

2007 Artist Foundation of San Antonio Artist Statement

Submitted by Roberto Prestigiacomo, Theater Director

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Artist Statement

All theater is local and is about its community. As a theater artist of San Antonio, I want to create theater that reflects the topics of this community, a theater that facilitates a discourse about these topics, with the objective of challenging the creative and collective imagination of San Antonio community to bring about positive change.

In order to do so, I consider myself an instrument that facilitates this communication, and theater a forum where ideas take concrete form and evoke a response. When this response is allowed to flourish it becomes dialogue, and dialogue brings about change.

In San Antonio there are topics that need to be brought about and presented for discussion. Using performance strategies and the theatrical language, Forum Theater Project will create an original performance that focuses on to the individual sense of belonging to our San Antonio community. In particular, this Forum will center around the issues of whether belonging to a specific cultural and ethnic identity determine one's degrees of citizenship in San Antonio and by reflection in the greater American community.

This Forum Theater Projects is the first of its kind in San Antonio, and it is inspired by the work of Brazilian theater director Augusto Boal. The forum is a powerful tool that will give me the opportunity to continue developing a personal and artistic dialogue with my audience. Additionally, this Forum Theater Project has the potential to facilitate dialogue between these audiences and affect positive social change in our San Antonio community.

I plan to present the original performance created for this Forum Theater Project in three different venues throughout San Antonio in March of 2008. The first venue is Attic Theater at Trinity University. The other two venues are still to be determined.