

# THE FREEDOM THEATRE

ANNUAL REPORT 2019



## Cultural Resistance Movement

“My dream is that The Freedom Theatre will be the major force, cooperating with others in generating cultural resistance, carrying on it's shoulders universal values of freedom and justice.” Juliano Mer Khamis

The Freedom Theatre is a national cultural movement that harnesses creative power and artistic expression in the pursuit of justice and equality. It is a catalyst for creating an attractive leadership situation for the various performing arts schools. We follow a line loaded with diverse ideas and expressions as a bullet of inspiration to resist the poverty, wars, censorship, hatred, and evocation of the beauty of the theatre in the imagination, authenticity, friendship and multiculturalism, and we go on the approach of cultural resistance, which was inscribed by the moguls of Palestinian resistance literature such as Ghassan Kanafani, Naji Al Ali, Tawfiq Ziad, Mahmoud Darwish, Samih Al Qasim, Rashid Hussein and many more.

The Freedom Theatre is developing a vibrant and creative artistic community in the West Bank. While emphasising professionalism and innovation, the aim of the theatre is also to empower youth and women in the community and to explore the potential of arts as an important catalyst for social change.

Through it's work, The Freedom Theatre aims to:

- Raise the quality of performing and visual arts in the area.
- Offer a space in which children and youth can; act, create and express themselves freely and equally, imagine new realities and challenge existing social and cultural barriers.
- Empower the young generation to use the arts to promote positive change in their community.
- Break the cultural isolation that separates Jenin from the wider Palestinian and global communities.

### Vision

The Freedom Theatre's vision is a cultural resistance movement at the core of a free and critical Palestinian society.

### Mission

Through cultural resistance, The Freedom Theatre aims to raise a new generation that is able to challenge all forms of oppression.

### Objectives

- To train professionals in the field of theatre, pedagogics and media to provide human resources for the enhancement of the cultural and artistic sector in Palestine
- To work in our community in order to strengthen collaboration, self-awareness, creativity and imagination
- To produce state of the art and thought-provoking theatre and media products and perform them locally, regionally and internationally
- To advocate good governance, accountability, equality, integrity and justice in Palestine, advocate for Palestinian rights internationally and promote The Freedom Theatre locally and internationally
- To maintain good administrative and management procedures in TFT







## THE FREEDOM THEATRE PRODUCTIONS 2019





## 2019 in brief

### Theatre programme

The theatre programme contains a range of activities that introduce particularly the young generation to theatre and drama, while simultaneously building up long-term capacity by developing a cadre of theatre professional actors and drama instructors.

### TFT Performing Arts School

The Freedom Theatre School for Performing Arts (PAS) is a three-year educational programme which focuses on acting, devising and cultural resistance. While gaining professional acting skills, our students are encouraged to engage in their communities using drama as a tool for social and political change.

The educational program focuses on theatre, with an emphasis on acting, devising and the concept of cultural resistance; TFT was the first theatre school in Palestine promoting freedom, unity and struggle against all kinds of oppression ... This school as a powerful antidote to the dominant discursive structures that silence or delegitimize the experience of Palestinians living under occupation.

In January 2019, the Professional Theatre School began and continued its program with 3 intensive days per week resulting in two educational presentations “Who Am I” in April and “Wardrobe” in December in addition to 4 theatrical educational productions, and one activism project “The Freedom Bus”.

The Freedom Theatre focused on the students’ productions at the end of each educational stage, as well as partnerships with other cultural organizations. Thus, we had a variety of the school’s presentations that were shown in Jenin and Ramallah, with 6 shows to date.

