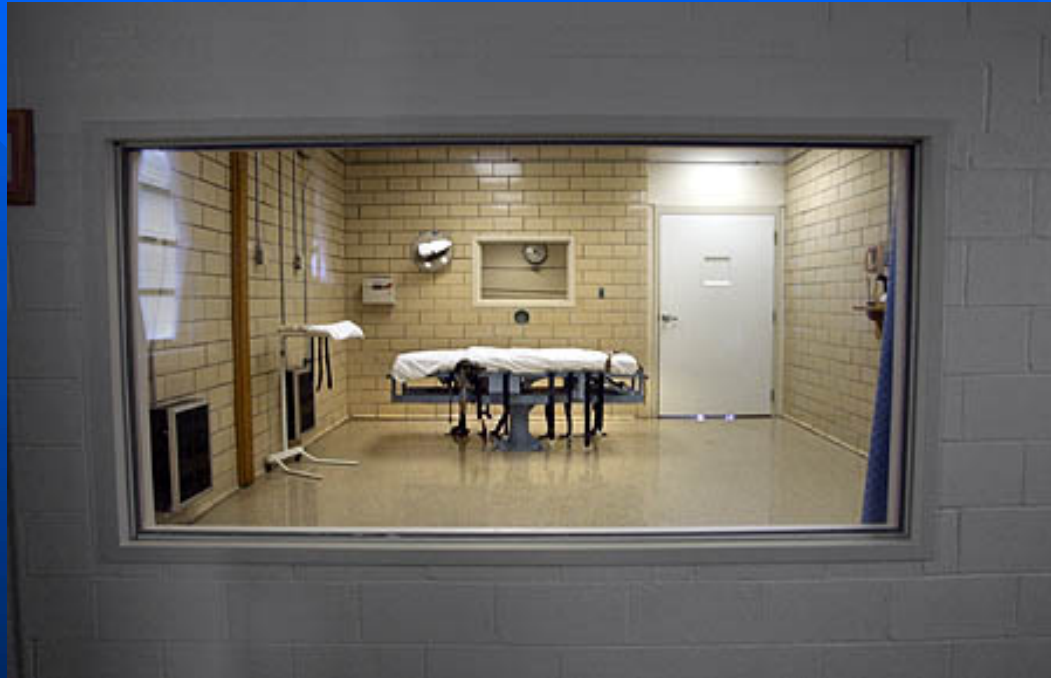


Amnesty International Group #23 / Houston
presents:

The Eye & Tooth Project Part #2



A “Rolling” Forum Theatre Production to Promote
Dialogue & Build Momentum for Abolition of
the Death Penalty in Texas

Amnesty International has taken a strong stand against Capital Punishment, worldwide:

“The death penalty is the ultimate, irreversible denial of human rights. By working towards the abolition of the death penalty worldwide, Amnesty International USA's Program to Abolish the Death Penalty looks to end the cycle of violence created by a system riddled with economic and racial bias and tainted by human error.”

www.amnestyusa.org/abolish



Amnesty International Joins the NCADP, TCADP, Murder Victims Families for Reconciliation, Murder Victims Families for Human Rights & Others in Specific Objections to the Use of Capital Punishment:

- 1. The death penalty devalues all human life, eliminating the possibility for transformation of spirit that is intrinsic to humanity.***
- 2. The death penalty is fallible and irrevocable.***
- 3. The death penalty continues to be tainted with race and class bias (95% of over 3700 inmates on death row could not afford private counsel).***
- 4. Death penalty trials cost an average of 48% more than the average cost of trials in which prosecutors seek life imprisonment.***
- 5. The death penalty is not an effective deterrent.***
- 6. Capital murder trials increase stress for murder victims families with negative impact for closure.***

Amnesty International / USA actively promotes abolition efforts through the state & national Program to Abolish the Death Penalty (PADP):

- **supports the efforts of state & grassroots abolition activists**
- **maintains an abolition database & facilitates the spread of vital information**
- **works for clemency on individual death penalty cases**
- **supports legislation that seeks to limit the application of the death penalty**
- **coordinates efforts to build coalitions**

Amnesty International Group #23 / Houston anti-Death Penalty efforts include:

- dissemination of information and coordination of public actions through local AI Death Penalty coordinator, Nancy Bailey**
- local / regional AI Week of Faith in Action activities**
- 2004 Harris County Courthouse anti-Death Penalty rally / in conjunction with AI Southern Regional Conference**
- Support of evening vigils on execution dates**
- Urgent Action letters, focus on Harris County Crime Lab inconsistencies**
- Eye & Tooth Theatre Outreach (2003 - ongoing)**

The AI #23 Eye & Tooth Project uses Forum Theatre and other performance styles to deliver a high impact message & stimulate public dialogue



Rehearsal for Forum at
Rice Village Main Street
Theatre. January 2003

What Is Forum Theatre & How Does It Work?

