

## REAL AND IDEAL

### Objectives

- Students will explore a quote from *Hadestown*: “To the world we dream about! And the one we live in now.”
- Students will create frozen pictures representing the real and the ideal world along with the images of change in between.
- Students will explore possibilities of change, both verbally and physically.

### Materials needed

### Activity

In *Hadestown*, Orpheus makes a toast: “To the world we dream about! And the one we live in now.” This activity is an adaptation of an Augustus Boal activity called REAL AND IDEAL IMAGES. Students will explore our present-day world, our dream world and what it might take to move from the real to the ideal.

- Reflection: Take a moment and think about the world we live in now – the good, bad, beautiful and ugly. What parts of the world we live in now work? What parts need to change? Now take a moment and imagine your dream world – what it looks like, feels like, what you want the world to be like. Let yourself dream big!
- Group work: Divide students into smaller groups of four or five. In their groups, invite them to take a few minutes to share their thoughts about the world we live in now and the world they dream about.
- Students will create two group tableaux or frozen pictures. For each group tableaux, everyone should be in the image. They can all be doing the same or different things and should communicate the emotions. How does the world feel?
  - 1) Create a group tableau that represents the world we live in now.
  - 2) Create a group tableau that represents the world you dream about.
- Invite each group to share their images and ask the audience: what do you see, what do you feel, what makes you curious?
- Discuss: How do we move from the real world, with its pain and problems and beauty, to the ideal dream world? What does it take? What makes change in our world? How do we become agents for personal or collective change? (Get a few thoughts)
- Invite each group to add a few (2-3) images that could be steps between the “real” world and the “ideal” solution. What are possible “images of change?”
- Share the images starting with the “real,” moving through the images of change, and ending with the “ideal.”

In *Hadestown*, the characters sing “Show the way the world could be.” While you watch the play, notice the world the characters live in and the world they dream about. How do the characters try to change their world? How do YOU want the world to be? What is one small step you could take to move from the **Real to the Ideal** in your own world?