

The City University of New York's Creative Arts Team (CAT)

is proud and excited to announce that

CAT Youth Theatre from **New York City** has been selected from 100 companies worldwide to be a part of the pioneering international project
"CONTACTING THE WORLD"

Developed by The Contact Theatre in Manchester - one of the UK's leading theatres for young people - Contacting The World brings together the most exciting and innovative theatre companies from across the globe, to help redefine the way in which collaboration and internationalism combine in the global community. Since 2002, hundreds of young people from twenty-one different countries have been inspiring and creating new theatre together.

This revolutionary international exchange project is a 10 month commitment between 150 young people from 12 youth theatre companies from the UK, Germany, Turkey, Poland, Brazil, Nepal, India, Palestine, Zambia and the Creative Arts Team, the first company ever to participate from the USA.

October 2007, twelve companies began a creative journey of intercultural understanding and exploration learning how theatre is made around the world and how different lives are lived. Each company has been randomly twinned to engage in a year long exchange process to create brand new, visionary and truly global theatre/art.

CAT Youth Theatre creates original, compelling theatre from the ideas of the young people who are its members. With a reputation for artistic excellence, CAT Youth Theatre's work challenges audiences to re-consider how young people see the world. Last year's show *WAR ZONES* explored literal and metaphorical wars; another show, *SHELTER FROM THE STORM*, investigated the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

CAT has been partnered with Project Phakama, based in London, UK, who are committed to the practice of cultural exchange and are a core team of emerging artists consisting of young refugees and asylum seekers from Albania, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Liberia and Kenya.

The idea behind **Contacting the World** is very simple. By 'twinning' each company with a partner group in another country, a process of direct exchange is started between equal partners. The exchange includes information about the lives of participants, about their home cultures, about their hopes and fears, about their ways of making theatre. The exchanges are guided by **Contacting the World's** 'Artist Facilitators', who suggest different activities to the twinned companies, helping them to find inspiration in each others' worlds. Each company develops its own unique piece of theatre, but each piece has been deeply affected by the exchange with that company's 'twin'.

Getting beyond the 'feel good' factor of many young people's projects, Contacting the World encourages the young artists who get involved to ask difficult questions and to make the kind of theatre that would not have been possible without this unique international exchange. Contacting the World has a reputation for showing some of the most extraordinary new theatre for the very first time.

"It has changed the lives of our participants which, in turn, changes our lives and our communities"

Live Theatre, Newcastle

VISIT www.contactingtheworld.org to be a part of CONTACTING THE WORLD!

THE TWELVE DIFFERENT YOUTH THEATRES FROM AROUND THE WORLD INVOLVED IN THE PROJECT:

EUROPEAN COMPANIES

LIVERPOOL, UK
MANCHESTER, UK
LONDON, UK
GDANSK, POLAND
BERLIN, GERMANY
ISTANBUL, TURKEY

Positive Impact
Space 3
Project Phakama
The Other Side of the Mirror
Die Zwiefachen
Tiyatro 0.2

WORLDWIDE COMPANIES

RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL
KATHMANDU, NEPAL
MUMBAI, INDIA
BEIT JALA, PALESTINE
LUSAKA, ZAMBIA
NEW YORK, USA

Teatro Trupe Afro Reggae
Aarohan Theatre
Evam Youth Forum
Al Harah Theatre
Bare Feet
CAT Youth Theatre