

## Boat people: A Sociodrama for Our Time

### What does it mean to be a refugee? What does it mean to be an Australian?



Julian Burnside, AO, QC, barrister and human rights advocate wrote an article recently about the plight of refugees coming into Australia by boat ("Australians don't fully understand what is being done in their name" - The Age, 26 August 2011 p.13). Referred to as 'boat people' by many, surely those who are escaping from intolerable conditions are first of all, 'people', people who are escaping by any means possible.

This article of Julian's touched me quite deeply. I began to think of what it means to migrate to another country, to leave a home and come to another place. What does it mean to be locked up with your baby, children or loved ones, for over a decade in some cases? What do we think of adolescents being in a strange country without parents and locked up? Can you imagine that? What is it like to be homeless? What is it like not to have a voice?

At this next Theatre of Spontaneity we will concretize and explore on our stage, create through a sociometric and sociodramatic exploration and enable through action and movement our views to come to light, with the views of others, what it means to be a refugee, what it means to be an Australian, and see whether we fully understand what is being done in our name.

**When?** Sunday, 25 September from 6.30 - 8.30 p.m

**Where?** Psychodrama Institute of Melbourne

**Fee:** \$20.00 (\$15.00 for MPS members)

*Proceeds will go to the Refugee Action Collective - Victoria*

RSVP (03) 94163779 by Friday 23 September 2011

All welcome!

**Sue Daniel**

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*Picture courtesy of David Moore (Google archives – images).*