‘Who Am I?’ - Directed by Nabil Al-Raee

‘Comedy Improvisation’ - Directed by French Artist Elise Hagan

‘Ruler/Executioner’ - Directed by Khawla Ibrahim and Faisal Abualheja

‘Playback Theatre Show’ - Directed by Faisal Abualheja

‘Outside-In’ - Directed by Ahmed Tobasi

‘Wardrobe’ - Directed by Khawla Ibrahim







### **The Freedom Bus**

TFT launched a pilot Freedom Ride in Autumn 2019 in preparation for the much larger event in March 2020. The 4-day tour, led by Faisal Abualheja, along with students from PAS visited several of the most oppressed areas in the West Bank including the Jordan Valley and Hebron amongst others. The students gathered stories and used their experiences from the ride to create a short theatrical presentation using techniques of playback theatre. It was an enriching, emotional and a beautiful experience for our students who will develop these skills over the coming months in preparation for the 10-day ride in April 2020. All of this work was under “Bethlehem Capital of Arab Culture 2020” title in cooperation with PPAN.

### **Productions and Performances**

2019 saw 4 productions come to life with a particular focus on children’s theatre. Pre-production for TFT’s first production for 2019 started at the end of January - The Little Lantern was the first ever production created by, what was then called, the ‘Stone Theatre’ and the first every play produced by Juliano Mer Khamis! The Little Lantern by Ghassan Kanafani is a novel aimed at teaching children the virtues of modesty and rapprochement between people. It is a story about following your dreams, having courage and breaking down barriers between the rich and poor. The show opened at The Freedom Theatre in February with a week of back to back performances before heading to Ramallah. It continued with a tour across the West Bank and ended with two performances at the

Palestine International Theater Festival for Children & Youth at Bethlehem, and the Cultural Resistance Theatre Festival in Jenin Refugee Camp. This work was produced on stage for the first time in Classical Arabic, where the play was able to make theatre available to communities that otherwise do not have access to culture, particularly school children from the camps and local areas. London: Jenin re-opened at The Freedom Theatre at the beginning of March; a comedy show by graduates of the TFT’s acting school, Faisal Abu Alhayjaa and Alaa Shehada who spent the first half of 2018 touring in the UK with renowned political comedian Mark Thomas. Following the completion of the tour, they returned to Jenin and spent some months working on a new project, that would shed light on their British experience and provide insight to a Palestinian struggle that goes beyond the occupation. This comedy play won the award for the best script, and the best directing in the Palestinian National Theatre Festival. This popular comedy sketch was also invited to take part in the prestigious Sundance theatre lab in the USA, a once in lifetime opportunity for our talented artists. This production was developed by female director from the Syrian Arab Golan, and devised by TFT professional actors based on their experiences in London to highlight the challenges in the UK faced by Palestinians in light of immigration. This comical show subtly promoted elements of the individual activism through the dialogue and engagement with the audience in order to raise awareness of how these experiences can relate to the wider audience and society, which was presented to communities that otherwise does not have access to culture, particularly university students.



and residents from the camps and local areas, beside two universities were also included, aiming to reach students in two urban areas where TFT has not had much previous exposure.

Louse and Lice was produced and performed just in time for the end of Ramadan Eid celebrations. This play highlighted the importance for cleanliness of the body, especially the hair, the importance of caring for children with their personal hygiene; as well as the extent of damage of bacteria and dirt which cause disease. It was presented in both the West Bank and inside 48 to large audiences across both sides of the wall. The importance of the work comes as a simulation of a universal understanding of hygiene that is of utmost importance; the tour aimed to reach new target groups by performing a play that does not require advanced technical or special conditions. The play made the theatre accessible to communities that otherwise have no access to culture

TFT's final production of the year Fairuz's Secret opened in the Spring. It all started in Norway by Mélanie Dahl with the puppet doll of Nidal al-Khatib. Directed by our very own Ahmed Tobasi, the puppet play was created for the children of Palestine in collaboration with actress Fida Zidane. The production involved Palestinian actors from both within the West Bank and inside 48 and at the end of October, we took the production to Nazareth ... In December, The Freedom Theatre was proud to represent Palestine at the 34th Neapolis International Festival for Kids' Theatre in Tunisia with Fairuz's Secret. We are pleased that after our very first visit in December 2018, North Africa is becoming a recurrent experience for TFT. This is an important play for children in Palestine, where the kids are introduced to a topic from two different but correct points of view, and here the dialectic takes place without taking a specific position.





