



**CREATION
OCCUPATION**
the freedom theat

the freedom theatre
annual report 2009

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FROM THE

Dear Friends,

Since the opening in 2006, it has taken The Freedom Theatre three years to establish itself as a strong and sustainable cultural venue in the Jenin area. The year 2009 was a breakthrough in this sense! Nevertheless, it also brought along its difficulties and obstacles.

As part of our goal to encourage free expression and critical thinking we decided to put up “Animal Farm” as our first full professional theatre production. Although the play was a great success, attracting attention worldwide, the controversial subject matter and critical approach led to violent attacks on the theatre.

Such attacks however, didn’t discourage or silence us; on the contrary, we were encouraged to continue our critical approach. A second play, written and performed by our Acting School students was produced later in the year. This production, “Fragments of Palestine”, was invited on a tour in Germany and Austria as part of KinderKulturKarawane, an interactive cultural project, and each of the students’ performances was warmly received by the German and Austrian audiences. This tour marked the beginning of a new era in The Freedom Theatre’s work.


“The Freedom Theatre gives space to all strands of political thought, encouraging pluralism, respect for the other and free expression.”

As we enter 2010, we feel the burden of responsibility toward our future. Ever increasing numbers of children and youth take part in our activities, learning acting, filmmaking, photography and creative writing. Each issue of our quarterly youth magazine “Voices”, with its unique approach to give voice to youth, and particularly to girls, is now being printed in 8,000 copies. The magazine is becoming very influential among children and youth in the area and we believe it has been read by more than 50,000 people.

Nevertheless, we are not wrapping ourselves in an illusionary atmosphere of success. The political future of the Occupied West Bank is not clear and bears dangerous currents of social and political unrest. Therefore our main task is to work closely with our community and to deepen our roots in the area. The Freedom Theatre gives space to all strands of political thought, encouraging pluralism, respect for the other and free expression. We believe that these values, which form the foundations to our work, will not be easily shaken by future political earthquakes.

Juliano Mer Khamis
General Director

DIRECTOR

A group of young women are captured in a theatrical performance. They are wearing bright, colorful clothing (red, yellow, orange) and have their hands raised in the air, suggesting a moment of high energy or protest. The background is dark, making the performers stand out. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting their faces and movements.

The Freedom Theatre aims to demonstrate a model of artistic excellence in theatre in Occupied Palestine and, using the creative process as a model for social change, provide opportunities for the children and youth of Jenin Refugee Camp and its surroundings to develop the skills, self-knowledge and confidence which would empower them to challenge present realities and to take control of their future.



THE FREEDOM THEATRE

Shima Bazour , 14

Creative Writing

When my teacher gave me a creative writing assignment at The Freedom Theatre I didn't want to participate at first because I wasn't confident that my stories were good and I didn't think that anyone except me would read them. I didn't even think that I would participate in "Voices" magazine because my stories were imaginary and from another world. When the session started I felt tense and insecure. However, after a while I began to feel differently about myself and realized that my stories were not bad and could maybe be read. This made me feel good and I felt myself becoming stronger, bolder and more confident.

My favorite thing about these sessions was that I was able to write many stories and discuss them and that some of my stories would be published in a book. This is a dream come true. I didn't expect people to read my stories and that my name would be in a book.

The relationships I made from the sessions were very good. I made new friends and our teacher treated us well. He lifted our spirits and asked that we write a lot. This allowed us to feel more confident in ourselves as young women and to freely express our opinions.

I'd like to attend another session during the summer because 3 months is not enough. Writing fiction allows me to express myself well and if I stopped doing it I would lose something very dear to me. The occupation cannot prevent any young girl or boy from expressing themselves. The stage is the place where I can express myself and we all need to. For example, there are many girls and boys participating in the creative writing workshops. Some of them act and others photograph. In my opinion, this is a way for us to fight against the occupation and gain our freedom. We will achieve these things by expressing ourselves in the face of this occupation.

"This is a way for us to fight against the occupation and gain our freedom. We will achieve these things by expressing ourselves in the face of this occupation."

