ANNUAL REPORT 2022
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VISION

Towards a free and creative human being on the cultural, intellectual and social levels; and for a Palestinian society that respects pluralism, democracy and fosters openness and cultural exchange.

MISSION

ASHTAR for Theatre Productions and Training, seeks to develop a Palestinian individual capable of expressing oneself and communicate with the surroundings and the world.

Contributes towards the creation of socio-cultural conditions that embraces values of freedom, justice and equality through the use of theater productions and trainings, targeting adolescents, youth and women.

Builds skills and capacities of the local and regional theater movement.

Nurture the aesthetics and values of performing arts in Palestine.

ARIA FOR THEATRE PRODUCTIONS AND TRAINING

Enhancing Creativity and Commitment for Change

رؤية مسرح عشتار

نحو إنسان حُر ومبدع فكرياً واجتماعياً، ومجتمع فلسطيني يحترم التعددية والديمقراطية، ويعزز الانتفاخ والتبادل الثقافي.

رسالة مسرح عشتار

يسعى مسرح عشتار لبناء إنسان فلسطيني قادر على التعبير وال التواصل مع محيطه والعالم. من خلال بناء الجسور الثقافية مع مسارح العالم، والاستفادة من تجاربهم.

المساهمة في خلق حالة ثقافية مجتمعية تبنى قيم الحرية والعدالة والمساواة، بالتركيز على إنتاج المسرح والتدريب عليه، وبناء القدرات الحياتية للقطاعات المستهدفة (الفتية، الشباب، النساء) من جهة، والمساهمة في بناء قدرات القطاع المسرحي والجمهور المحلي العام من جهة أخرى.
Outcome of the year 2022

Theatrical productions:
6 productions. 3 for adults, and 3 for youth

Performances:
50 theatrical performances, 12 film screenings

Student training:
17 regular students at ASHTAR School,
100 students trained at the Intentional Youth Theater Festival 2022

Audience:
Around 8,500 spectators
Locally and Internationally

City tours:
Ramallah, Al Bireh, Jaffa, Haifa, Nazareth, Jenin, Nablus, Bethlehem, Farkha, Jerusalem

Countries we have reached:
Germany, Turkey, France, Jordan, Romania, Britain, Ireland, USA, Spain, Venezuela, Egypt, Singapore, India

المخرجات العام 2022

الإنتاجات المسرحية:
6 إنتاجات مسرحية.
3 للأطفال

العروض:
50 عرض مسرحي
12 عرض أفلام تفاعلية قصيرة

تدريب الطلاب:
17 طالب في برنامج
مدرسة عشتار للمسرح
100 طالب شاركوا
ورشات مهرجان
عشتار الدولي لمسرح الشباب

الجمهور:
قراية 8,500 متفرج
محلياً وعالمياً

العروض المحلية:
رام الله، البيرة، يافا، حيفا، الناصرة، جنين، نابلس، بيت حلم، فرخة، القدس

المشاركات الدولية:
ألمانيا، تركيا، فرنسا، الأردن، رومانيا، إسبانيا، إنجلترا، الولايات المتحدة، مصر، سنغافورة، الهند
ASHTAR Theatre finished the school in June, with the production “I will betray my country” by the Syrian writer Muhammad Maghout, trained by and directed by Khalil Al-Batran. The play premiered at ASHTAR International Youth Theatre Festival – 6th edition, on July 3rd. At the Ramallah Municipal Theatre. The play was also presented in September for a full house with the support of British Council and Qattan Foundation- Takatuf Fund for cultural NGOs.

The Play:
Do we betray our homeland? Is it possible for someone who loves there country to betray it? If betrayal might seem in itself a shocking and a repulsive idea, then what about betraying it? Betrayal here is a metaphor. We assure you that our words sting, sarcastic and filled with the burning tears of laughter.

Dramaturgy: Tamer Tafesh, Kahalil Batran
Sets & Propes: Mohammad Ali
Costumes: Ruba Taleb
Music by: Khalil Al-Batran
Cast: Maysam Yacoub, Rand Abu Dayeh, Hala Sleibe, Bana Al Arda, Mohammad Hawash, Hammam Walweel, Nada Al Khawaja, Tayma Shoaibi.