In addition to the new productions of The Freedom Theatre, TFT continued to present a portion of its previous shows and productions throughout 2019:

- **US too ... Women of Palestine**, directed by Zoe Delemere Lafferty and Ahmed Tobasi, which reflected the story of the Palestinian women, demanding an equal standing between women and men, especially in relation to the decision-making in Palestine. US too is an urgent protest play performed by young women across Palestine, demanding an equal future. In the play, women from across Palestine take refuge in a holy place asking God and the citizens of the city to grant them asylum. They are running not from war, or famine or occupation but from men. Inspired by the Aeschylus play "The Suppliant Women", the production is a juxtaposition of the original text, as well as powerful personal stories of harassment, the fights for education, the choice in marriage, and dreams of determining their own futures.

- **Return to Palestine**, directed by Micaela Miranda is still exceptionally present in various forums in West Bank, after it the prize for the best integrated show in the festival Palestine National Theatre festival in 2018.

- **And Here I Am**, a joint production with Developing Artists in the UK, directed by Zoe Delemere Lafferty, was performed in different stages within the Qabas Cultural Festival, and the Cultural Resistance Theatre Festival in April. And Here I Am won the Best Monodrama Show at the International Theatre Festival at Sharm El Sheikh, and participated in the International Festival of Independent Performing Arts Crossings in Maribor, Slovenia concluding in France with ATLJ, where TFT was invited to France for a performance in Seine-Saint-Denis in November. Our French friends made sure that this was a memorable and productive trip with many ongoing and new projects and collaborations discussed. At the same time, it was a great opportunity to foster old relationships, follow-up about past, ongoing and future activities.

### **Comedy Club**

The Freedom Theatre believes that comedy can create a safe space for expression and free thinking; our main goal was to create an artistic and social movement that supports constructive criticism as a tool for change - If you can laugh about it, then you can change it!

In January, we launched our new Comedy Club, a long envisioned project by Faisal Abualheja after his and Alaa Shehada's tour with renowned British comedian Mark Thomas in the UK during 2018. Its first event was a sold-out stand up comedy show with both established comedians and newcomers from the West Bank and inside 48, providing the audience with an unforgettable hilarious experience. The Comedy Club follows the success of a previous stand up comedy show in November organised and prepared by Faisal with two comedians from Jenin concluding their tour through the West Bank.





## MULTIMEDIA

By empowering individuals from Jenin refugee camp, and wider Palestine, to recognize their own potential to tell their story through the creative activities, and by continuing to develop independent and sustainable spaces where young, aspiring artists can come together to explore their creativity, express themselves and perform, The Freedom Theatre confirms its commitment to arts as a crucial corner stone to the ideals of an open and free society. Through its expansion, The Freedom Theatre aims to further enrich cultural life of the region and continue playing an active role in rebuilding the fragmented foundations of Palestinian culture. Although the themes span a wide field, a common denominator for The Freedom Theatre's activities, productions and materials is their focus on critical thinking and pluralism. Participants are exposed to a diversity of voices and opinions, and are encouraged to reflect, discuss and challenge present realities.

We maintain our increased focus on working with women by developing projects that aim to increase the presence of women in the theatre and to create a safe space for their training, expression and exposure. Understanding



the importance of working with women in the community as they are an integral part of the society and therefore any social change must include their inclusion. The projects aim to help women understand and verbalise their situation and their rights within it; not only is this a goal in itself, but through performance this becomes a form of advocacy, and pushes the community to understand some of their internal priorities.

### Photography

The Multimedia department is one of the supporting facets of the theatre program; it documents and provides the creative publicity materials and resources for TFT from the first stage of production meetings to rehearsals and performances producing the visual identity of the artistic work and TFT in general. All work at TFT this year has been filmed, documented and relied on in the dissemination of news and promotion through social networks and the official The Freedom Theatre website.