Organisation

The Freedom Theatre, a theatre and cultural centre in Jenin Refugee Camp, is developing the only professional venue for theatre and multimedia in the northern part of the West Bank in Occupied Palestine. It offers a unique programme of workshops and activities, allowing participants to express themselves and explore their creativity through theatre and drama activities, as well as film, photography and creative writing.

Through its work, The Freedom Theatre aims to:

- Offer a space in which children, youth and young adults in the Jenin area can act, create and express themselves freely, imagining new realities and challenging existing social and cultural barriers.
- Raise the quality of performing arts and multimedia and encouraging wider participation in cultural activities among the local population.
- Break the cultural isolation that separates Jenin from the wider Palestinian and global communities.

Culture under Occupation

Jenin Refugee Camp and Jenin City in the northern part of the West Bank are among the most disadvantaged communities in Occupied Palestine. As a result of the Second Intifada which began in 2000, as well as the Israeli invasion of Jenin Camp in 2002, the Jenin area became increasingly isolated, politically as well as economically, and the social fabric was fragmented and severely damaged.

In this context, cultural activities were largely neglected. When The Freedom Theatre opened its doors in 2006, few of the local residents had ever seen theatre or had the opportunity to learn filmmaking, acting and photography; skills which can be among the most powerful in the ongoing struggle against oppression and occupation.

Strong in its belief that the arts form a crucial corner stone to the ideals of an open and free society, The Freedom Theatre is therefore committed to continue developing a free and independent space in which young, aspiring artists can come together to explore their creativity, express themselves and perform. As the only organisation offering such a space in the area, The Freedom Theatre aims to enrich cultural life of the region and play an active role in rebuilding the shattered foundations of Palestinian culture.



ACTIVITIES IN 2009





The Freedom Theatre's activities are built upon the principle that, for both artist and spectator, the creative process is one of embracing the unknown and re-arranging reality, and this constitutes the first step towards imagining and accepting alternatives. In a society that rewards obedience over initiative, certainty over risk, and established rules over experimentation, this is radical. In theatre, it can also be magical.

Theatre Programme

In 2009, the Theatre Programme reached new professional standards, particularly through the continued development of the Acting School programme and its two student productions. The various theatre activities for children and youth were also further developed as The Freedom Theatre organised its first Theatre Festival.

Hosting Performances

Total performances: 64
Total attendance: 16,000

In the past year The Freedom Theatre continued providing a stage for local as well as international performers in its theatre hall in Jenin Camp, including theatre, dance, circus and music. Through such diverse performances The Freedom Theatre hopes to offer the residents of Jenin exposure to new, entertaining and thought-provoking experiences - something out of the ordinary. The programme in 2009 included The Freedom Theatre's first Theatre Festival for Children and Youth (see Other Events and Activities).

Acting School

Total participants: 12

The Freedom Theatre's Acting School programme moved into its second year of activity in 2009. Through this three-year professional theatre training programme, run in cooperation with the Arab American University in Jenin, students continued taking part in a diverse study programme, including acting, movement, voice, masks, pantomime, as well as social and cultural studies. The study programme also included two student productions, *Animal Farm* as well as *Fragments of Palestine* which the class took on a very successful tour of Germany and Austria during the autumn.

Drama Therapy and Drama Activities

Total participants: 40

Through this project, groups of children and youth continued to experience the playful as well as healing aspects of theatre. Participants engaged in exploring their internal conflicts and acting out their emotions in a safe and contained structure, through improvisations, movement and stories, thus learning to better understand themselves and their surroundings. In addition, the young participants engaged in the exciting process of preparing their own plays and presentations, which were presented at The Freedom Theatre.

Theatre Technician Training

Total participants: 5

In 2009, a group of young trainees continued taking part in a Theatre Technician training course, learning vital skills in light, sound and stage design. In addition to theoretical training, they put their skills into practice by working on all of The Freedom Theatre's own productions as well as assisting with hosted performances and film screenings.

Fragments of Palestine

(Stories gathered, written and performed by the Acting School students)

A wedding that becomes a tragic exodus of dispossession, occupation and oppression. Facing an ultra-organised enemy the resistance hides and acts in the most unthinkable places. Funeral of a martyr who refuses to be buried. A concrete wall and electric fences that strangle the mountains. Children born to die for freedom. The normality of an absurd life in a refugee camp. Love at curfew hours and late night dreams about the sea.

