

## Session Notes: **Arts for Social Transformation**

### Panel members:

Dan Baron Cohen, World Alliance for Arts Education  
Cris Gonzales, Philippines Education Theatre Association

Manoela Souza, Transformance Institute of Brazil  
Niccolo Milanese, EuroAlternatives and London Festival of Europe

Yemisi Blake, Emerging Artist in Residence, Southbank Centre

Dr Ben Todd, Arcola Theatre



**Dan Baron Cohen** started his session by thanking Chain Reaction for creating innovative space to engage in dialogue.

### **Cris Gonzales**

Describing PETA, Cris says it is a 'means to empower young people creatively'. Cris would like young people to experience theatre. Cris spoke with a slide background of young people with the caption "May Boses Kami..." translation: "We have a voice..."

### **Manoela Souza**

Opened her speech with song. Spoke about how she learnt self confidence through the arts. She believes that people have an opportunity to experiment and take risks to change the world. She also spoke about the classroom being like a theatrical space

### **Niccolo Milanese**

Opened his speech with a poem. He spoke about how social change requires full engagement and also struggle.

### **Vicensia Shule**

Opened her speech with a poem, and spoke about the need to look at what we can do to support young people to get their words and efforts 'out there'

## **Dr Ben Todd**

Described how engineering concepts can be used in theatre and the arts to develop sustainability

## **Open Discussion:**

The panel then opened up to discussion from the floor (details as follows)

**Dr Karl Shapney:** Would like to connect with people who want to see a shift in consciousness

**Beth Carter, Friends Out There:** Described her work in a small village in Nigeria. Thanked panel for giving her confidence

**Paul Shivey:** Wants to use arts and theatre to build communities and 'tell new stories' about their lives

**Patrice Baldwin:** Process of drama is useful in development of thinking. People should ask: "In what way does it connect to me?"

## **Final points:**

Dan Baron Cohen spoke about how the arts should have a thread with other sessions happening at Chain Reaction, for example the Finance and Social Enterprise sessions as they are all related.

Manoela finished the session by inviting the group to take part in a drama / dance activity to engage with sources of life and to say thanks for where you live and what sources (land, water etc) you have. The aim of this was to cultivate ideas and 'share fruit'

## **Further information:**

### [IDEA](#)

[Dan Baron Cohen at Chain Reaction \(pt 1\)](#)

[Dan Baron Cohen at Chain Reaction \(pt 2\)](#)

[Manoela Souza at Chain Reaction](#)

[Niccolo Milanese at Chain Reaction](#)

[Cris Gonzales at Chain Reaction](#)

[Yemisi Blake at Chain Reaction](#)

[Vicencia Shule at Chain Reaction](#)

