

**Acting Together on the World Stage: Performance and the
Creative Transformation of Conflict
Using the “Toolkit for Continuing the Conversation”**



Training for Trainers

Facilitated by Cynthia E. Cohen, Brandeis University

Please join us for a weekend training for educators, practitioners and trainers who have experience with the Acting Together project or have their own practice in peacebuilding/arts in divided communities or schools and would like to lead workshops and trainings using the *Acting Together* resources.

The Training will include:

- experiential learning, i.e. experiencing activities together that you might want to adapt for your own trainings;
- overview of *Acting Together* toolkit and other resources;
- group brainstorm of constituencies you intend to work with and goals for the workshops you plan to lead
- developing and workshopping draft training protocols
- mini-lectures/presentations (by Cynthia Cohen) exploring key questions and themes of the *AT* project, including balancing aesthetic and socio-political goals; nature of the moral imagination; concerns about doing no harm; framework for planning, documentation and assessment of peacebuilding/arts initiatives.

Please come prepared by reading *Acting Together: Performance and the Creative Transformation of Conflict Volumes One and Two*, and be familiar with the Toolkit (www.actingtogether.org). It will also be helpful to have seen the documentary, *Acting Together on The World Stage*, which is based on the case studies in the two volumes. Online access to the documentary and other resources will be forwarded to anyone who signs up for the Training Session.

**February 25-26, 2012
Sat. 10-6; Sun. 10-2
La MaMa
74A East 4th Street
New York City**

(Confirmation on exact location will be sent to those who register. If you are unable to attend this session and would like to be informed of future opportunities, please email David Diamond at ddjdstar@gmail.com)

Fee:

Colleges, universities and agencies offering support for staff development: \$100
Individual artists, people from community groups unable to offer support: \$50
(Fees cover just the actual costs of space, supplies, snacks, etc.)

Space is LIMITED.

Please **reserve** by providing your name, email and phone contact number along with a check made out to: ReCAST, Inc. and send to: ReCAST, Inc., c/o David Diamond, 322 West 57th Street, #39K, New York, NY 10019. For more information: ddjdstar@gmail.com.

Acting Together, a collaboration between Brandeis University and [Theatre Without Borders](#), has been exploring this terrain for the past six years. The project documents peacebuilding performance, highlighting artists, peacebuilders, and community leaders from every continent whose rituals and theatrical works speak truth to power and support communities to mourn losses and build bridges across differences. **ReCAST, Inc.**, is a not-for-profit organization that is partnering with Brandeis on the dissemination of Acting Together resources.

Dr. Cynthia Cohen, facilitator of this training, is director of the program in [Peacebuilding and the Arts](#) at Brandeis University's International Center for Ethics, Justice, and Public Life. She is an internationally recognized educator, peacebuilding practitioner and researcher who focuses on the contributions of the arts to conflict transformation. Currently, Dr. Cohen is the principal investigator for the "[Acting Together](#)" project, a six year inquiry with theatre artists and leaders of ritual working in conflict regions around the world, undertaken in collaboration with Theatre Without Borders. The project has produced a documentary and toolkit, and a two-volume anthology which was published by New Village Press in 2011.

Cohen also serves as a co-convenor of the Arts and Peace Commission of the International Peace Research Association. Previously, she directed a fellowship program entitled "[Recasting Reconciliation through Culture and the Arts](#)," supporting visual artists, filmmakers, theatre artists and musicians working in Burundi, South Africa, Cambodia, New Zealand and Sri Lanka to document and reflect on the ethical dimensions of their work. She is the author of [Working With Integrity: A Guidebook for Peacebuilders Asking Ethical Questions](#), and many other chapters, articles and papers that focus on the aesthetic and ethical dimensions of conflict transformation.

Prior to her tenure at Brandeis, Cohen founded and for ten years directed a community-based oral history center in the Boston area, and worked on issues of

violence against women. She holds degrees from the University of New Hampshire, The Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Wesleyan University.

David J. Diamond, coordinator of this training, is an artist, theatre consultant, career coach for theatre artists and teacher. Current projects include organizing the La MaMa Umbria International Symposium for Directors, Playwright Retreat, Residencies and Master Acting Workshops. He serves on the Steering Committee of Theatre Without Borders and co-produced the 2010 Conference: *Acting Together on the World Stage: Theatre and Peacebuilding in Conflict Zones*. He worked with the U.S. Army as a mentor director on Army bases in Western Europe and was a delegate to the International Theatre Institute Congress in Madrid. He recently joined the Advisory Board of DNA Works, an arts and service organization dedicated to furthering artistic expression and dialogue, focusing on issues of identity, culture, class, and heritage.