Fragments of Palestine is an attempt to bridge the gap between life and art. Utilising primarily physical means, the picture goes beyond the verbal narrative. The cry of the individual is expressed through a universal language.



Eyad Hourani, 21

Acting Student

Since I was a child I dreamt of acting. My parents and the community were against the idea so I decided to study business administration but I never finished my studies. I did marketing in a media company until I came upon an opportunity to study acting in Palestine. As I expected, my parents refused in the beginning because they didn't believe that acting had a future.

At the beginning of 2009 I began the acting exercises. At first, it seemed that they were just a technique which allowed us to release energy in a positive way. After a month of training, workshops and classes I changed my mind about acting. We began working on the play "Animal Farm". It was my first acting experience and it was intimidating but it provoked a lot of questions in me. It felt like I was born again and began to enjoy looking deep into myself. My family was scared of the effect that this play would have on me because it talks about the suffering of people, revolution, and the betrayal of revolutionary leaders. They wanted me to stop acting but I remained steadfast and continued acting.

The second "shock" (Fragments of Palestine) was a revolt against societal beliefs, occupation and parents psychologically oppressing their kids. This work traveled to Germany where they heard the voices and message of the Palestinians. There were many presentations, discussions and sessions which informed people who knew nothing about Palestinians, but thought that we were savages and child killers. What they thought about Israel was that it was a democratic and just state that doesn't suppress or occupy anybody. After we changed many people's minds, we understood the impact of theatre and its importance in our world.

"It felt like I was born again and began to enjoy looking deep into myself."

Short Films by The Freedom Theatre Filmmaking Students

Small Father

(By Buthaina Abu Ateyah, Manar Abu Gharrah and Iman Aldamaj)

The film tells the story of Shadi who, instead of playing with his friends, is helping his father to support the family during his summer vacation.

Honour

(By Mustafa Staiti)

The film tells the story of three women who were subjected to violence after being accused of dishonouring their families.

Majd

(By Ahmad Al-Araj and Tareq Al-Khalidi)

The film tells the story of Majd who lost a brother during the Intifada. Majd decides to become an actor in order to continue the struggle of her brother against the occupation, but she discovers that the way to the stage has many obstacles.

Road to Ajja

(By Mohammad Haj Ibrahim)

The film tells the story of three young women studying filmmaking at The Freedom Theatre, facing strong opposition in the society to their choices in life.

Multimedia Studio

The main focus of the Multimedia Studio in 2009 was an intensive filmmaking capacity-building initiative for young adults, which allowed The Freedom Theatre to double its capacity in this field. In addition, the youth magazine “Voices” was further developed and proved one of the greatest successes of the year.

Filmmaking

Total participants: 35

During the past year, The Freedom Theatre continued carrying out filmmaking workshops for youth, while at the same time adding a capacity-building programme for existing and future filmmaking trainers. The courses consisted of theoretical classes in script writing, photography and editing, and the groups worked together to produce their own short films. These products were screened at The Freedom Theatre at the end of the year and are also available online: www.youtube.com/user/thefreedomtheatre.

Photography

Total participants: 41

Through this project, youth in Jenin Camp have learned to use photography for story telling. They have produced their own Photography Exhibition, while also working together with youth in the Journalism and Creative Writing workshops to produce material for The Freedom Theatre’s quarterly youth magazine, *Voices*.

Journalism and Creative Writing

Total participants: 33

Through these workshops, youth have learned a range of skills in journalism and creative writing and produced articles and stories for The Freedom Theatre’s quarterly youth magazine *Voices* which became a great success in 2009. Each issue of the magazine was printed in 6,000 copies and distributed in the local community. The magazine was also published online on The Freedom Theatre’s youth website: www.voices.ps.

Web Design and Development

Total participants: 63

In 2009, The Freedom Theatre continued organising workshops in Web Design and Development for youth, as well as classes in basic computer skills for younger children.

Other Activities and Events

Theatre Festival

During the summer months The Freedom Theatre organised its first Theatre Festival for children and youth, hosting more than 30 shows. Participating groups included Al Harah Theatre, Inad Theatre, Fringe Ensemble of Nazareth, Asseera Theatre, Palestinian Circus School, as well as Sanabel Theatre. Some 10,000 children and youth took part in the festival.