The Forum uses theatre as a structure for dialogue on social issues of great complexity & importance. Scenes are designed to show how policy issues actual impact real lives.



Forum actors in Galveston perform scene on inequities in health care access, “It’s a Twisted System.”

(Health Care for All Texas). Oct 2004.

The Forum is used to shed light on a wide variety of issues:



Forum scene - “No Skin Off My Nose” - shows how apathy affects efforts to address environmental health issues in the 5th Ward. (Mothers for Clean Air / 5th Ward. April 2003.)

Forum actors are community members who have real experience with the issues they represent.



West Port Arthur Forum actors portray a community action after a toxic chemical release into their neighborhood.

Forum actors are community activists with experiential knowledge of the issues. Images & improvisational scenes are used to show real world impacts.



De Madres a Madres actors show how landlord attitudes affect tenant safety regarding lead exposure. (de Madres a Madres. 2004)

Mothers for Clean Air leadership training create image of air pollution impacts. (MfCA 2004).



Image-making helps community Forum actors & their audience visualize the concrete outcomes of social dynamics & the policies that support power & privilege



Social / economic injustice imposes a chemical “body burden” on the entire community. (CfEJ / Corpus Christi. 2003)

Hazardous chemicals & train derailments are a constant concern in East Houston. (DMAM 2004)



Performance Skills Learned n Workshop

Process (approx. 18 hours)

- **how sociometry structures identify group attitudes, perceptions & levels of experience with theme of performance**
- **how image tableaux may represent affective and conceptual elements of the issue**
- **how to storyboard and focus personal stories**
- **how to develop story scenarios through improvisation**
- **how special theater techniques help deconstruct significance of scenic actions**
- **how audience interactive feature of TO promotes dialogue & action**
- **how spect-actor interventions are processed in the moment**
- **how spect-actor interventions & audience reactions may be incorporated into an action agenda**

AI #23 Houston Performance Projects (2003-2005)

- 1 - Eye & Tooth Project: Main Street Theatre; January 2003 (FORUM)**
- 2 - Torture Watch: University of St. Thomas; May 2003**
- 3 - Interfaith Panel on the Death Penalty: University of St. Thomas; October 2003 - Action Image**
- 4 - Forum Workshop & Performance: Southern Regional Conference; November 2003**
- 5 - Aceh Solidarity Project: “Marsinah: A Song From the Underworld;” University of St. Thomas; May 2004**
- 6 - Death Penalty Image Theatre Workshop: Southern Regional Leadership Training / Atlanta GA; August 2004**
- 7 - “On the Tip of Heaven’s Tooth”: Torture & Death Penalty Project; AI Southern Regional Conference / Houston TX; November 2004**

Eye & Tooth Project Part #1



Main Street Theatre / Rice Village; January 2003



Torture Watch / May 2003

University of St. Thomas; Houston TX



Inter-Faith Panel on the Death Penalty: October 2003



University of St. Thomas Quad: “Action Image”



In Solidarity with Aceh, Indonesia - “Marsinah: A Song from the Underworld”

**University of St.
Thomas; April
2004**

**By Ratna Sarumpaet
Jakarta/ Indonesia**



AI Southern Regional Conference: Birmingham AL 2003

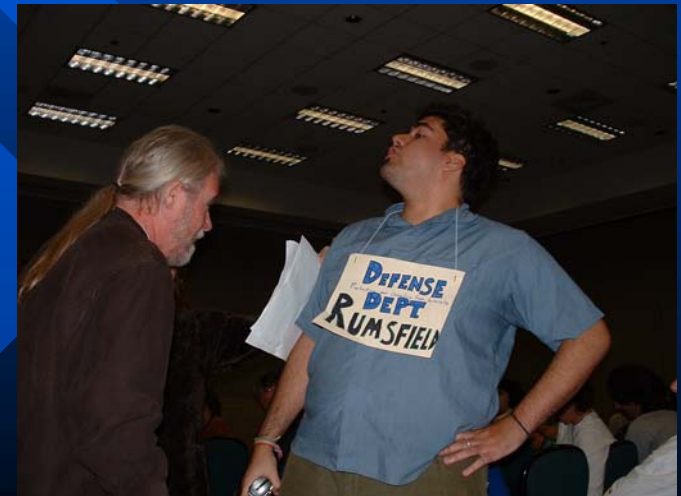


animated Forum
image

workshop image



playing "the
oppressor"



