

# News from **The Freedom Theatre**

January 2011

From all of us at The Freedom Theatre, we wish you a **Happy New Year!** Here's our latest news:

## **Alice in Wonderland - Opening Soon!**

The last two months have been filled with preparations for The Freedom Theatre Acting School's newest production - **Alice in Wonderland** - directed by General Director, *Juliano Mer Khamis*. The production - our most technically ambitious - will open on January 23 and includes both classes of our Acting School students. The play will feature a revolving stage, aerial and acrobatic stunts, a flying Alice, and extraordinary lighting. In order to reach as wide an audience as possible, The Freedom Theatre is working to coordinate busses to bring thousands of Palestinian children from all over the West Bank and Israel to Jenin to attend the performances. *The production is supported by Al Jazeera Children's Channel and the Acting School program is supported by SIDA, Freedom to Create and UNFPA.*



For more information, please see: [www.thefreedomtheatre.org/news.php?id=169](http://www.thefreedomtheatre.org/news.php?id=169)  
To see pictures from the show, please visit: [www.thefreedomtheatre.org/projects-gallery.php](http://www.thefreedomtheatre.org/projects-gallery.php)

## **New Short Films**

Cameras are rolling in the multimedia center. The young adults in our filmmaking department are working on producing new **short films**. One film focuses on a young man and woman trapped in a broken down elevator and another one tells the story of a young woman who dreams of becoming a suicide bomber but changes her mind at the last minute and gets a new lease on life. The third documentary is about Acting School student Maryam Abu Khaled and the difficulties she faces being a young black woman in Palestinian society. *Be sure to check The Freedom Theatre's YouTube page in the coming weeks to see these films once they are completed!*

## **Drama for Prisoners**

Since October 2010, Acting School teachers *Nabil Al Raei* and *Micaela Miranda* have been giving weekly **drama courses at the women's prison in Jenin**. Exercises and activities have focused on psychodrama, drama therapy, and introducing the women to a variety of fields of theatre. The women have also worked on trust-building and learning how to express themselves. The project will continue through the end of February and will result in a final performance at the prison, which - pending prison authorities' approval - will be open to the public. Because of the project's success, the theatre hopes to continue conducting workshops in the prison in the future.



## **Theatre Days for Youth**

In November and December, the theatre hosted its **Theatre Days for Youth**. Nine plays were performed with more than 1,800 students in attendance. Plays included: *Why?* (Al-Harah Theatre), *Deek Al Jin* (Hakaya Theatre), *Zaroura Garden and the Apple Tree* (Fringe Ensemble of Nazareth), *Hishk Bishk* (Asseera Theatre), and *Confinement* (Al-Harah Theatre). *The Theatre Days for Youth were supported by UNFPA.*

## **Congratulations to the New Board!**

On December 30th, The Freedom Theatre's General Assembly gathered to attend its annual meeting. On the agenda was the election of a new **Board of Directors**. Leading the new Board as its President is former Board Secretary, *Bilal Assaadi*. Under Bilal and the Board's leadership, the theatre will work to make stronger connections with the Jenin community, develop new ideas for ways to expand the theatre's scope, and help to plan our transition to the new theatre in Jenin City.