Theatre Productions

The Freedom Theatre's groups put up a total of three productions during the year. The Acting School students put up *Animal Farm* as well as *Fragments of Palestine*, and one of the youth acting groups presented a play called *The Magic Flute*.

Photography Exhibition

In December 2009, The Freedom Theatre's youth photographers launched their latest photography exhibition, displaying pictures reflecting on women's and children's rights, as well as the struggle against oppression. The exhibition is due to be displayed in the United States and Saudi Arabia.

International Touring

In 2009, two of The Freedom Theatre's group took their productions on an international tour. The Acting School toured Germany and Austria with their play *Fragments of Palestine* during October and November, and one of the youth acting groups travelled to France with their play *The Magic Flute* during April.



Facilities

Current Theatre

The Freedom Theatre currently stages and hosts performances in a semi-professional Theatre Hall, seating up to 300 people. Although sufficient as a small community theatre, the space is not well suited for larger theatre performances and is already proving too small to meet the needs of the population in the camp.

The majority of The Freedom Theatre's workshops in acting and drama, including part of the Acting School classes, take place in a spacious Workshop Room next to the theatre hall. In addition, the Acting School Building in Jenin City contains workshop spaces that are used for a variety of theatre training and classes.

New Theatre

To fulfil its objectives, The Freedom Theatre aims to build up high-quality, sustainable infrastructure for theatre and performing arts in Jenin Refugee Camp, Jenin City and surrounding villages; the local workforce carry out the building work and install the equipment, while other members of the community are being trained in how to use, maintain and develop the equipment and the facility, allowing them to stage performances independently in the future.

Multimedia Centre

The Film and Photography Studio contains two workshop rooms, two editing studios with professional editing stations, one small screening room, as well as a storage room for equipment, including professional still and video cameras.

An Arts and Media Library also make a wealth of resources available to the constituency of The Freedom Theatre, covering theatre, music, film and other arts. The space consists of about 1,000 books, 500 CDs and 100 DVDs, as well as audio and visual equipment for viewing or listening to library materials.

Other Spaces

The Office space hosts the administrative department, which enables the smooth running of all of The Freedom Theatre's activities. The Freedom Theatre's Guest House also offers accommodation for visitors, volunteers and trainers.





INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ENT



Capacity Building

As the Jenin area has found itself largely isolated since the Second Intifada, cultural and artistic activities in the area has been largely neglected. The Freedom Theatre therefore continues allocating part of its resources to capacity-building and training for its staff and teachers. Such initiatives are crucial for the long-term sustainability and development of the organisation's activities.

In 2009 The Freedom Theatre's trainers and instructors completed the following courses:

- An extensive Film Training Programme was organised The Freedom Theatre for existing and new teachers.
- Two of the theatre's technicians took part in a Study Visit to Sweden, organised by Frihetsteaterns Vänförening (The Friends of The Freedom Theatre, Sweden).

In addition, administrative staff took part in the following capacity building courses:

- Two members of staff took part in an LFA course organised by SIDA in Ramallah.
- Three administrative staff took English language classes.

Resource Development

During the past year, The Freedom Theatre's Resource Development department continued developing its relationships with various funding institutions worldwide. A number of new relationships were also established and

In addition, a number of events were organised by Friends Associations and supporters internationally, providing crucial additional support for The Freedom Theatre's activities. These included:

- Series of Fundraising Events in New York, including the theatre benefit "Art as Resistance", organised by the Friends of the Jenin Freedom Theatre in the United States (October 2009)
- Series of film screening benefits in Stockholm, Malmo and Lund, organised by Folkets Bio, Sweden
- Screenings of "Arna's Children" at Columbia University and in Dallas, Texas, organised by the Friends of the Jenin Freedom Theatre in the United States
- Presentations about The Freedom Theatre and its work in Stockholm and Gothenburg, organised by Frihetsteaterns Vänförening (The Friends of The Freedom Theatre) in Sweden
- Series of events and screenings of "Arna's Children" in Paris, organised by Les Amis du Théâtre de la Liberté de Jénine, France

Iman Aldamaj, 22

Filmmaking Trainee

As a young girl living under Israeli occupation in Jenin Refugee Camp, I attended The Freedom Theatre's cinema sessions which gave me the opportunity to express my thoughts and opinions through film production at a time when all forms of expression were closed to us. These sessions were an outlet for me in a society where women are not free to express themselves.