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2) Theatre of the Oppressed Workshop and production of “Story of Abu Salma” (A Forum Theatre Play)

A workshop was held on techniques of Theatre of the Oppressed, as part of the educational plan for youth. The workshop was led by Edward Muallem, with the participation of 12 young people. The workshop dealt with: Introduction to theatre of the oppressed, Image Theatre, character building and self-storytelling.

As a result of this workshop, a forum play entitled «Story of Abu Salma» was produced based on real stories about political bullying and workplace bullying. The production of the show and the local tour was supported by Rosa Luxembourg Foundation in Ramallah.

Written & Directing by: Edward Muallem
Music: Rami Washaha
Cast: Norsan Qwasmeh, Yousef Al-Arda, Rama Ashqar, Tala Asmar, Tamer Tafesh, Mohammad Mlihat, Simon Jaber
Jokering: Dalal Odeh

كتابة وإخراج: إدوارد معلّم
موسيقى: رامي وشحة
تمثيل: نورسان قواسمه، يوسف العارضة، راما أشقر، تالا أسمر، تامر طافش، محمد مليحات، سيمون جابر
جوكر: دالا عودة
3) Drama Training Program
2022/2023

a. ASHTAR started a new year of training for young students aged 12 – 14 with trainer Sasha Asbah one of ASHTAR older graduates. 10 young students are following the training on a weekly bases.

b. Third year students are working on a new adventure with director Khalil Batran. Five girls are researching female change makers in recent history to create a new original play about them. This training is with the support of Drosos through the Palestinian Performing Arts Network.

c. Director Emile Saba also started a new group of youth students. He is working with them on improve techniques. This training is also with the support of Drosos through the Palestinian Performing Arts Network.
Second:
Professional productions

1) “Ventolin of Return”  
(A one woman show)

A one Woman Show about growing up as a global nomad. The play presents a deep analysis to elements of trauma that mentally shaped the writer’s understanding, integration process and self-balance against all odds; bullying, discrimination, alienation, and her constant feeling of estrangement wherever she traveled.

The play taps into mental health revelations and brings upon collective questions about a nation tormented with occupation, exile, and fear and how survival mechanisms come into order to reshape the disorder and imbalance. The play reveals the power of art, especially theater as a tool of healing and self-realization.

Between May and December, the play was performed 8 times at ASHTAR theatre, Al Qattan foundation, Ramallah Municipality theatre in cooperation with Ramallah municipality, Jerusalem, Nazareth, and at the festival of Yafaouia in Jaffa.

Written and performed by: Bayan Shbib,  
Directed by: Iman Aoun  
Supported by: Goethe International Institute, the Consulate General of Spain in Jerusalem, Qattan Foundation -Takatuf Fund, Palestinian Cultural Fund.
2) “Nour’s Imagination”  
(a children’s play)

As part of ‘Children’s Theatre Everywhere’, project, supported by The Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development and the supervised by The Welfare Foundation; directed by Noursan Ziyad, and written by Ghassan Naddaf.

The play tells the story of a little girl called Nour, who takes us on a journey in her imagination in search of the light that is disappearing from the world. The play opened in July as part of «Palestine International Theatre Festival for Children and Youth – 2022», in its special edition: «Children’s Theatre Everywhere», organized by Al-Harah Theatre and in partnership with ASHTAR Theatre, Rassael Theatre, Freedom Theatre and Yes Theatre.

In September, ASHTAR theatre reproduced the play with ASHTAR third year students, alongside actress Raghad Kilani, and presented it at Al Harah Children and Youth Festival at Al Qattan Stage for a lovely audience of young people and their parents in December. This performance was supported by Takatuf Fund for cultural NGOs.
3) “2077- Who wants to survive?”
(Monodrama)

An English neo-noir, sci-fi monodrama. A fair co-production between ASHTAR theater, Bridgeworks (Germany), Fred Ensemble (Germany) and Al Kasaba Theater.

The year is 2077. After humanity has conquered poverty, disease, hunger and dissolved states, the world’s elites set out to achieve immortality, eternal happiness and biotechnological optimization.

