

**Mutual Struggle as Reconciliation in Israel-Palestine:  
Extending Augusto Boal's Model of *Theatre of the Oppressed*  
3-hours Workshop**

In the context of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, we will draw on Augusto Boal's methods, as they are expressed in his *Rainbow of Desire*, *Image Theatre* and *Forum Theatre*, to look at how our identity forms in extreme situations and how this affects our actions. We will explore what personal identity is "made of", how an individual perceives his/her own identity, how an identity is socially constructed and how it is represented. We will try to trace the hierarchical system which imposes representations on individuals and groups. The workshop will propose a platform for non-violent negotiation and reconciliation in situations of conflict. Through transformation of identities and through a process of personal/political/power action, participants will be able to examine their personal starting point, their response to the conflict, and the possibility of empathizing with "the other".

About the Author

**Chen Alon**

Chen Alon is an activist and a theatre practitioner, a Ph.D. candidate in the Theatre Department at Tel-Aviv University, where he also serves as a lecturer and facilitator of "Activist-Therapeutic Theatre". Alon was a co-founder of "Courage to Refuse" - a movement of officers and combat soldiers who refuse to serve in the occupied Palestinian territories. Consequently, he was sentenced to military prison. He also co-founded the activist theatre group of Tull-Karm/Tel-Aviv, within the movement 'Combatants for Peace'. This theatre group comprises of ex-combatants from both sides, who abandoned the way of violence in order to develop a new form of non-violent struggle and a reconciliation process.