In the beginning, my fiancé was against me going to The Freedom Theatre. Because we live in a society which opposes educating girls about film production, he was afraid that people would gossip about me. After some long discussions and a visit to the theatre where he met the group and saw the things I was learning, he was convinced. His support gave me confidence and encouraged me to continue to pursue everything with confidence.

“Only through teaching and education I am seeing the development of a new generation that is aware of their surroundings and able to communicate with each other to achieve progress and gain their rights.”

In the beginning, our experienced teachers trained us in many aspects of cinema such as how to use cameras, script writing, directing and editing. Today I am practicing what I learned in theory and I've begun to teach new groups of students ranging from ages 13-17. This experience has benefited me even more than what I learned in the classroom. Only through teaching and education I am seeing the development of a new generation that is aware of their surroundings and able to communicate with each other to achieve progress and gain their rights.

Finally, I have hope that I will be able to continue working towards fulfilling my ambitions to be one of the first girls from the northern West Bank, specifically Jenin Refugee Camp, to study film production. I hope that everyone continues to encourage and support me. In my opinion, the cinema is a very important tool for confronting the Israeli occupation and the public information campaigns which work against us around the world. Through film we can convey our story and message to the outside world to end our isolation and break siege.

Networking

In 2009, The Freedom Theatre continued developing its strong network of friends, supporters and partners, whose support for its work is crucial.

The Freedom Theatre's friends associations and partners include the following:

Friends Associations and Support Networks

- The Friends of The Jenin Freedom Theatre, United States
- Les Amis du Théâtre de la Liberté de Jénine, France
- Frihetsteaterns Vänförening, Malmö, Sweden
- Frihetsteaterns Vänförening, Stockholm, Sweden
- Friends of The Freedom Theatre, Berlin, Germany
- British Shalom Salaam Trust (BSST), United Kingdom

Partners

- Arab American University, Jenin, Occupied Palestine
- University of Song and Music, Gothenburg, Sweden
- KinderKulturKarawane, Germany
- Centraltheater/Spinnewek, Leipzig, Germany
- Al Kasaba Theatre, Ramallah, Occupied Palestine
- Dramatiska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden
- The National Academy of Theatre and Mime, Stockholm, Sweden
- New York Theatre Workshop, New York, United States
- El-Hakawati Theatre Company, Jerusalem, Occupied Palestine
- Ashtar Theatre, Ramallah, Occupied Palestine
- Yes Theatre, Bethlehem, Occupied Palestine
- Al Harah Theatre, Bethlehem, Occupied Palestine
- Palestinian Circus School, Ramallah
- United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, (UNRWA)

Outreach

Websites

In 2009, The Freedom Theatre renewed its main website (www.thefreedomtheatre.org) and continued updating it with news, pictures and events. The sites for its Acting School (www.actingschool.ps) as well as its youth website (www.voices.ps) were also maintained and updated regularly.

Promotional Films

Three new promotional short films were produced during the year. One film was about its Drama Therapy project, and the others for its Acting School productions Animal Farm as well as Fragments of Palestine. These were screened during networking tours and can also be viewed online (www.youtube.com/user/thefreedomtheatre).

E-News

The Freedom Theatre continued sending out regular updates and news to its mailing list, including press releases as well as invitations to events and performances.

Media

The Freedom Theatre has been successful in developing a high media profile both regionally and internationally. A wide range of print, radio, and television media have reported on The Freedom Theatre's events and activities in the past year. These include BBC (UK), SBS Radio (Australia), Die Tageszeitung (Germany), Al Jazeera, Frankfurter Rundschau (Germany), Hystrio (Italy), France 24 (France), Dubai TV (Dubai), Ordfront (Sweden), Down To Earth Magazine (India), Channel 10 (Israel), Haaretz (Israel), L'Itinéraire (Canada), Politika (Serbia), Al-Ayyam (Palestine), Qantara (Germany), Al Quds (Palestine), Al Arabiya (Saudi Arabia), Masrawy (Egypt), Al Hiwar (Palestine), Maan News (Palestine), PNN (Palestine), Wafa (Palestine), Al Mustaqbal (Lebanon), Watan TV (Palestine).