The more successful they are at this, the more 99% of all people become redundant. With the help of Cyborgs and Weapon Systems controlled by artificial intelligence, the elites get rid of this useless mass and lock them up to millions in Enclaves that are sealed off from the rest of the world by high walls.

Written by: Bayan Shbib  
Directed by: Simon Eiefler  
Acted by: Emile Saba  
Music: Christian Beppo Peters

In February and March, the play was presented 5 times in Ramallah and Jerusalem. In November it was reproduced by ASHTAR theatre in Arabic and performed locally at Khashaba Theatre in Haifa, Al Hanin Theatre in Nazareth with the support of Qattan Foundation - Takatuf Fund for cultural NGOs. In December the play traveled to Colon and was presented three times at a festival organized by Bridgeworks.
In May, ASHTAR Theatre was invited to the Black Sea Festival in Turkey to present “Oranges and Stones”. The play was performed twice during the festival to a very enthusiastic audience in Trabzon.

“Oranges and Stones” carries us back to the first Jewish wave of immigration to Palestine under the guise of the “Balfour Declaration.” The play tackles the story of an impoverished refugee man who arrives from Europe after World War I, and settles at the home of a woman. He gradually tries to control her home and subsequently expel her therefrom, whereas she lived happily on her property and over her land benefiting from the produce of her orange orchards. The conflict between them starts by steps he takes to control the place and take possession of her property.

Vision and Direction: Mojisola Adebayo
Actors: Edward Muallem, Iman Aoun
Music: Rami Washaha
Technician: Mohammad Ali
Third:

“ASHTAR International Youth Theatre Festival” (6th Edition)

ASHTAR International Youth Theatre Festival was held from 3-8 July, under the slogan «Ultra-Art», in partnership with Ramallah Municipality, and with a main support by the British Council, the Arab Fund for Arts and Culture (AFAC), the Palestine Investment Fund, the Irish Representative Office in Ramallah, the French Consulate and the Spanish Consulate in Jerusalem.

The festival included fourteen theatre performances by eleven local, and international groups from UK, Germany, Sweden, Ireland, and the Syrian-French “Manssa” Troupe, in addition to artists from Romania and the US. The festival was held in several locations in Ramallah city.

Alongside the performances, ASHTAR organized an international conference on “Freedom of Expression and the Role of Theatre” were many participants presented valuable papers about their work and art forms. Specialized workshops throughout the week were also held, in “Physical Theatre”, “Image Theatre”, and “Big Puppets Making”.

Third:

«مهرجان عشتار الدولي مسرح الشباب»
(الدورة السادسة)

بالشراكة مع بلدية رام الله، ودعم رئيسى من المجلس الثقافي البريطاني، والصندوق العربي للثقافة والفنون (آفاق)، وصندوق الاستثمار الفلسطيني، والممثلة الإيرلندية، والفنون الفلسطينية، والفنون الإسرائيلية، أقيمت النسخة السادسة لمهرجان عشتار الدولي لمسرح الشباب في الفترة ما بين 3-8 تموز تحت شعار "هبة فن".

وتمّت المهرجان أربعة عشر عرضاً مسرحياً لإحدي عشرة فرق محلية وعربية دولية، من فلسطين شارك: المسرح الوطني الفلسطيني الحكومي (القدس)، وفرقة رسائل (نابلس)، ومسرح الحرية (جنين)، ومسرح القصبة (رام الله)، ومسرح السرايا العربي (يافآ)، ومسرح المهاش (رهط)، إضافة إلى ثلاثة عروض مسرح عشتار.

أما دولياً فشارك: مسرح "ماندالا" البريطاني، ومسرح "بريدج وركس" الألماني، ومسرح "أغريل" السويدي، ومسرح "كوركين هاوس" الإيرلندي، ومسرح "منصة" السورية الفرنسية، بالإضافة لفنانين من رومانيا والولايات المتحدة الأمريكية، وقدّمت عروض المهرجان في مواقع عدة بمدينة رام الله: المسرح البلدي/دار بلدية رام الله، ومسرح القصبة، ومركز خليل السكاكيني الثقافي، إضافة إلى مسرح عشتار.