Multimedia ran 4 photography workshops for adults, children and students, which resulted in a photo exhibition at Birzeit university. Multimedia coordinator Mohammed Mouwia gave a lecture on the concept of the image and its importance to multimedia to students at the Arab-American University in Zebabdeh. Mohammed focused on the conceptual term of a documentary image that is based on events and stories that can be used for reporting and journalism.

### Cine-Club

In 2016 Jenin lost its only cinema when Cinema Jenin was demolished, since then TFT have been doing our bit to keep the culture of cinema alive in our community by offering film screenings and discussions for children, youth and adults from Jenin camp and the wider Jenin area. TFT have been doing our bit to keep the culture of cinema alive in our community by offering these events and discussions for children, youth and adults from Jenin camp and the wider Jenin area; 16 films were screened in cooperation with the Film-Lab Palestine, Odeh Film, Institut Français, and Dar Al-Kalima.





## CHILD & YOUTH

### The Winter Camp

We held a winter camp at the start of 2019 targeting children between 7-13, with activities of drama, photography, drawing, free games and film screenings, whilst providing safe spaces for children during the winter vacation. 25 children attended the workshops over a 10-day period.

### The Summer Camp

The annual three-week summer camp was held for over 54 children in July. Our summer camp provided all the children with the opportunity to learn, explore and create. Over the fortnight the children enjoyed a wide range of artistic activities, including education workshops through theatre games, photography, filmmaking through mobile phones, drawing and doll making, dance (hip-hop and dabke) as well as singing, music and circus.

### Theatre Clubs

The theatre clubs are a way for The Freedom Theatre to expand our reach providing the space for talented youth to explore their passion for theatre and deepen their understanding of the concept of cultural resistance. Through the theatre clubs, we also engage young artists as facilitators and offer them opportunities of capacity-building through training by specialists in drama and theatre, where the theatrical games for kids workshops presented twice a week at The Freedom Theatre (32 meetings

between February to December), for a total of 30 children from Jenin, where the main result for this workshop was the theatre presentation for kids The owner of the bag.