Supporters

The Freedom Theatre is grateful for the generous support of the following funders:

- United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA)
- Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA)
- Annenberg Foundation
- ArtAction
- Arab Fund for Arts and Culture
- Skoll Foundation
- British Consulate General Jerusalem
- Grassroots International
- Unity Theatre Trust
- Medico International
- Nathan Cummings Foundation
- And all individual donors at The Freedom Theatre.



EVALUATION



Achievements

The Freedom Theatre has many achievements to be proud of in the past year, including the following:

- Establishing itself as a major cultural force in the northern part of the West Bank.
- Staging two large-scale theatre productions, one of which toured Germany and Austria during the autumn.
- Considerably developing its Filmmaking programme and producing four new student short films.
- Organising its first Theatre Festival for Children and Youth during the summer.
- Developed its quarterly youth magazine “Voices” into one of the most popular publications in the area.

The factors which contribute towards making The Freedom Theatre a strong and sustainable organisation include:

- A commitment to maintaining high standards in all aspects of its work;
- The strong belief that art and culture form the corner stones of a free and healthy society;
- A broad base of support, in the local community and internationally;
- Promoting a work ethic that emphasises transparency, accountability and cooperation.

Challenges and Solutions

Despite much success, The Freedom Theatre continues to face a number of challenges in its work:

- One of the main challenges The Freedom Theatre has faced since its establishment has been the inclusion of girls and women in its activities. Rising up to this challenge, and working in close connection with families, schools and community groups, The Freedom Theatre in 2009 saw a breakthrough in this sense, with female participation actually exceeding that of males.
- As theatre and the arts were largely neglected in the local society as a result of the Second Intifada, there is a great lack of professional teachers and instructors in the area. The Freedom Theatre has therefore focussed much of its efforts on capacity building in the past year, organising special training activities by professionals from abroad and from other parts of Palestine.

Plans for the Future

In addition to carrying out its regular activities and workshops, The Freedom Theatre in 2010 plans to:

- Open up an additional small theatre space in Jenin City, allowing it to reach out beyond the refugee camp and to build bridges between the divided sectors in the community;
- Stage two large-scale theatre productions; an adaptation of Ghassan Khanafani’s “Men in the Sun” as well as “Alice in Wonderland”;
- Organise its second Theatre Festival, bringing a month of theatre and plays to children and youth in the Jenin area;
- Continue developing its multimedia centre and particularly its filmmaking activities, producing several new short films;
- Publish two books produced by youth, one of photography and one of creative writing.

Camilla Bakken

Volunteer at The Freedom Theatre

During the period January to July 2009, I was fortunate to work as a Dance and Movement Teacher with The Freedom Theatre's Acting School. During that time I also conducted fieldwork for my masters thesis in social anthropology, so when I look at the positive impact the theatre has on its surroundings, I have two perspectives: one as a teacher and one as an academic.

As a teacher I saw the tremendous positive effects the theatre has on the kids and youth who attend in its activities. Through artistic activities such as drama, dance, photography and filmmaking kids, youth and young adults learn to express themselves. They get a feeling that their opinion is valued and they learn to contribute towards making a change, both in their own life and in their society. It is my impression that the participants transfer these experiences to their daily lives. This means that The Freedom Theatre not only give its pupils and students skills they can use for the rest of their lives, but it also empowers them to influence their own lives and surroundings. This is especially important for the most marginalised and stigmatised groups in society, such as refugees, girls and young women.

As an academic I found The Freedom Theatre very interesting in its capacity as a catalyst for social change, as an institution that can allow itself to have a critical voice towards its own society. The reason for this is that it is able to play a relatively independent role in the society, and does not need to take into consideration political interests or the interests of a clan to the same degree as other institutions and individuals. This gives the theatre an extraordinary opportunity to contribute towards change in its own society by raising critical questions, challenging prevailing values and attitudes, and providing a space in which it is possible to address and discuss issues that are important for the individual and the community.

