



Possibilities and Dilemmas of Incorporating Sacred Elements into Art for Social Change

**Pakistani Theatre Director Shahid Nadeem
and African American Cultural Worker Jane Wilburn Sapp**

Tuesday, January 28, 2014: 11:00am – 12:20pm

The State of the Entertainment Industry in Contemporary Pakistan, by Shahid Nadeem. Open Session of SAS 155B: Cinema and Society: History, Film and Visual Culture. Pearlman Hall 203.

Wednesday, January 29: 10:00am – 4:00pm

Integrating the Sacred into Art for Social Change: An Informal Exchange

10:00am – 12:00pm: **The Achievements and Perils of Theatre for Social Change in Pakistan.** Shahid Nadeem will discuss his work as director of Ajoka Theatre, and describe how plays on Sufi themes have been embraced by Pakistani audiences from varying points of view, even when they deliver radical, almost blasphemous messages against the extremist exploitative use of Islam. Presentation followed by discussion. Slosberg Music Center Room 227.

2:00 – 4:00pm: **Spirituality and the Quest for Justice in the African American Musical Tradition.** Jane Sapp and Cindy Cohen will share work from their multimedia project *A Way Out of No Way: Jane Sapp, Cultural Work and Social Transformation*. They examine the roots of African-American musical tradition in West African cultures, in the period of slavery, and in the Black Church. The songs that emerged combined the community's spiritual impulses with its commitment for social justice. Presentation followed by discussion. Slosberg Music Center, Room 215. (Note: a more complete and formal presentation of this material will be offered on Wednesday morning, February 5, as part of 'DEIS Impact - <http://www.brandeis.edu/ethics/peacebuildingarts/jsapp/news-events.html#deisimpact>.)

Shahid Nadeem, director of Ajoka Theatre, is Pakistan's leading playwright, whose work has addressed gender justice, fundamentalism, dictatorship, rights of religious minorities, peace with India, and Sufi interpretations of Islam. Currently, he is a Fellow at the National Endowment for Democracy.

Jane Wilburn Sapp is a musician, educator, organizer, folklorist and cultural worker who has worked for over 40 years with communities seeking justice. She is currently working with Cindy Cohen on a project to document her practice. On Sunday, February 2, she is leading a song-writing workshop; check out 'DEIS Impact schedule for details. She is in residence at Brandeis through February 11.

These events are sponsored by the Program in Peacebuilding and the Arts at Brandeis. Please contact Cindy Cohen with questions: cecohen@brandeis.edu.