ولدى جانب العروض المسرحية، نظم مسرح عشتار مؤتمراً دوليا حول "حرية التعبير ودور المسرح" ضمن فعاليات المهرجان، إضافة إلى ورش عمل متخصصة على مدار الأسبوع حول "مسرح الجسد"، و"مسرح الصورة"، و"صناعة الدمى الكبيرة"، بإشراف مدرّبين محليين ودوليين متخصصين.
Theatre is our experience in life. We learned from it, evolved with it, and accepted the world through it.

When we started at ASHTAR Theatre we thought it would be a regular acting school for us, but after meeting daily, being exposed to new ideas and people, it became a home to us and our coaches became our friends.

We have become more natural and capable to express and think freely without restrictions. We have learned to be united and break down barriers between each other and within ourselves. Our horizons were expanded to touch upon social, political and cultural problems. We started to delve into these problems and look for new and alternative ways for change, to contribute to our social liberation.

Through theatre, we got to understand ourselves; our bodies, our love, our passion and our talents. We struggled sometimes, but together we overcame our fears and problems. We experienced freedom and realised that art is an expression of freedom before being a profession.

Now we are here and we are living our stories on stage.

كلمة الطلاب في المهرجان

المسرح كان تجربتنا في الحياة. تعلمنا منه وتقدمنا وتفتحنا على العالم. بدأتنا في مسرح عشتار كمدرسة تمثيل وأنتهىتنا إلى كونه بيتنا الذي نذهب إليه كل يوم وتلتقي بهم بعضنا البعض، نتعامل مع أفكار جديدة، وأشخاص جدد، ومدربيا صاروا أصدقاءنا.

اصبحنا أكثر طبيعية وأكثر قدرة على التعبير والتفكير بحرية دون قيود، تعلمنا أن تكون معنا ونكسر الحواجز بين بعضنا البعض ومع أنفسنا، كما وفتحت أفناجنا للمشاعر المجتمعية السياسية والثقافية والتفكير فيها بشكل جديد ومختلف لتغيير الواقع نحو الأفضل، والمساهمة بالتعبير والتحرر المجتمعي.

عبر المسرح تعرَّفنا على ذاتنا وعلى أبداننا وعلى حياتنا وشغفنا ومواهبتنا، تحبيّتنا أحياناً وسكوناً من بعض المشاكل، لكتنا كأننا بيغناها كلها. لا مسأله الحرية، وآمننا أن الفن حرٌّ يقبل كل شيء، هو ممارسة الحرية قبل أن يكون مهماً، فمعطينا يعرف أن الفن ما ينعّم خيبر، الآن نحن هنا ونشعر قلّما على خشبة المسرح، تكون فيها هذه العالم الذي نخوض فيه تجاربنا وتجارب الآخرين.
This conference aims to break the silence forced on artist and art, locally and internationally, throughout exploring how and why we use art to create social change in the world. Artists had suffered lately from vicious attacks by the Israeli occupation and from the conditional funding agendas, in addition to local political imprisonment on the background of political differences.

Ultra-Art festival aims to give the youth a free platform to express their artistic ideas and opinions about the importance of freedom of expression, and to use art as a human right tool, in order to practice their social and political stands through their involvement in the art scene to make a change.

ASHTAR theatre invited a group of local and international theatre makers to share their points of views and experiences regarding the presented topics, to create an artistic and humane connection with each other. The conference is open for the artists participating in the festival and for the public audience, international and local via Facebook live.

Conference
“Freedom of Expression and Youth Theatre”

This conference aims to break the silence forced on artist and art, locally and internationally, throughout exploring how and why we use art to create social change in the world. Artists had suffered lately from vicious attacks by the Israeli occupation and from the conditional funding agendas, in addition to local political imprisonment on the background of political differences.

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Forth:
Short Films and Prizes

1. “The School of Wonders” &
2. “How Long is this Story!”

During the year 2020, ASHTAR Theatre produced a short film about education in Palestine, entitled «The School of Wonders» written by Bayan Shbib and directed by Emil Saba. In 2021, ASHTAR produced, «How Long is this Story!» Written by Ghassan Naddaf, directed by Salim Abu Jabal. The film was based on an investigation conducted by the theatre about the challenges facing the health sector and the Palestinian patients in the West Bank.

