



FORUM FOR ACTION

An interactive program to
create change in workplace
behaviour and mindset

Our Work

We design and facilitate customized workshops and theatre presentations to promote organizational learning around **social justice, equity, and mental health** issues.

Diversity & Inclusion Focus Topics

- ✓ Inclusive Leadership
- ✓ Open-hearted communication
- ✓ Racism and Islamophobia
- ✓ Stress and Mental Health
- ✓ Transphobia and Homophobia
- ✓ Inter-generational conflict
- ✓ Gender-based Violence

We address both the subtle and aggressive forms that these issues present themselves in the workplace



Forum Theatre for Learning

Forum Theatre is an UNESCO-recognized participatory pedagogy that is known for its effectiveness in helping communities tackle the issues that directly affect them. In Forum Theatre, participants are invited by a trained facilitator to enact "an intervention" in what we call a "worst-case scenario". Here, they can either replace a character or suggest a change to the story for the better.

Our work is often acknowledged for its ability to combat "the bystander effect" by giving participants the opportunity to see the positive outcomes of their interventions played out during the workshop or theatre presentation. Through open and supportive facilitation, participants are able to explore and learn strategies, while "rehearsing for reality".

1. INTENSIVE WORKSHOPS

Timeline

2 hours per workshop

Highlights

Group workshop/s

Ideal for smaller groups (4-20)

Theatre-based games/activities for all participants

Involves

Your staff/co-workers will engage in theatre exercises such as storytelling, image theatre, sculpting, and tableaux creation to share their experiences, and develop awareness about how they can take action to make positive change for themselves.

2. LIGHTNING FORUM PRESENTATIONS

Timeline

2-3 weeks of consultation and creation time + 2 hours performance time

Highlights

Interactive performance

Ideal for larger groups (20+)

Co-workers engaged as active audience

Involves

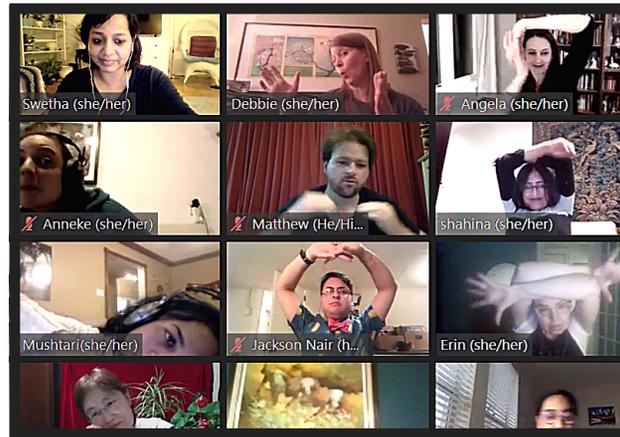
You talk to us about organizational challenges and situations to be addressed. Our artists create and perform a customized presentation depicting scenarios reflecting your workplace reality. Your staff/co-workers interact with the Forum Theatre play to find alternative solutions to their challenges.

Discovering alternative solutions in a safe space

In today's digital world, workplace professionals may have easy access to answers and best practices to address the many social situations they encounter that deal with social justice, equity and mental health. Yet, without a safe space to have dialogue and experiment solutions, it might be challenging for many individuals to put these "best practices" into action.

This is where Mixed Company comes in. We bring expertise in engaging community through Forum Theatre, a process that uses fun theatre-based games and role-plays, to create a safe, inclusive, accessible platform for workplaces and communities to **rehearse for reality**.

Theatre Games



How do participants learn?

Community-Led Change. Community knows best. They create, drive and lead the entire process of inquiry and transformation ensuring long term and self-led change in the organization and its people .

Experiential learning for Critical Inquiry. The process leverages highly researched and studied artistic and creative approaches that provide a space for critical and creative brainstorming, experiential learning and problem solving.

Safe Spaces. Each participant and stakeholder expresses their feelings and critiques situations in an environment free of judgement. This allows not only for healthy problem solving, but also strengthens ties between all participants, creating a deeper impact on their relationship beyond the workshop.

Brainstorming Solutions



Role Play and Dialogue





Going Virtual

In light of the shutdowns and physical distancing measures in place during the COVID-19 pandemic, we have adapted our Forum Theatre techniques to work through Zoom.

We offer all of our programming through Zoom.

For those unfamiliar with Zoom, **we start all presentations with an overview of the functions** and ways to interact for full participation.

"...There is a curious and unexpected intimacy with Zoom, the actors are quite literally in your personal space and it's a new experience in theatre."

Mary Oakley

Toronto-based Artist and Forum Theatre Actor

Recent Partners

TD Canada Trust | Ontario Nurses Association | Toronto Community Housing | Ontario Trillium Foundation | Toronto Hydro | Sheridan College | Humber College | City of Toronto | Canadian Feed the Children | Settlement And Family Support Services | Toronto Police Services Board | National Council for Canadian Muslims | Peel Family Mediation Services | Newcomer Women Services and many more



TESTIMONIAL

"One of the things I find in organizational development is that we're really trying to speak truths, to seek the truth, call the elephants in the room, deal with very difficult sensitive issues and what I love about the Mixed Company format is it makes it safe to do that. It makes it safe ... because you're asking staff to develop the vignettes, to portray their stories and so it's not an attack on any particular individual so no one gets defensive - it's more about here are our stories and together as a collective, let's analyze those stories, find out what meaning we can get out of those stories and what sort of organizational change can come of that meaning.

Mixed Company is ground up, unique, made by the organization, for the organization, and you can't get any better than that."

Judy Fantham
Executive Director
Newcomer Women's Services - Toronto

About Us

As Toronto's Forum Theatre experts, Mixed Company Theatre produces innovative, socially relevant drama as a tool for positive change. We were founded as an artist-run collective in 1983. Today we are a nationally recognized not-for-profit using Forum Theatre and interactive arts to educate, engage and empower audiences in communities and the workplace.

WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU

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