

## Summary Report

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موسم مسرح الهمطهدين  
Theatre Of The Oppressed Season



Ashtar Theatre  
The Stories of Seeh Shishaba



Yalalan Musical group  
Opening Ceremony



Action Theatre- Germany  
Opening Ceremony

### The Theatre of The Oppressed Season "Building Bridges, Breaking Barriers"

For the first time in Palestine, **ASHTAR for Theatre Productions & Training** organized, with the support of the European Commission, **The Theatre of The Oppressed Season** from April 12<sup>th</sup> till June 28<sup>th</sup> 2007. This initiation stems profoundly from a deep belief in the Theatre of the Oppressed as an artistic tool for social and political change. Thus, this festival season oriented its local and international participants to serve a unified humane and artistic mission titled by the festival's motto: **Building Bridges, Breaking Barriers.**

The Season integrated **44 performances** distributed in **22 locations** between cities and villages in the West Bank. More than **7000 persons** attended the international and local performances. The Season hosted four international groups that toured in the different cities and villages. *Action Theatre Group* from **Germany** performed the Play: *Don't lose Heart*, *Trans-Formas Group* from **Spain** performed the Play: *Demolition*, *The Theatre du Public* from **Belgium** performed the play: *The Black Quarter of an Hour* and finally *CTO-Rio* from **Brazil** performed the play: *Coisas de Genero.*

In accordance, ASHTAR Theatre group also performed five forum plays during this Season; ***The Stories of Seeh Shishaba Village, The Story of Mona, Abu Shaker-The Instructor, Check Mate and Badriyeh.*** Altogether the International and local performances received positive feedback and engaged criticism especially in the interaction sessions following the forum plays. Yet, the most remarkable 6 performances were in Hebron as the highest audience rate was marked by more than 1600 persons.

Not only Forum Theatre performances were organized in this Festival Season, but also workshops. ***Theatre of the Oppressed in service of Educational Programs*** workshop was organized for actors and non-actors in corporation with A.M. Qattan Foundation for Educational Research and Development.



CTO- Rio/ Brazil  
Coisas de Genero



Ashtar Theatre  
Story Of Mona



Ashtar Theatre  
Abu Shaker-The Instructor



Public Theatre – Belgium  
The Black Quarter of an Hour



Action Theatre- Germany  
Don't Lose Heart

Furthermore, in cooperation with Care International, additional performances of the play *Seeh-Shishaba* were organized in distant agricultural villages in Jenin.

The Festival's festivity launched and ended by a spectacular opening and closing ceremony which together were attended by more than 1500 persons. Both ceremonies were enriched by a great cultural presence of music, dance, circus as well as theatre performances. The Opening ceremony hosted Yalalan Musical group and The Palestinian Popular Art Centre Group. The Closing Ceremony hosted The Palestinian Circus School, The Edward Said National Conservatory of Music and CTO-Rio Theatre group from Brazil.

Soon after completing Ashtar's Theatre of Oppressed performances in Palestine, the team performed the legislative play *The Story of Mona* at the Sixth World Congress for International Drama/Theatre & Education Association (IDEA) which was held in *Hong Kong* during the month of July. The congress was attended by more than 500 artists and experts from all over the world.

During the month of August, ASHTAR produced a new play *Abeer & Masoud* with The Dreams Theatre in Mi'ilya in the Upper Galilee. The play raises the issue of violence in family and school.

As part of its future plans, ASHTAR is in process of producing a *new forum play* that tackles the issue of *Drugs* in East Jerusalem. The production, which is supported by the Welfare Association, is expected to finish by December 2007 and a local tour will be organized by the beginning of 2008.

Based on our policy to strengthen and build bridges with the Theatre World, ASHTAR is hosting the *Bread & Puppet Theatre* from USA, to conduct a training workshop on Street Theatre. The workshop will be held at ASHTAR Theatre during the month of September, where it shall end up with a production that will tour in the various areas of the West Bank.

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