Southern Regional Conference: Houston TX 2004

Scenes from “On the Tip of Heaven’s Tooth”



“Des” & “Lionel” prepare to work over their victim in Harold Pinter’s “New World Order.” (left)



Martha & Mary tend to the body of their death row inmate brother, Lazarus. (upper right)

Lazarus confronts his Executioner, the “Designated Hitter.” (across)



Eye & Tooth Project considers multiple aspects of the issue:

- **“life without parole” option**
- **after Roper v. Simmons**
- **ambiguities in cases involving mentally handicapped / mentally ill**
- **ongoing problems with insufficient counsel, insufficient resources for defense, class inequities**
- **lack of access to reliable DNA evidence analysis**
- **continuing support for abolition by mainstream religious groups**
- **Baze vs. Rees & other constitutional challenges to lethal injection**
- **issues around physician involvement in executions**
- **psychiatric treatment of inmates & sanity requirements for execution**
- **retribution vs. restorative justice**
- **“seamless garment of life”**

Possible Scene Content for “Rolling Forum” stories:

- *equity (representation proportional to means)*
- *Law of Parties*
- *proportionality of response*
- *mistakes are irrevocable*
- *vengeance / retribution*
- *safety / deterrence*
- *Economics of Capital Punishment v. Life without Parole*
- *social consequences for families of perpetrators*
- *closure for victims’ families: what does that mean?
how is it used?*
- *physicians and execution: direct participation &
mental health*
- *World opinion: who is the Axis of Evil with regard to
death penalty?*
- *Does the public really support executions?*

Possible Scene Content Focus for “Rolling Forum” stories (cont.):

- *innocence & racial bias*
- *effects of death sentence on families of perpetrators*
- *equity (representation proportional to means)*
- *Law of Parties*
- *proportionality of response*
- *vengeance / retribution*
- *safety / deterrence*
- *Economics of Capital Punishment v. Life without Parole*
- *social consequences for families of perpetrators*
- *closure for victims’ families: what does that mean? how is it used?*
- *physicians and execution: direct participation & mental health*
- *World opinion: who is the Axis of Evil with regard to death penalty?*

Rolling Forum Logistics

- Forum Workshops & Productions in Houston, Austin and Galveston**
- Core Cadre of 6-8 seasoned Forum Actors provide anchors for each production**
- Local AI & Abolition organizations provide network for workshop participants / actors, logistics, media & post-performance commentary**
- Local organizations & project director responsible for lobby displays & connecting audience members with activist opportunities**
- Amnesty locals & abolition networks groups coordinate projects**

Format for the “Rolling Forum”

Each individual Forum project contains the following components:

- Pre-performance planning meetings: venue, media, Core Cadre accommodations, arrangements for commentary**
- Pre-performance media event: speaker, rally, street performance**
- Weekend workshop - conducted by Core Cadre with activist / actors from local performance sites: approx. 18 hours training**
- Public performance: immediately following Sunday workshop**
- Session (Sunday evening / Monday, latest)**
- Post-performance commentary: speaker, panel**
- On-site post-performance processing session**

Desired Outcomes of “Rolling Forum” Project:

- *Extend scope & range of abolitionist networking efforts*
- *Assess opinion via spect-actor Forum interventions*
- *Evolve strategies for broad range abolition message*
- *Develop useful tactics for inter-personal communications*
- *Deepen the spiritual, legal & philosophical content of public dialogue on Capital Punishment*
- *Strengthen abolition network in faith-based communities*
- *Demographic inclusion: engaging more students in Abolition cause*
- *Raise funds for organizations providing direct services to capital murder defendants / death row inmates*