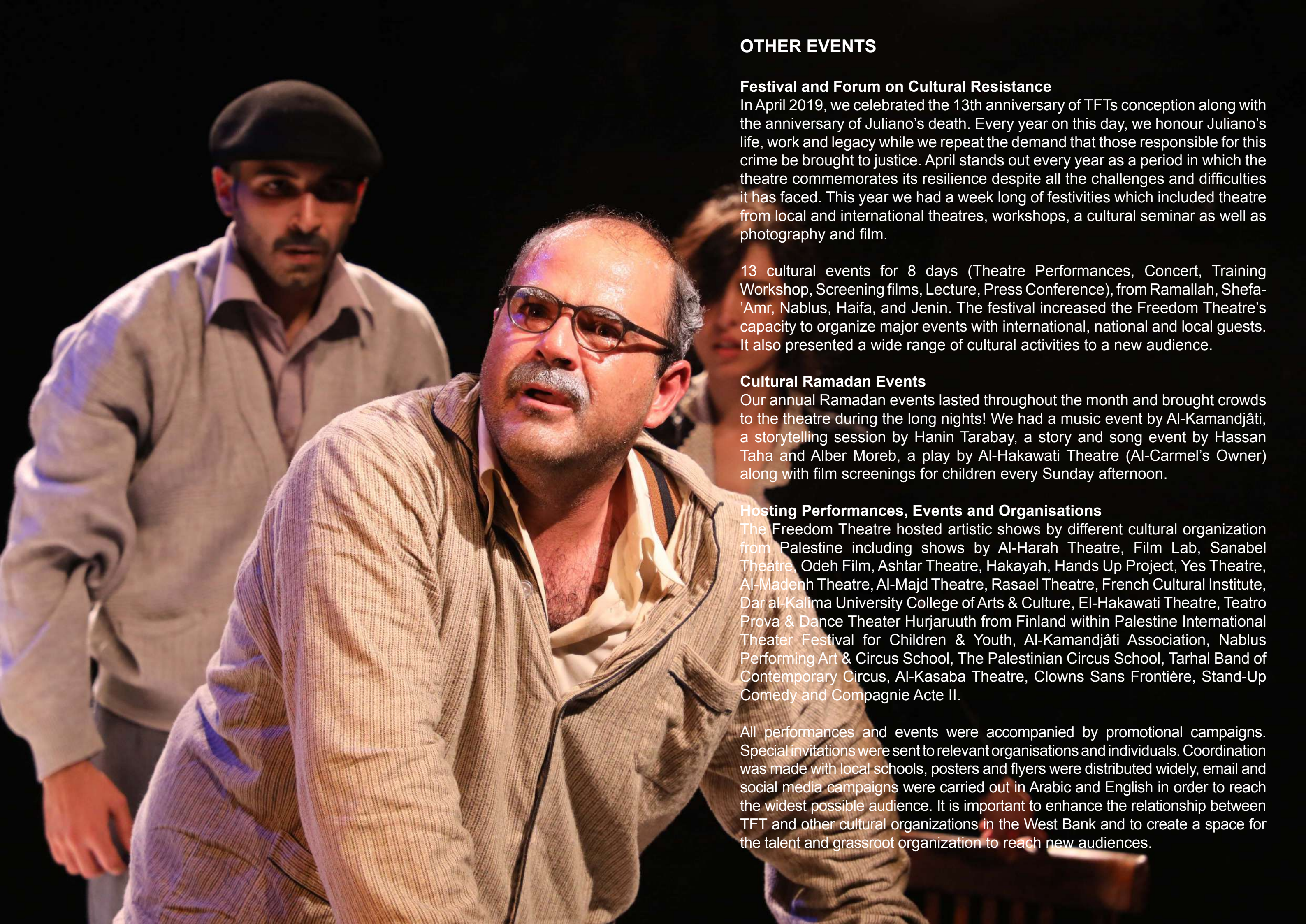
City of the Moon, a children's presentation born from the theatre clubs led by Ranin Odeh was developed at the end of 2019. The presents a group of children who leave behind their daily reality marked by occupation, pain, sorrows and violence and dive into a world created through the power of their own imagination: A world where they find the City of the Moon, a magical space full of adventures, challenges and learning. This play is eagerly awaited to hit the stage in January 2020.

### Outreach

As part of the child and youth programme, TFT participated in the UNRWA Summer Camps "My Right is my Strength". Over the summer, the Freedom Theatre collaborated with UNRWA to bring theatre workshops to children's summer camps in the northern West Bank. The theatre's professional actors engaged youth in discussions and drama relating to the impact of social media on their lives.

In another related topic, within the project for "Enhancing Support for Children in Jericho", in cooperation with Kokkyo naki Kodomotachi (KnK), and funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, TFT implemented extracurricular activities in schools and the Kids centre, with teachers, activists and staff/volunteers.





## OTHER EVENTS

### **Festival and Forum on Cultural Resistance**

In April 2019, we celebrated the 13th anniversary of TFTs conception along with the anniversary of Juliano's death. Every year on this day, we honour Juliano's life, work and legacy while we repeat the demand that those responsible for this crime be brought to justice. April stands out every year as a period in which the theatre commemorates its resilience despite all the challenges and difficulties it has faced. This year we had a week long of festivities which included theatre from local and international theatres, workshops, a cultural seminar as well as photography and film.

13 cultural events for 8 days (Theatre Performances, Concert, Training Workshop, Screening films, Lecture, Press Conference), from Ramallah, Shefa-'Amr, Nablus, Haifa, and Jenin. The festival increased the Freedom Theatre's capacity to organize major events with international, national and local guests. It also presented a wide range of cultural activities to a new audience.

### **Cultural Ramadan Events**

Our annual Ramadan events lasted throughout the month and brought crowds to the theatre during the long nights! We had a music event by Al-Kamandjâti, a storytelling session by Hanin Tarabay, a story and song event by Hassan Taha and Alber Moreb, a play by Al-Hakawati Theatre (Al-Carmel's Owner) along with film screenings for children every Sunday afternoon.

