

# KEYNOTE SPEAKER



SATURDAY KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

*Reaching for a Theatre for Change*

**ROBERT J. LANDY, PhD, RDT/BCT, LCAT**

**ROBERT J. LANDY, PhD, RDT/BCT, LCAT** is Professor of Educational Theatre and Applied Psychology and Director of the Drama Therapy Program at New York University. A pioneer in the profession of Drama Therapy, he lectures and trains professionals internationally. As researcher and writer, Landy has published and produced numerous books, articles and plays in the fields of Educational Theatre, Drama Therapy, Musical Theatre and related topics. He has been featured in the media in the CBS-TV series "Drama in Education," the award-winning documentary film, "Standing Tall," and his own production, "Three Approaches to Drama Therapy." His latest book, "Theatre for Change: Education, Social Action, Therapy," published by Palgrave Macmillan in 2012, integrates psychodrama and drama therapy with educational and applied theatre.

If you were to envision a theatre for change what would it look like? Something like *The Normal Heart* or *Angels in America*, two apocryphal plays that raised profound questions about the politics and psychology of AIDS? Would it be a group of returning war veterans, working through their war trauma? Would it look like a psychodrama or Playback Theatre event spontaneously enacted in the moment? Or would it look more like the failed performance staged by J.L. Moreno just after World War I in Vienna, when he entered onto the stage of the Komoedien Haus, Vienna as a court jester, set only with a single throne, and invited members of the audience to come up and take on the role of the leader and prognosticate about the future of Europe? Robert Landy will address the question: What would a theatre for change look like, through sharing some of his own ideas and through inviting people to the stage to share theirs. As context, he will refer to his recent research in writing the book, *Theatre for Change*, and share his vision for an integrated form of psychodrama, drama therapy and applied theater which, not so surprisingly, echoes Moreno's vision of a theatre for change.