Register now to reserve your spot: Julian Boal in Chicago in August

Organizers of the group Theatre of the Oppressed and Activism in Chicago are hosting workshops with Julian Boal in August. Our host site will be The Alice B. Rapoport Center for Education and Engagement at Goodman Theatre. The workshops are PTO regional events (www.ptoweb.org).

Workshop 1 (3 days)
Forum Theatre:
Examining Oppressive Systems, Exploring Concrete Options

**Dates:** Sunday-Tuesday, August 13, 14, & 15, 2017
**Times:** 10 am-6 pm with food breaks, plus an evening Forum Theatre event Tuesday, August 15
**Location:** Goodman Theatre, 170 N. Dearborn Street, Chicago, IL 60601

**Description:** Far too many times we see Forum Theatre that individualizes problems that actually arise instead from the very structures of our societies. That individualization leads to at least two problems. First, it suggests that oppressions arise from the free will or personal perspectives of evildoers. But of course oppression does not work that way; a white man during apartheid, for example, benefited from racism regardless of whether or not that person held consciously racist personal opinions. Second, to individualize problems implies that it is the responsibility of single individuals to fight back against oppressions that are larger in scope than the individuals themselves. For example, to stress what a specific woman can do

Julian Boal was a founding member of several collectives in France. He is now part of the Escola de Teatro Popular in Brazil. He has realized workshops and projects in more than 20 countries, and he helped in the realization of Theatre of the Oppressed festivals in India with Jana Sanskriti, in Europe with Pa'tothom, and in South America with CTO-Rio. Julian is the author of *Images of a Popular Theatre* (*Imagens de um Teatro Popular*, Hucitec, 2000), co-editor of *Theatre of the Oppressed in Actions* (Routledge, 2015), and recently completed a PhD in Brazil.
at the very moment she is under the threat of being beaten up by her husband reinforces the dangerous idea that she is personally responsible for that violence—or for stopping it herself. This workshop--through games, exercises, and techniques--will focus on finding ways to portray oppressive systems rather than just staging people with so-called "bad" behavior. In this workshop, participants will gain experience with a variety of Theatre of the Oppressed techniques, create original Forum Theatre scenes, and discuss the role of the joker figure in Theatre of the Oppressed. This workshop is open to people with any amount of experience with Theatre of the Oppressed.

**Workshop 1 Cost:** 200 USD


**Workshop 2 (2 days)**

**Advanced Workshop:**

**Devising New Dramaturgical Structures for Forum Theatre**

**Dates/Times:** Thursday and Friday, August 17 & 18, 2017, 10 am-6 pm (with food breaks)

**Location:** Goodman Theatre, 170 N. Dearborn Street, Chicago, IL 60601

**Description:** This advanced workshop explores how we can expand our range of approaches to creating a Forum Theatre play. Drawing inspiration from examples in other plays and cinema beyond the world of Theatre of the Oppressed, we will try out scene structures that differ from the most common Forum Theatre dramaturgy. How might we avoid reducing struggles to one-on-one scenes driven mostly by dialogue? How do we create as many opportunities as possible for the exploration of contradictions? How do we create the kinds of twists or complications that might deepen the analysis of the problems? This two-day laboratory welcomes both those with previous experience of Theatre of the Oppressed and/or those with experience in devising. In other words, some experience in scene creation—either through Theatre of the Oppressed or devising—will be helpful background for participants. The workshop aims to be useful not only for those working in Theatre of the Oppressed specifically but also for other theatre artists who want to continue to fine-tune their attention to the politics of play structure.

**Workshop 2 Cost:** 200 USD


**Additional Information**

**Event Organizers:** Kelly Howe, Willa Taylor, Jasmin Cardenas

**Questions:** Email Kelly at kellybhowe@gmail.com.
Accommodation Possibilities For Out-of-Town Participants

Accommodations: No one specific room block is reserved. Participants from outside Chicago are invited to secure their own accommodations, but here are some sights you may find helpful.

Hostelling International Chicago
24 East Congress Parkway
Chicago, Illinois 60605
Phone: +1 (312) 360-0300
http://hichicago.org/

Dorm option: University Center (Individuals can contact University Center directly)
http://www.chicagosummerhousing.com/

For general searches for socially responsible union hotels, you can check out the Fair Hotel list:
http://www.fairhotel.org/

For example, here are a few hotels within a mile from the workshop location that are also on the Fair Hotel list:

Travelodge Hotel Downtown
65 E. Harrison
Chicago, IL 60605
(312) 427-8000
http://www.travelodgechicago.com/

Hotel Cass / Holiday Inn Express
640 N. Wabash
Chicago, IL 60611
(312) 787-4030
http://www.casshotel.com/

Hotel Allegro
171 West Randolph Street
Chicago, IL 60601
(312) 236-0123
http://www.allegrochicago.com/

Palmer House Hilton
17 E. Monroe
Chicago, IL 60603
(312) 726-7500

Hotel Blake Chicago
500 S. Dearborn
Chicago, IL 60605
(312) 986-1234
http://www.hotelblake.com/