### **Hosting Performances, Events and Organisations**

The Freedom Theatre hosted artistic shows by different cultural organization from Palestine including shows by Al-Harah Theatre, Film Lab, Sanabel Theatre, Odeh Film, Ashtar Theatre, Hakayah, Hands Up Project, Yes Theatre, Al-Madenh Theatre, Al-Majd Theatre, Rasael Theatre, French Cultural Institute, Dar al-Kalima University College of Arts & Culture, El-Hakawati Theatre, Teatro Prova & Dance Theater Hurjaruuth from Finland within Palestine International Theater Festival for Children & Youth, Al-Kamandjâti Association, Nablus Performing Art & Circus School, The Palestinian Circus School, Tarhal Band of Contemporary Circus, Al-Kasaba Theatre, Clowns Sans Frontière, Stand-Up Comedy and Compagnie Acte II.

All performances and events were accompanied by promotional campaigns. Special invitations were sent to relevant organisations and individuals. Coordination was made with local schools, posters and flyers were distributed widely, email and social media campaigns were carried out in Arabic and English in order to reach the widest possible audience. It is important to enhance the relationship between TFT and other cultural organizations in the West Bank and to create a space for the talent and grassroot organization to reach new audiences.



### Activities in Palestinian geographical areas:

Aida Camp, Balata Camp, Beit Jann, Bethlehem, Birzeit University, Birzeit, Far'a Camp, Hebron, Jaffa, Jenin Refugee Camp, Jenin, Jericho, Jerusalem, Jifna, Jordan Valley, Nablus, Nazareth, Qalqilya, Ramallah, Sulam, The South Hebron Hills, Tubas, Tulkarem, Ya'bad.

### Hosting visitors

Over 1,500 people, from both Palestine and abroad, visited the theatre to learn more about our programmes and activities.

### Social Media

The Freedom Theatre's online visibility expanded through our intentional efforts to increase our presence in Arabic social media channels. At the end of the year, there were over 28,409 likes on the Arabic and English Facebook pages.

- TFT Facebook (English), Likes: 13,781
- TFT Facebook (Arabic), Likes: 14,628
- Freedom Bus Facebook (English), Likes: 4,086
- Twitter, English, Followers: 2,316
- Twitter, Arabic, Followers: 64
- Instagram (English), Followers: 2,199
- Instagram (Arabic), Followers: 1,472
- Websites (2019), users: 40,00 and sessions: 50,000
- Email lists: 20,000

### Media coverage

The Freedom Theatre was featured in over 20 media in-outlets, beside Palestine, in countries such as Egypt, Slovenia, Tunisia, France, Sweden, Ireland, Portugal, UK and USA.

### 2019 in Numbers

Audience members in Palestine 13,600  
Audience members outside Palestine 5,000  
Participants in trainings and workshops in Palestine 40  
Visitors to The Freedom Theatre 1,500  
Social media outreach 1 million  
Performances in Palestine 99  
Performances outside Palestine 8  
Countries performed and presented in 4

### Palestinian Performing Arts Network (PPAN)

The Freedom Theatre is a founding and current member of the Palestinian Performing Arts Network (PPAN), which connects performing arts organisations in a network that aims to "contribute towards the development of a democratic and pluralistic society that respects human rights and enhances Palestinian national identity". By acting as a collective voice towards decision-makers, the network also advocates for arts





and culture to be at the forefront of national priorities. PPAN consists of; Al-Harah Theatre, Al-Kamandjâti Association, ASHTAR for Theatre Productions and Training, El-Funoun Palestinian Popular Dance Troupe, Magnificat Institute, Naqsh popular art troupe, Palestinian Institute for Cultural Development - NAWA, Popular Art Centre, The Edward Said National Conservatory of Music, The Palestinian Circus School, The Popular Theatre Society for Performing Arts and Training, Theatre Day Productions, Wishah Popular Dance troupe, Yes Theatre.

