

## INVITATION

### Workshop & Film Screening

#### ACTING TOGETHER ON THE WORLD STAGE: PERFORMANCE AND THE CREATIVE TRANSFORMATION OF CONFLICT

With and by CYNTHIA COHEN, PhD

*Director of the Program in Peacebuilding and the Arts, Brandeis University and  
the Brandeis/Theatre Without Borders collaboration 'Acting Together'*

**Monday, March 31, 5:00 pm**

Screening and discussion of 'Acting Together on the World Stage'

<http://themaclive.com/whats-on/screening-and-discussion-acting-together-on-the-world-stage/>

**Tuesday, April 1 & 2**

Workshop: Exploring the 'Acting Together' Toolkit

<http://themaclive.com/whats-on/workshop-exploring-the-acting-together-toolkit/>

**Location: Factory at the MAC, 10 Exchange Street West, Belfast, BT1 2NJ**

**For tickets, please contact the MAC Box Office on 028 9023 5053 or online at [www.themaclive.com](http://www.themaclive.com)**

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#### **Monday, March 31 - Screening: 'Acting Together on the World Stage'**

This award-winning feature documentary, co-created by Cynthia Cohen and filmmaker Allison Lund, highlights courageous and creative artists and peacebuilders working in conflict regions, describes exemplary peacebuilding performances and offers tools for the creative transformation of violence. The performances in the film illustrate that theatrical works and ritual are effective resources for non-violent resistance to injustice, for the rehumanization of former enemies and for acknowledgement, remembering and healing in the aftermath of mass violence.

'Acting Together on the World Stage' grows out of a seven-year initiative of *Theatre Without Borders*, Brandeis University and filmmaker Allison Lund. The film includes vivid firsthand accounts of traditional and nontraditional performances in Argentina, Serbia, Uganda, Peru, the United States (New Orleans), Australia and Cambodia. Stories are told by artists, conflict resolution practitioners, and scholars who work directly with communities struggling to make sense of their past, heal their present wounds, and build a common future.

The film will inform and inspire socially engaged artists, cultural workers, peacebuilding scholar/practitioners, human rights activities, development workers, students of peace studies and of theatre, and whoever wishes to better understand violent conflict and the power of the arts to engender social change.

The screening will be followed by a round table discussion with **Cynthia Cohen** (Brandeis University, Boston), Director of the Program in Peacebuilding and the Arts, based in the International Center for Ethics, Justice and Public Life at Brandeis University and local artists and academics.

## Tuesday, April 2 - Workshop: Exploring the ‘Acting Together’ Toolkit

In addition to its award-winning feature length film and two-volume anthology, the *Acting Together* project produced a toolkit of 18 short videos and 18 print documents, including guidelines for minimizing risks of doing harm, instructions for storycircles, and a conversation among leading practitioners about how they assess their work and balance socio-political and aesthetic imperatives. This interactive workshop is designed for educators, organizers, theatre practitioners and other artists working in communities: people who could use *Acting Together* resources to conduct trainings, plan and assess peacebuilding/arts initiatives, and lead discussions on themes such as gender, immigration, historical memory and moral imagination.

**CYNTHIA E. COHEN** is Director of the Program in Peacebuilding and the Arts, based in the International Center for Ethics, Justice and Public Life at Brandeis University. She conducts research, writes, speaks and teaches about work at the nexus of the arts, culture, justice and peace. She directed the Brandeis University/Theatre Without Borders collaboration *Acting Together*, co-edited the *Acting Together on the World Stage* anthology and co-created the related documentary and toolkit. She is currently working with Brandeis students to document the forty-year practice of the outstanding African American musician and cultural worker, Jane Wilburn Sapp.

Cohen has written extensively on the aesthetic and ethical dimensions of peacebuilding, including the chapters "Creative Approaches to Reconciliation" and "Engaging with the Arts to Promote Coexistence," and an online book "Working With Integrity: A Guidebook for Peacebuilders Asking Ethical Questions." Cohen previously directed the international fellowship program *Recasting Reconciliation through Culture and the Arts*, which produced an anthology by that name. She teaches at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Prior to coming to Brandeis, Cohen was the founding director of the Oral History Center in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and facilitated coexistence efforts involving participants from the Middle East, the United States, Central America, and Sri Lanka. She holds a Ph.D. in education from the University of New Hampshire, a masters degree in urban studies from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and bachelors degree in ethnomusicology from Wesleyan University. She currently is a co-convener of the Arts and Peace Commission of the International Peace Research Association.

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**This event is organised by the Interdisciplinary Research Group ‘Art, Performance and Media in (Post-) Conflict Societies’, hosted and funded by the Institute for the Study of Conflict Transformation and Social Justice at Queen’s University Belfast in collaboration with the MAC.**



For more information on the research group, see  
[www.performingthepeace.wordpress.com](http://www.performingthepeace.wordpress.com)

Twitter: @PerformPeace

“Acting Together” Project:

<http://brandeis.edu/ethics/peacebuildingarts/actingtogether>

<http://actingtogether.org>