An Urgent Statement on Justice from FoolsFURY
August 21, 2019

Our Guest Festival Director, Claudia Alick, has been receiving death threats from White Supremacists. This is shocking and reprehensible and we felt we needed to respond to you with urgency.

As we rehearse for our upcoming production and prep for our 2020 FURY Factory Festival, our discussions have been focused on cultural representation and guaranteeing that we are presenting ensemble and devised theater that truly reflects the magnificent diversity of our country. We were recently grappling with how to craft a statement speaking out publicly against people in our country being harmed by vicious, racist policies. Co-Artistic Director Ben Yalom, who has recently moved to the San Diego, notes “it is deeply disturbing that barely 30 miles from the beautiful beachy school I take my kids to in the morning, hundreds of other children are languishing in detention camps.”

Co-Artistic Director Debórah Eliezer shares “As a child, my Dad, hid for days on a rooftop as Baghdadi Jews were slaughtered during the Farhoud, a Nazi-inspired ‘pogrom’. He was in a prison with his brother in his native Iraq, detained for two years because he wanted to leave the country that oppressed his community by systematically erasing their Jewish community, the oldest Jewish diaspora within a few short years. As an Arab Jew born in California, I am a living legacy to the complexity of borders, displacement and identity with nationhood and homeland. For so many in the world, including those you may have even interacted with today, safety and home are under constant attack.”

FoolsFURY is in its 21st anniversary season and we’ve had a minute to look at our practices and whatʼs important to us. As an ensemble theater, the value of being in (sometimes awkward, messy, beautiful) relationship to people over a long period of time
is paramount. We call it a lifestyle choice, a set of values about how we relate to others both on stage and in the world. As a result, we’ve always been concerned with the societal ecosystem in which theater is made, not just the making of plays. The FURY Factory is about bringing together our local community with world-class artists, and it’s also about cultivating an ecosystem of inclusivity where we can dare to disrupt, speak up and question the world in which we live.

Once every two years, foolsFURY Theater stages an electrifying gathering of collaborative theater makers from around the country. The devising of our new leadership position of Guest Director is a specific and explicit act of investing equity and power in marginalized communities in order to have more artistic outcomes of justice. The fact that Claudia Alick is being targeted and terrorized is a sign that the work she is doing is effective. FoolsFURY is proud to be engaged in the work of dismantling white supremacy and support our Guest Director.

Together we can disrupt systemic oppression,

Deborah & Ben

A CALL TO ACTION

If the goal of this terrorism is to silence our Guest Festival Director then we respond by asking you to help us amplify the message of anti-racism and justice. We have committed to including The Justice Quilt as a part of our 2020 programming. Please join one of their digital story circles.

Digital Story Circles: Let's Talk About Justice! Sundays 12-1:30. Societal forces are working to convince us we are not collectively committed to inclusive healthy communities for all of us. Together we must and will make an undeniable statement for justice. Sign up to share a story or a concern about justice in our lives.

INVEST IN FoolsFURY's WORK - DONATE NOW!