### **Main Partners in Palestine 2019**

A.M. Qattan Foundation  
Al-Awda Center for Childhood and the Youth  
Al-Haneen Theatre  
Al-Huda School  
Al-Kasaba Theatre & Cinematheque  
Al-Madina Theatre  
Al-Majd Theatre  
Al-Rowwad Cultural and Arts Society  
Arts Hub  
Askadar Center for Culture and Arts  
Dar al-Kalima University College of Arts & Culture  
Dar Qandeel  
Evangelical Lutheran School of Hope  
Filmlab Palestine  
General Union of Palestinian Women  
Hands Up Project  
Jericho Municipal Theater  
Jifna Youth Club  
Khalil Sakakini Cultural Center  
KnK Japan in Palestine (Children without Borders) - Project of Enhancing Support for Children in Jericho  
Korea Jenin Youth Center  
Latin Monastery  
Matadero Madrid  
Mustakbalna; Interpeace's programme in Palestine  
Nablus Municipality Cultural Center  
Nablus Performing Art & Circus School (Assirk Assaghir)  
National Coalition for Implementing UNSCR 1325 In Palestine  
Odeh Films  
Palestine International Theater Festival for Children & Youth  
Palestine National Theatre Festival  
Palestine Stories Festival  
Palestine Technical University (Kadoorie)  
Popular Committee for Refugee Services in Al Fara'a Camp  
Popular Committee for Refugee Services in Jenin Camp  
Prova Theater (Italia)  
Flora & Fauna for Dance Theatre Hurjaruuth (Finland)

Rasael Theatre  
Saraya Theatre  
Sanabel Theater  
Sharek Youth Forum  
Students Union Council at Khadouri University  
Sulam Elementary School  
Tamer Institute for Community Education  
Terhal Band for the Contemporary Circus  
The Education District in Qalqilya  
The French Institute  
The Palestinian National Theatre (Al-Hakawati)  
The Paradise Kindergarten  
The Populace Center in Beit Jann  
The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in the occupied Palestinian territory (OHCHR oPt) - UN Human Rights in Palestine  
The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA)  
The United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture  
Tulkarm Cultural Center  
Union of Palestinian Women's Committees  
Watar Conservatorium  
Women Activities Centre  
Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling (WCLAC)  
Ya'bad Cultural Center  
Ya'bad Municipality  
Yafa Cultural Center

### **Main International Partners**

Compagnie FOR - France  
Developing Artist, UK  
IFOperator; Distribution Agency of Gestural Theater and Objects – Belgium  
Interpeace, Switzerland  
KAK - Koekelbergse Alliantie van Knutselaars – Belgium  
Seine-Saint-Denis Department Council – France  
Sharm El-Sheikh International Theatre Festival for Youth – Egypt  
The International Festival of Independent Performing Arts Crossings - Maribor, Slovenia  
The Neapolis International Festival for Kids Theatre - Nabeul, Tunisia

### **The Freedom Theatre Organization**

The Freedom Theatre is a community-based theatre and cultural center in Jenin refugee camp, occupied Palestine. Convinced that the arts have a crucial role to play in building a free and healthy society, The Freedom Theatre is developing a vibrant and creative artistic community. The Freedom Theatre offers a unique program of activities in performing arts and multimedia, including acting, psychodrama, playback theatre, stage design, filmmaking, photography and creative writing, beside activism activities.



YES, The Freedom Theatre's focus is on theatre and visual arts, but we don't take a neutral position on the issue of Israeli apartheid, colonization, occupation and military rule. Nor do we turn a blind eye to the violation of human rights in general or the rights of women and children in particular ... For the oppressed, the arts have and will always be a powerful tool against the oppressors. For the Palestinian people, artistic expression is an integrated part of their struggle for justice, equality and freedom.

### **Public domain**

Most of the documentation of TFT is considered to lie within the public domain and may be retrieved by contacting the general director with a letter stating the intention along with contact information.

