

Hector Aristizábal; Keynote Day 1

“The Mycelium of the Soul: Imagination Weaves Threads Between Culture and Nature”

Hector was born and raised in Medellín, Colombia, when it was the most dangerous city in the world. In the year 2000, he founded ImaginAction to help people tap the transformative power of theater in programs throughout the US, Latin America, Europe, Africa, The Middle East and many Asian countries. He has worked mostly in war-torn and post conflict zones using theater as a laboratory to explore alternatives to conflict and as a form to design healing rituals.

In 2017, he decided to return to his native country to work in the reconciliation process inspired by the recent peace agreement between the FARC guerrilla and the Colombian government. With the project Reconectando, www.reconectando.org, he is currently accompanying the truth commission using deep ecology, theater and ritual to work with victim and ex-combatants in the complex task of clarifying the truth, creating spaces for reconciliation and imagining the conditions for the no repetition of the violence.



Hector was honored with the prestigious Otto René Castillo Award for Political Theatre and he is co-author with Diane Lefer of *The Blessing Next to the Wound: A Story of Art, Activism, and Transformation*.

Read more at: <https://imaginaction.org/>

