

Hamlet says in his famous speech to the actors that theatre is a mirror in which may be seen the true image of nature, of reality.¹ I wanted to penetrate this mirror, to transform the image I saw in it and to bring that transformed image back to reality: to realise the image of my desire. I wanted it to be possible for the spectators in Forum Theatre to transgress, to break the conventions, to enter into the mirror of a theatrical fiction, rehearse forms of struggle and then return to reality with the images of their desires. Find your own way according to your particular personal needs, preferences, curiosities or desires.

A.Boal

One of the fundamental principles of the Theatre of the Oppressed claims:
We believe in Peace, not in Passivity!

Project promoter:

Public institution "House of Art and Education" (Lithuania)
www.forumoteatras.lt
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Project participants:

Partners from Lithuania:

Sirvintos Atžalynas progymnasium;
Vilnius Simonas Daukantas gymnasium;
Joniškis district Kriukai basic education school;
Kaunas Milikoniai secondary school;
Panevėžys Margarita Rimkevičaitė School of Technology

Partners from Latvia:

Vecsaules pamatskola, Bausk;
Association "Balti" with Nordic Countries Gymnasium, Riga

Partners from Poland:

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Project friends from Estonia:

MTÜ Foorumteater, Tallinn

Project friends from Lithuania:

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THE ROAD OF THE CITIZEN

"Coragem de ser feliz"
"Dare to be happy"

A.Boal

"The being becomes human when it discovers theatre".

At the beginning, an actor and a spectator lived together, in the very same personality; at the moment they parted, one of them became an actor, and the other one – a spectator. This way the theatre we know today was born.

Theatre was the first invention by man that opened the way to all other inventions and discoveries.

A theatrical profession which belongs to the few should not cover the fact that theatricality is characteristic of all of us. Theatre is a calling of people: it is the real nature of man.

Theatre is born when man discovers in himself an ability to see himself from the side.

Through self-observing man perceives that he is not the one he images he could be; he realizes where he is, where he is not, and images where he could go to. Only man has an ability to observe himself in the imaginable mirror. (No doubt, man sometimes also meets the true mirrors: mother's eyes, his reflection on the surface of water; most often, however, he looks at himself only with the help of his imagination mirror).

This is where the essence of theatre lies: in a man who observes himself. Man does not only "create" theatre – he "is" theatre.

All of us are theatre, and some of us still create it in addition. Self-knowledge gained this way enables man to become a subject (the one who observes) for another subject (the one who acts). This enables to imagine variations of one's own actions, as well as to consider alternatives. Man may see himself observing, acting, feeling or thinking; he may feel himself feeling and perceive himself perceiving.

Eventually, we start to realize that we may change and change the world. Nothing will remain the way it was. Let us explore the past today to be able to create the future".

A.Boal

“Europe for Citizens” is aimed to foster European citizenship. This programme contributes to active involvement of citizens, strengthening of European identity, encourages tolerance and mutual understanding of EU citizens.

The Road of the Citizen: Information and implementation of the rights of the citizens of the European Union (according to the Charter of Fundamental Rights in the European Union)

The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union

recognizes personal, civic, political, economic and social rights of EU citizens and residents. The Charter consists of the preamble and 54 articles divided into seven titles:

1. Dignity
2. Freedoms
3. Equality
4. Solidarity
5. Citizen’s Rights
6. Justice
7. General Provisions

The project **“The Road of the Citizen”** focuses on the first three titles of the Charter: **dignity, freedoms and equality**

We have decided not only to talk about these rights, but also to try it by ourselves what it means when we exercise them, and when they are infringed upon—or maybe sometimes we infringe upon them by ourselves? To this effect we have chosen interactive methods developed by the famous Brazilian Augusto Boal (1931-2009), a legendary theatre director and producer, relentless fighter for the inalienable human rights and freedoms. Having dared to change a monologue into a dialogue in theatre, to listen to the audience’s opinion and to invite it on the stage to try out new decisions he fell into disgrace of the military dictatorship, was arrested, imprisoned, tortured and subsequently exiled from the country. Nevertheless, he continued to promote worldwide the ideas of the

“Theatre of the Oppressed” founded by him.

The Theatre of the Oppressed consists of the **Newspaper Theatre, Forum Theatre, Invisible Theatre, Image Theatre, Rainbow of Desires, and the Legislative Theatre.**

The Theatre of the Oppressed is based on the idea that a dialogue should prevail in all relationships: among men and women, races, families, groups, and nations. In real life all dialogues are tended to turn into monologues, thus evolving into the relationships of the “oppressors and the oppressed ones”. The Theatre of the Oppressed seeks to recreate a dialogue among people.

Augusto Boal lived in difficult conditions and constantly saw around himself and was personally exposed to the most brutal violations of human rights. His experience made him fight, take sides of the disadvantaged people, and talk loud about the oppressed citizens of this world. It may seem that we do not come across the oppressors or the oppressed ones, and that all citizens have at least a theoretical right to the freedom of opinion. If we take a closer look, however, we will find more than one real and longstanding maybe better disguised or refined form of oppression.

Therefore, with the help of the Theatre of the Oppressed, using a dialogue, we will examine in this project the most fundamental inalienable rights of every man. We will try to preserve the ardent determination of Augusto Boal not to close our eyes to social inequality, and invite everyone into a dialogue on inalienable rights of every man!

The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union

Augusto Boal

Everyone has the right to freedom and security of person.

Without discipline, there is no social life. Without liberty, there is no life.

Everyone is equal before the law.

All spectators [of the Theatre of the Oppressed), equally free to experience the liberating seizure of speech, have the same right, democratically, to expose, by acting (not by talking alone) their own opinions.

Any discrimination based on any ground such as sex, race, colour, ethnic or social origin, genetic features, language, religion or belief, political or any other opinion, membership of a national minority, property, birth, disability, age or sexual orientation shall be prohibited.

When we look beyond appearances, we see oppressors and oppressed people, in all societies, ethnic groups, genders, social classes and casts; we see unfair and cruel world. We have to create another world because we know it is possible. But it is up to us to build this other world with our hands and by acting on the stage and in our own life.

Equality between women and men must be ensured in all areas, including employment, work and pay.

The Theatre of the Oppressed was never an equidistant theatre which refused to take sides – it is the theatre of struggle! It is the theatre OF the oppressed, FOR the oppressed, ABOUT the oppressed and BY the oppressed, whether they be workers, peasants, unemployed people, women, black people, young people, old people, people with mental or physical disabilities – in the end, all those on whom silence is imposed and from whom is taken the right to a full existence.

The Union recognises and respects the rights of the elderly to lead a life of dignity and independence and to participate in social and cultural life.

The Union recognises and respects the right of persons with disabilities to benefit from measures designed to ensure their independence, social and occupational integration and participation in the life of the community.