

open call

Jiwon Chung

Workshop: *Theatre of the Oppressed*

4th of June - 12th of June 2022

Gessnerallee

Initiative by TENT: a School of Performative
Practices

Supported and organized by Gessnerallee
Zurich

Theatre of the Oppressed (TO) is a form of popular education that uses theatre as a vehicle for fundamental social transformation. Forged in the crucible of revolutionary movements, it uses the dynamized human body and the charged theatrical space as laboratories for exploring power, transforming oppression, and finding collective solutions to the fundamental problems of conflict, exploitation, violence, and human suffering. Harnessing the reflexivity of the theatrical form as a generative critical methodology, TO contends that there are no neutral observers, ideologies, or systems of practice: every spectator is a potential actor, every system potentially oppressive or liberatory, and that the collective artistic liberation of our human capacity, dignity, and creativity is an imperative for transformation and survival.



[credit: Jana Sanskriti]

This workshop will cover basic techniques of Theatre of the Oppressed (Demechanization, Dynamization, Image Theatre, Forum Theatre), as well as advanced uses of Image Theatre, Forum Theatre, internal techniques (Rainbow of Desire, Cop-in-the-Head), while exploring TO-specific approaches to devising, rehearsal, performance, facilitation, and activism. These techniques will be shared as practical and essential tools for artistic development, creative expression, and social engagement. We will also focus on the application of TO for collective problem-solving, community-building,

resistance, resilience, and transformation of structural and systemic violence at this historic moment of crisis.

Learning will occur in a supportive environment that promotes reflective practice, alliance building and constructive action. Applications are invited from theatre practitioners, educators, activists, social/cultural workers, community organizers from Switzerland and abroad. No prior theater experience is required; but a commitment to or history of social justice work is valued.

The workshop will occur at Gessnerallee Zurich.

PROGRAM DATES

Sat 4th of June 2022 - Sun 12th of June 2022

4th, 5th & 11th of June: full day intensive program (10:00-18:00)
6th - 10th of June: 3-4 hours per day; the exact workshop times will be defined together with the participants and their needs.

12th of June: public sharing with an audience

PROGRAM FEES

The programme fee is covered by Gessnerallee Zurich. You do not have to pay a fee for the workshop. Unfortunately, we cannot provide accommodation and catering. We can share with you addresses for affordable accommodations.

LANGUAGE

Workshop language is English.

LOCATION AND VENUE DETAILS

The workshop will occur at Gessnerallee Zurich.

For more information: <https://www.gessnerallee.ch/>

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

Over 9 days we will:

- Engage in learning, dialogue and exchange with community cultural workers from different parts of the world.
- Develop knowledge, skills and critical thinking in relation to the strategic application of Theatre of the Oppressed (TO) within social

movements.

- Deepen our investigation of movement, voice, ensemble work and theatrical improvisation.
- Develop knowledge, skills and competencies required for organizing and facilitating a range of TO interventions.
- Understand and engage critically with philosophical and theoretical frameworks that inform popular education and emancipatory theatre methods.
- Develop the ability to reflect critically upon one's practice and theoretical orientations.

SELECTION CRITERIA

- Only those who can commit to completing the entire workshop will be admitted.
- Fluency in spoken English is helpful but not mandatory.

FACILITATOR

Jiwon Chung is a professional actor and director. He is a key theorist and exponent of Theater of the Oppressed and its integration with somatics, martial arts, applied theater, pedagogy, and media activism. He teaches internationally and has held faculty positions at St. Mary's College, the Graduate Theological Union, Dominican University and has served as the president of the national organization for Theater of the Oppressed. Jiwon also teaches at the Berkeley Repertory School of Theatre. He has worked intensively in the areas of conflict transformation, environmental justice, police violence, racism, homelessness, war & refugee trauma, torture, genocide, global militarism, and other issues of systemic and structural violence and injustice. Jiwon's approach to individual, interpersonal and institutional change is informed by his background as a war veteran, martial artist, and four decades of Vipassana meditation.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Please send us a short letter of motivation of maximum one A4 page and your CV by May 1, 2022.

ENQUIRIES

For more information, please email produktion@gessnerallee.ch



D. Minkler

«Art is not a mirror held up to reality, but a hammer with which to shape it.»