discussing issues important to them & their community**

After the two week long workshop, eight students were selected by BST to collaborate and devise a piece, culminating in a tour of the performance around Azerbaijan. The play, titled *Moon Cycles*, focuses on issues chosen by the students, including women's rights, corruption, and the importance of youth making a positive change in their communities. A tremendous effort on everyone's part was put into making sure this piece was ready for tour, all in just one week! This was a difficult challenge, but one that sparked a lot of creativity and strong partnerships.



**Performance of the show, *Moon Cycles*, at the Yarat Contemporary Art Space**

The tour and performances were a wonderful success, with lots of students and communities around the country getting a chance to see the work. It was even the first time one student was on stage. The performance was received well and garnered a lot of press. We were happy to have lots of families, students, university professors, and directors in the audience. It was a wonderful project and as always we will miss our partners in Azerbaijan. We are looking forward to working together in the future and seeing what wonderful work our fellow artists get involved in and produce!

For now, Bond Street Members are busy in Beirut coordinating with Zakira, a Lebanese arts organization devoted to the use of photography as a means of self-expression and healing. This next project will involve a Zakira-BST collaboration to create a multimedia performance aimed at working with Syrian refugee populations around Lebanon.

We are looking forward to all the work and new partnerships. These are exciting times!

Below is a video that Azer-b TV produced about the project, *Moon Cycles*, along with a few photos. Follow us on Facebook to see new photos of our work!



Check out Azer-b TV press coverage of the show, [Moon Cycles!](#)



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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.



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