



## **About In Forma Theatre**

INCLUSIVE. INNOVATIVE. FUN.

Through workshops and public performances, In Forma Theatre illuminates everyday struggles as revealed by our participants. We strive to create a space where life's conflicts become a springboard for dynamic personal and social change. In Forma (IF) Theatre is an ensemble theatre company that creates and performs audience interactive shows which promote inclusive communities and social justice. IF Theatre uses popular theatre techniques such as image and forum theatre to explore individual and community empowerment with the goal of creating visions of change for the future. In Forma Theatre also facilitates courses and workshops on using theatre for community development and peacebuilding.

### **Facilitator Bios:**

*Sara Escott* is the co-founder and co-artistic director of In Forma Theatre. She has an M.Ed in Adult Education and Community Development (OISE/UT) with a focus on using theatre for peacebuilding, community healing and collective change. She also has an honours B.F.A. in Theatre Directing from York University. Sara has extensive background in popular theatre, theatre for social change and collective creation. She has studied Theatre of the Oppressed techniques with Brazilian practitioner, Augusto Boal. For over four years Sara has worked at the Children's Peace Theatre in Toronto developing and facilitating conflict transformation and peace leader workshops. In her work, Sara uses theatre to empower and inspire change with diverse populations of all ages. She is also a member of InterChange, an international organization of community-based peacebuilders. Sara has worked as a director, performer and educator in Toronto, the Philippines and Morocco.

*Adam Perry* has studied the Theatre of the Oppressed with Augusto Boal and Theatre for Living with David Diamond. Adam is the founding artistic director of The Leamington Blue House Players, an experimental theatre troupe composed of migrant agricultural workers in Leamington, Ontario. He has also been involved with community performances organized by the New Canadians' Centre in Peterborough, Ontario and The Red Ochre Bannock Burners Community Players on Lennox Island First Nations reserve, Prince Edward Island. He has facilitated image theatre workshops as a part of Frontier College's annual labourer/teacher training camps and since 2007 has been co-teaching image theatre courses for the Transformative Learning Centre's annual summer institutes at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) at the University of Toronto. As the co-artistic director of Toronto's In Forma Theatre he continues to practice image and forum theatre with a variety of community partners, including Interchange, a community-based international peacebuilding organization and Children's Peace Theatre.

### **Theatre Techniques:**

#### *What is image theatre?*

Image Theatre is a non-verbal theatre technique developed by Brazilian theatre practitioner Augusto Boal. It involves communicating an idea or experience through the sculpting of one's own and other's bodies. Through this technique participants can gain a deeper insight into memory and emotion that is held in our bodies.



### *What is forum theatre?*

In Forma's style of forum theatre, has developed out of Brazilian theatre practitioner Augusto Boal's *Theatre of the Oppressed* and Canadian theatre artist David Diamond's technique of *Theatre for Living*.

Forum Theatre is:

- A play created and performed by community members who are living through the issues under investigation
- A way of developing a fictional narrative from the composite collection of participants' life experiences
- A play where audience members are presented with the opportunity to come on stage and improvise alternatives with the actors

What a forum theatre production looks like when presented by In Forma Theatre:

- A short play which is performed once without interruption so that the audience can see the situation and the problems presented
- The story builds to a crisis and stops there offering no solutions
- The play is then started again with audience members able to freeze the action at any point where they see an incident of conflict
- An audience member yells stop, comes into the playing area, replaces a character of their choice and plays the scene according to her idea

### **Contact us:**

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