Possible Coalition to Support Eye & Tooth Project

- ***Texas Coalition for Abolition of the Death Penalty (TCADP) (Houston, Austin)***
- ***Faith-Based Groups: Spiritual Progressives, Sojourners, et. al.***
- ***Murder Victims Families for Reconciliation (MVFR)***
- ***Murder Victims Families for Human Rights (MVFHR)***
- ***Amnesty International (Locals, State & Southern Regional)***
- ***Gulf Regional Advocacy Center (Houston)***
- ***Texas Students against the Death Penalty (TSADP)***
- ***ACLU***
- ***Texas Defender Service***
- ***Innocence Project***
- ***Fellowship of Reconciliation***
- ***NAACP***
- ***Texas Impact***
- ***NAMI: National Alliance on Mental Illness***

Possible Funding Sources for “Rolling Forum” Project:

Tides Death Penalty Mobilization Fund
*Rapid Response RFP: support for media,
education, outreach campaigns*

Maverick Lloyd Foundation

AJ Muste Memorial Institute

AI Special Project Funds

RESIST

Austin Pro Bono

Possible Timeline for Eye & Tooth Part #2

Networking / Coalition-Building: July-September 2008

Introductory Workshop: October - November 2008

Media Coordination: October 2008 - January 2009

Project Meetings (City-to-City): January 2009

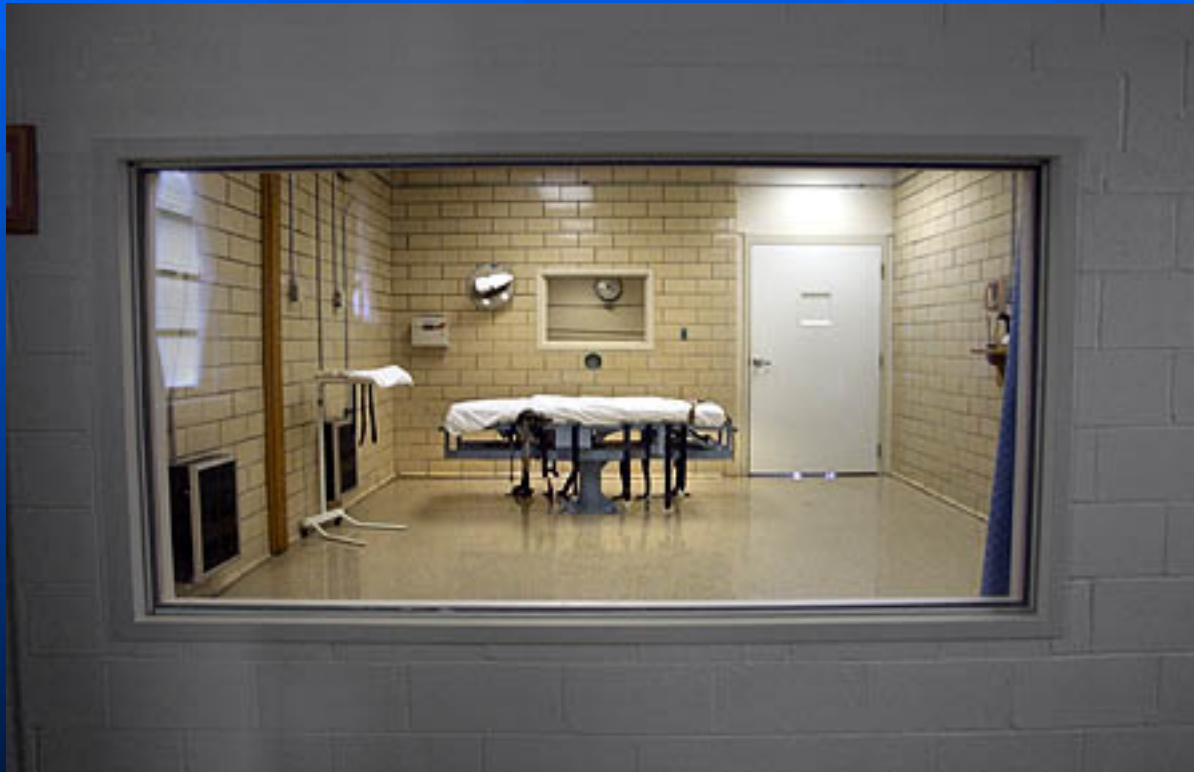
Pre-performance Media Events (City-to-City): January-March 2009

Production Workshops / Public Performances: February-March 2009

Media Wrap-ups (City-to-City): February-April 2009

Full Project Meeting (Austin): May 2009

**AI #23's Eye & Tooth Project Strongly
Supports the Efforts of Organizations
Who Serve the Needs of All Victims of
the Texas Death Penalty**



So this may cease to be