Directors and actors from across the Balkans will gather this August for the 2nd meeting of the Performing Artists for Balkan Peace, a network of theatre artists devoted to cross-border cooperation, social progress and peace. The meeting coincides with the Mostar Theatre Festival in Bosnia where we will present an amazing 7-country, 5 language, 28-actor collaboration, *Blood & Honey.*

*Beyond the Mirror*, the first US-Afghan theatre collaboration in recent history, made its US premiere this past Fall in Baltimore and New York with excellent reviews and major media attention. The production, co-created by Exile Theatre of Afghanistan and Bond Street Theatre, depicted true stories from the lives of ordinary Afghans over decades of occupation and war. “Truly powerful” — Margo Jefferson, *The New York Times*

This year we begin a challenging new project in *Afghanistan* — training university faculty, students, and local artists to use theatre to teach children. Reviving the Afghan tradition of story-telling, our goal is to encourage theatre to bloom again in this land of vibrant traditions, and introduce theatre activities for children that encourage self-expression and creative problem-solving.

We have been invited to participate in the 3rd *World Culture Forum* in Rwanda this August. This convening of artists and organizations from around the world gathers to present each country’s finest artistry, and discuss the challenges of culture and development in a rapidly changing world. Both Theatre Tsvete of Bulgaria and Exile Theatre of Afghanistan will join Bond Street Theatre to present their recent collaborative works.

*Frankenstein Unbound*, a production-in-process, brings the outcast creature from Mary Shelley’s novel into the true story of a sensational chess-playing robot built in 1775, a novelty that amazed royalty, foreshadowed computers, and duped the public by its clever mechanisms and concealed human assistant. Using the physical and musical abilities of the ensemble, the production will explore the ever-volatile crossings of science and religion.

**Bond Street Theatre has been awarded a grant for its creative work in Afghanistan from the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs… now we have to match it!**

**Donate Online at www.bondst.org**
Performing Artists for Balkan Peace: 2nd Meeting to be held in Bosnia

An historic meeting of theatre companies from Bosnia, Serbia, Albania, Kosovo, Greece, Macedonia, Bulgaria and the US gathered last year in Bulgaria to explore theatre as a tool for building peace; this year we re-meet in Mostar, Bosnia, to open the network beyond the annual International Festival of Authorial Poetics andAlternative Academy.

Since we began working in the Balkans 7 years ago, we have met many artists who were the lone voices against injustice in their community during years of violence. With Theatre Tsvete, an award-winning puppet theatre and our co-creators on many projects, we resolved to create an active network of these artists.

Last year, we brought 28 of these outspoken theatre artists together for a two week intensive gathering. This year, we meet again to open the network beyond the founding artists and achieve our goal of a broad cross-border network designed to stimulate cooperative projects, share resources, help with touring and fundraising, discuss issues, and break down the isolation of borders.

This year’s meeting of the Performing Artists for Balkan Peace will be held in Mostar, Bosnia, from August 18-31, hosted by Mostar Youth Theatre at their annual International Festival of Authorial Poetics and Alternative Academy. We thank the Trust for Mutual Understanding for their ongoing support.

Good News! Grants this Year from...

The US Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs to continue Bond Street’s fruitful artistic exchange with Exile Theatre of Kabul, and bring creative activities to children and youth in least served areas of Afghanistan.

New York State Council on the Arts to present public lectures and roundtables for artists about working in refugee areas and war zones.

The Barondess Foundation to support the creation of a new theatre production.

Funds are needed to bring Bond Street to the World Culture Open in Rwanda!

All Funding Must Be Matched!

—Please Donate—

Online: www.bondst.org, or mail: Bond Street Theatre 2 Bond Street New York, NY 10012

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Joanna Sherman — Artistic Director; Michael McGuigan — Managing Director; Meghan Frank — Program Director; Wrenn Schmidt — Intern; Sean Nowell — Musical Director; Christina Gelsone — Actor; Robert Lok — Actor; Seth Bloom — Actor; Matt Schmidt — Actor; Luanne Dietrich — Actor; Fred Collins — Fight choreographer; Sima Wolf — Actor, musician; Joe Schuffle — Musician; Bruce Williamson — Musician, composer; Andy Teirstein — Guest composer; Quraishi — Guest musician.