“I found The Freedom Theatre very interesting in its capacity as a catalyst for social change, as an institution that can allow itself to have a critical voice towards its own society.”



OR



ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

Staff and Volunteers

In 2009, the work of The Freedom Theatre was carried out by the following staff, volunteers and Board of Directors.

General Staff

(Palestinian, unless otherwise stated)

Juliano Merr-Khamis, General Director
Samia Steiti, General Programme Manager
Jonatan Stanczak (Sweden), Administrative and Financial Manager
Adnan Nagnaghaye, Location Manager
Rawand Arqawi, Acting School Coordinator
Jenny Nyman (Finland), Resource Development Coordinator
Johanna Wallin (Sweden), Resource Development Assistant
Frida Ullberg (Sweden), Resource Development Assistant
Mussadaq Jarrar, Accountant
Rania Wasfi, Administrative Assistant
Mei Tubase, Secretary
Taiseer Khatib, Translator
Miriam Abu Atia, Housekeeper

Project Staff

(Palestinian, unless otherwise stated)

Nabeel Al-Raee, Acting Instructor
Micaela Miranda (Portugal), Acting Instructor
Reem Ello, Voice Trainer

Petra Barghouthi, Drama Therapy Instructor
Jacob Gough (Wales), Theatre Technician Trainer
Mohammad Assaadi, Theatre Technician
Ahmad Matahen, Theatre Technician
Sami Assaadi, Theatre Technician
Moataz Alnorsi, Theatre Technician
Haneen Rishamwi, Film Instructor
Riyad Deis, Film Instructor
Mohammed Moawia, Film Instructor
Mustafa Steti, Photography Instructor
Tareq Al-Khaldi, Photography Instructor
Hiba Assaf, Journalism Instructor
Amed Shada, Journalism Instructor
Taiseer Khatib, Creative Writing Instructor
Ahmed Al-Araj, Web Development Instructor

Volunteers

Jan Tiselius (Sweden), Acting Instructor
Britt Louise Tillbom (Sweden), Acting Instructor
Stephan Wolf-Shonburg (Germany), Acting Instructor
Josh Perlstein (United States), Acting Instructor
Giovanni Papotto (Italy), Acting Instructor
Rashna Nicholson (India), Acting Instructor
Camilla Bakken (Norway), Dance and Movement Instructor
Linn Reinius (Sweden), Set Designer
Gunnar Bergsten (Sweden), Theatre Technician
Emily Smith (United States), Photography Instructor
Sophia Robbins (United States), English Teacher

Board of Directors

Palestinian Organisation

Dr. Mervat Ayiash (Chair Person), Professor of Al Najah University
Lubna Hamashi (Treasurer), Employee of the Ministry of Youth and Sports
Bilal Assaadi, Merchant
Bassima Abu Nami, Director of Al Muntada in Jenin
Wafaa Habb-AlReeh, President of the Palestinian Women's Union
Jamal Tubasi, Merchant
Mohammad Saba'ni, PR Manager at the Arab American University in Jenin
Sa'ed Qabha, Programme Coordinator at the Ministry of Education
Khaled Abu Al Heja, Engineer

Swedish Foundation

Khulood Badawi, Chairperson (Occupied Palestine), Human Rights Activist
Noam Chomsky (United States), Professor in Linguistics
Judith Butler (United States), Professor in Philosophy
Louisa Morgantini (Italy), Politician and Member of the European Parliament
Etienne Balibar (France), Professor in Political Science
Howard Brenton (United Kingdom), Playwright
Elias Khoury (Lebanon), Novelist, Playwright and Critic
Avi Oz (Tel Aviv), Professor in Theatre
Suzanne Osten (Sweden), Professor in Directing
Michel Khleifi (Nazareth), Film Director
Mohammad Bakri (Be'ene), Actor and Director
Salim Daw (Haifa), Actor and Director
Salwa Nakkara (Haifa), Actress
Henry Ascher (Sweden), Paediatrician
Dror Feiler (Sweden), Musician and Composer
San'a Badawi (Jenin Refugee Camp), Public Relations, Jenin Governorate
Abeer Kopty (Nazareth), Political Activist

the freedom theatre

Jenin Refugee Camp

Occupied Palestine

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