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## **WORLD THEATRE DAY- MARCH 27, 2009**

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World Theatre Day, a brainchild of the International Theatre Institute, takes place every year on March 27. Its aim is to: **“promote international exchange of knowledge and practice in theatre arts (drama, dance, music theatre) in order to consolidate peace and solidarity between peoples, to deepen mutual understanding and increase creative co-operation between all people in the theatre arts”**

### **HOW IS THE LEAGUE OF CHICAGO THEATRES PARTICIPATING IN WORLD THEATRE DAY?:**

- Promoting WTD activity on ChicagoPlays.com, at Hot Tix, in email blasts and press releases.
- Promoting Chicago productions, special events and special ticket offers on March 27.
- Hosting a special World Theater Day Party in association with the Chopin Theatre with drinks and refreshments on March 27 beginning at 9 p.m. and broadcasting video feeds from the event.
- Getting a Mayoral Proclamation that March 27 is World Theater Day in Chicago
- Encouraging Chicago area theatres to participate in the following ways:

### **HOW CAN MY THEATRE PARTICIPATE IN WORLD THEATRE DAY?:**

- **Add the WTD banner on your website, blogs and emails and link to WTD website.**
- On March 27, **Read the World Theatre Day Statement from Augusto Boal** (see next page) to your audience before or after your performance.
- **Verify that your show information is on ChicagoPlays.com so we can promote everything going on 3/27.** <http://www.chicagoplays.com/search/>.
- **Upload videos and photos from your theater** to the World Theater Day Tumblr on March 27 and see how other companies around the world are participating. (<http://wtd09.tumblr.com/> )
- **Encourage your patrons and theater company members and staff to attend the World Theatre Day Chicago Party on March 27** beginning anytime after 9 p.m. at the Chopin Theatre, 1543 W. Division Ave.
- **Make a connection with a sister company in another country.** Partner with a company in another country to celebrate World Theater Day. Share your work.
- **Submit special ticket offers** for March 27 performances to [ben@chicagoplays.com](mailto:ben@chicagoplays.com) to be promoted. (Deadline for submission: 3/13)
- **Include a special insert with the World Theatre Day message in your program book**
- **Lead a special post-show discussion to connect with your audience that evening.**

### **For More Information:**

International Theatre Institute - <http://www.iti-worldwide.org/>

World Theatre Day on Facebook - <http://tinyurl.com/worldtheaterday>

World Theatre Day on Twitter - <http://twitter.com/WTD09>

World Theatre Day on Tumblr - <http://wtd09.tumblr.com/>

World Theatre Day Blog - <http://wtd09.wordpress.com/>



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## International Theatre Institute / Institut International du Théâtre ITI

iti@iti-worldwide.org / www.iti-worldwide.org

### World Theatre Day – International Message 27th March 2009

#### Augusto Boal

All human societies are “*spectacular*” in their daily life and produce “*spectacles*” at special moments. They are “*spectacular*” as a form of social organization and produce “*spectacles*” like the one you have come to see.

Even if one is unaware of it, human relationships are structured in a theatrical way. The use of space, body language, choice of words and voice modulation, the confrontation of ideas and passions, everything that we demonstrate on the stage, we live in our lives. *We are theatre!*

Weddings and funerals are “spectacles”, but so, also, are daily rituals so familiar that we are not conscious of this. Occasions of pomp and circumstance, but also the morning coffee, the exchanged good-mornings, timid love and storms of passion, a senate session or a diplomatic meeting - all is theatre.

One of the main functions of our art is to make people sensitive to the “spectacles” of daily life in which the actors are their own spectators, performances in which the stage and the stalls coincide. We are all artists. By doing theatre, we learn to see what is obvious but what we usually can't see because we are only used to looking at it. What is familiar to us becomes unseen: doing theatre throws light on the stage of daily life.

Last September, we were surprised by a theatrical revelation: we, who thought that we were living in a safe world, despite wars, genocide, slaughter and torture which certainly exist, but far from us in remote and wild places. We, who were living in security with our money invested in some respectable bank or in some honest trader's hands in the stock exchange were told that this money did not exist, that it was virtual, a fictitious invention by some economists who were not fictitious at all and neither reliable nor respectable. Everything was just bad theatre, a dark plot in which a few people won a lot and many people lost all. Some politicians from rich countries held secret meetings in which they found some magic solutions. And we, the victims of their decisions, have remained spectators in the last row of the balcony.

Twenty years ago, I staged Racine's *Phèdre* in Rio de Janeiro. The stage setting was poor: cow skins on the ground, bamboos around. Before each presentation, I used to say to my actors: “The fiction we created day by day is over. When you cross those bamboos, none of you will have the right to lie. Theatre is the Hidden Truth”.

When we look beyond appearances, we see oppressors and oppressed people, in all societies, ethnic groups, genders, social classes and casts; we see an 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.

Participate in the “spectacle” which is about to begin and once you are back home, with your friends act your own plays and look at what you were never able to see: that which is obvious. Theatre is not just an event; it is a way of life!

We are all *actors*: being a *citizen* is not living in society, it is changing it.

Augusto Boal  
(Original Portuguese)