



**the
palestinian
museum**

جمعية غير حكومية Non-Governmental Association

0142.03.0053

A Leaflet by the Theatre Director Augusto Boal

This document shows a leaflet dedicated to the Brazilian theatre director Augusto Boal, who in the 1970s suggested a new approach towards using the theatre, which he named the "Theatre of the Oppressed", and in 2004 initiated the "International Theatre of the Oppressed Organization", an assembly of worldwide groups which adopts the this approach, including Ashtar Theatre in Ramallah and Theatre for Everybody in the Gaza Strip.

Augusto Boal
In the 1970s Augusto Boal, a Brazilian theatre director, suggested a new approach towards the use of theatre, which he named: The Theatre of the Oppressed (TO). Boal offered a model of equal relationships between the audience and the performers, following Paulo Freire's 'Pedagogy of the Oppressed' thesis.

Augusto Boal

In Boal's approach, a theatrical event is a rehearsal of life. The aesthetic occurrence in the theatrical space ought to discuss the lives of the audience. The audience is encouraged to participate in the play, to imagine a better life and to explore ways of making changes.

During the 1980s, Boal expanded his definition of the 'oppressed' from people who had to pay the price of political and social indifference to personal - internal oppression (such as: use of drugs, depression, gender...), made by social circumstances.

In 2004, Boal initiated the 'International Theatre of the Oppressed Organization' (ITO), which is an assembly of hundreds of worldwide groups who use TO methods. In the Middle East there are only two groups: 'Ishtar' from Ramallah, and 'Theater for Everybody' from the Gaza Strip. *Al-Laz Mazan Gatas Theatre* will be the first Theatre of the Oppressed group inside the Israeli border.

The Theatre of the Oppressed
A Centre for Developing Participatory Theatre Methods for Social Change and Social Justice
Based on Augusto Boal's Ideology and Techniques

Arik Gutler Ofir – Facilitator
Trained as "Joker" and as *Theatre of the Oppressed* (TO) facilitator, taught by David Diamond: Headlines Theatre, Vancouver, Canada.
Playback Theatre facilitator. New Zealand Summer School. Teacher: Bev Hosking.
M.A. from the University of Queensland (UQ), Australia, in 'Peace Studies and Conflict Resolutions'. Rotary scholarship: Rotary World Peace Fellowship.
B.A. from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, in *Theatre and General History*.
Trained as Multi-cultural group facilitator. Givvaat-Haviva institution.
Facilitator of different multi-cultural art projects (Galilee Circus, Theatre group from Arabee and Maale Zvia, Ras-Ei-Ein and Cabri, and the first Arab speaking theatre department in Ha-Shalom high school in Sheik Danun.
Theatre teacher in Manor-Cabri high school-Western Galilee.

The Theatre of the Oppressed
centre operates in *Al-Laz-Mazan Gatas' Theatre*, in the historical part of Acre (Akka), and offers various activities which aim for social change, through theatre.

Three Hours Workshop

What is our Story?

Finding Group's Commonality and Hardship through the Image Theatre Method.

Image Theatre is one of the *Theatre of the Oppressed* techniques, in which people are allowed to communicate through image and space, and not through words alone.

Image Theatre is a dialogue that creates an unspoken language between group members, which can be used to create awareness, to learn what divides and what unites them, in order to generate a change. Group members are invited to use their body in order to sculpture their thoughts and concerns, and to create a space for other members to express their views and to imagine a change.



Image Theatre Workshop
Rotary's Paul
Harris Seminar,
The University of
Queensland,
October 2006.
Facilitator: Ark
Gutler Ofr

Duration: Three hours

Location: Al Laz Theatre, or any other suitable space that will be acceptable by the host community and the program facilitator.

Six Day Workshop

POWERPLAY

A play in Six Days for a Community

The 'Powerplay' method was developed by the Canadian director, David Diamond, in order to encourage communities to discuss social issues they share, and to have space to practice a change.

People from a community who wish to deal with their concerns through theater, are invited for a six day workshop, in which they exercise theatrical games, learn basic acting skills, build trust and look into moments of oppression in their own lives.

In the second part, the participants make their play about issues they have identified as the most important to them and their community.

On the sixth day the play is presented to the community - in the Forum method: people from the audience are invited to replace the actors and to suggest changes.

A rehearsal for the play:

PALESTINE, ISRAEL AND ME

A Forum Play (based on a Powerplay workshop)

Director: David Diamond, Headlines Theatre,
Vancouver, Canada. June 2006.



Duration: Six days. Daily between 9am to 5pm.

Location: Al Laz Theatre, or any other suitable space that will be acceptable on the host community and the program's facilitator.

Weekly Workshop

Theatre Laboratory for Social Change (With Audience Participation)

The Laboratory invites social activists, theatre facilitators and others who are interested in developing the area theatre for social change.

In The Laboratory we will learn participatory theatrical methods for social change: *Forum Theatre*, *Image Theatre*, *Legislative Theatre*, *Cops in your Head* (which are all part of Boal's *Theatre of the Oppressed* methods) and *Playback Theatre*. Along with practicing these theatrical methods, we will discuss social change issues and other concerns of the laboratory participants.

The Laboratory aim will be to find theatrical methods that will be able to turn the participants' concerns into a dramatic play. The play that we will work on will be presented in *Al-Laz Theatre* in front of an audience - or in front of a specific community - in a way that the spectators will be able to use the play to rehearse a change in their lives.



Theatre of the Oppressed workshop,
Headlines Theatre,
Vancouver, Canada,
2006.

Duration: October 2007 to June 2008.
Every Tuesday, between 3pm to 7pm
(Approximately 120 workshop hours)