A local tour of 12 screening with the two films was organized at the Palestinian universities and collages in WB; in order to raise awareness towards the issues raised and open dialogue about them with the public. These two films were produced with the support of Rosa Luxemburg Foundation in Ramallah.

1. مدرسة الروائع
2. مطولة هالقصة

يرجى ملاحظة أن هذه النصوص مترجمة من اللغة العربية إلى اللغة الإنجليزية.
3. “The Gaza Monologues; Ten years and the dream continues..” (Documentary film)


The film follows the writers of the monologues; their life after ten year of continuous siege and three major attacks on the Gaza Strip. The film was done under the directing supervision of Iman Aoun, co-directed by Youseff Nateel.

The film won the judges best Arab documentary film award at Cairo short film festival, the exceptional Merit in Viewer impact: Content/ Message Delivery’ prize for from “Docs without Borders”, Silver award-Virgin Spring/India, world film carnival -Singapore- honorary award.
Fifth:
International participations

* Artistic Director Iman Aoun, participated at Jordan Theatre Festival, presenting a paper on: “The effect of politics on theatre in Palestine”, at the Pan Arab conference during the festival.

* Emile Saba directed an immersive play with MLab - Laboratoire Arts du Spectacle Vivant Saint-Nazaire called “My Limit is your Margin”. This project, has been in the work for a year, deconstructing Shakespeare and exploring the themes of limits and margins, through the lens of immersive theatre and capoeira.

Sixth:
«The Artistic Village»

ASHTAR Theatre signed an agreement with the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development to support the «Artistic Village» project in the Central Jordan Valley.

This vital and important project will be implemented in its first phase in partnership with the Palestinian Circus School, and in cooperation with the Jordan Valley Solidarity Campaign, whereby a vocational college for theatre and circus arts will be built, containing halls for training and performances and artistic residencies.
### Main Donors and Supporters

1) Arab Fund for Arts & Culture - AFAC  
2) British Council  
3) Rosa Luxembourg Foundation  
4) A.M. Qattan Foundation  
5) Palestinian Investment Fund  
6) The Spanish Consulate in Jerusalem  
7) Irish Aid  
8) Open Society Foundation- OSF  
9) Swedish Institute  
10) The French Consulate in Jerusalem  
11) NBC - Ramallah  
12) Emerezian Est.  
13) Erasmus +
Main Partners in 2022

Ramallah Municipality
Al Harah Theatre
Mandala Theatre- Oxford/UK
Bridge Works- Germany
Palestinian Performing Arts Network
Peace Work
Crooked House Theatre- Ireland
Khalil Sakakini Cultural Center
Al Kasaba Theatre
Smoking Apples- UK
Palestinian TV
Manasat Alaistiqal Althaqafia -Dipc
MADA News
Nissa F.M.

شركاء مسرح عشتارية العام 2022

بلدية رام الله
مسرح الحارة
مسرح ماندلا - أوكسفورد
بريدج ووركس
شبكة الفنون الأدائية الفلسطينية
Peace work
مسرح كروكيد هاوس
 مركز خليل السكاكيتي
مسرح القصة
سموكينج أبلز
تلفزيون فلسطين
منصة الاستقلال الثقافية
مدى نيوز
راديو نساء ف. م.
ASHTAR Theatre Board of Directors

Dr. Samir Hulileh - Chairman
Mohannad Karajah - Vice President
Hiba Abu Libdeh - Treasurer
Ahmed Hunaiti - Secretary
Sima Al-Jallad - member
Khaled Shtayyeh - member
Majdi Habash - member

مجلس الإدارة

د. سمير حليلة - الرئيس
مهند كراجة - نائب الرئيس
هبة أبو لبدة - أمين الصندوق
أحمد حنيطي - أمين السر
سيما الجلاد - عضو
خالد شتية - عضو
مجدي حبش - عضو
For more information about ASHTAR Theatre visit:
The International Festival of Youth Theater: http://www.ashtar-youth-festival.com/
http://www.ashtar-theatre.org/
Facebook: Ashtar for theatre productions and Training