### **Spaces**

TFT operates mainly from its theatre, workshop and office complex in Jenin refugee camp and its rehearsal hall in Jenin town. The facilities include:

- A 180-seat theatre and cinema hall, changing rooms, storage and technical workshop as well as a rehearsal space. Fully accessible by wheelchair.
- A set and general storage space.
- An office with six rooms and a common meeting space.
- A meeting/lunch room with merchandise display corner and a kitchen.
- A rehearsal hall, library, costume storage and changing rooms, as well as rest and kitchen areas with full wheelchair access.
- A child activity space with two playrooms with full wheelchair access.
- A cinema room with partial wheelchair access.

### **The Freedom Theatre Foundation**

In addition to being registered as a non-governmental organisation under the Palestinian Authority, The Freedom Theatre is also registered as a foundation in Sweden.

In 2006, The Freedom Theatre was registered as a Swedish Foundation because at that time it was not possible to register new Palestinian organisations. In 2007, when it became possible to register new organisations, The Freedom Theatre registered with the Palestinian Ministry of Interior as a non-profit association. At that time the Swedish Foundation handed over its assets to the Palestinian association after an agreement had been set up between the two organisations. Until today the Swedish Foundation continues to operate and provide a legal platform for TFT to operate on, under the regulation of a highly respected international board.

### **Membership**

TFT is a membership organization. Members include current and former students, friends and partners as well as other residents of the Jenin area. TFT also has international members. Anyone above the age of 18 who has a basic understanding of TFT can become a member, but in order to vote at the general assembly or be elected to the Board, members must have a Palestinian ID. Membership is open all year except one month before the general assembly. In addition to the general assembly, members are invited to at least one member meeting every year. Members are also encouraged to volunteer in TFT, and they are updated on the operations







through a regular digest, as well as frequent updates on social media. TFT aims for the members to be actively engaged and is committed to taking into consideration the members' suggestions and ideas.

The Freedom Theatre Association had 31 members during 2019. The members were encouraged to engage in The Freedom Theatre's activities as participants, spectators and volunteers, and, in addition to the General Assembly, one meeting was arranged for members.

#### **General Assembly Members:**

Abdulrahman Zubeidi, Ahmed Tobasi, Alaa Shehadeh, Alaa' Abu Al-Haija, Amir Abu Al-Rob, Bilal Al-Sadi, Diana Rahal, Fadi Abu Salah, Faisal Abu Al-Haija, Ghassan Tirawi, Ibrahim Abu Khalifa, Ibrahim Ramdan, Imad Abu Hantash, Jamal Zubeidi, Loai Balawi, Loai Ighbaria, Mohammed Ruzzi, Mohammed Yousef, Motaz Mallhis, Naim Al-Sadi, Omar Kabeya, Rami Al-Norsi, Ranin Odeh, Saber Abu Ishren, Samah Mahmoud, Shireen Jarrar, Sofian Staiti, Suhail Naffa, Suzan Al-Haj Saleh, Yazid Muawiyah, Yousef Fayed

#### **The Board of Directors**

The Freedom Theatre Board of Directors is elected annually in a General Assembly that takes place each May. The board of directors have 9 members and must elect a chairperson, vice-chairperson, secretary and treasurer according to the bylaws of The Freedom Theatre. The board members are not paid. They meet at least once every three months and are responsible for implementing the annual plan as approved by the general assembly within the framework of TFT's bylaws.

*BOARD OF DIRECTORS (elected in May, 26, 2018)*

- Bilal Saadi, Chairperson
- Imad Abu-Hantash, Vice chairperson
- Ibrahim Ramadan, Treasurer
- Mohammad Ruzzi, Secretary
- Shireen Jarrar, Secretary of the artistic committee
- Ibrahim Abu Khalifa "passed away on November 18, 2019"
- Abdulrahman Zubeidi
- Ghassan Tirawi
- Suhail Naffa

#### **General Director**

The General Director is employed by the Board and is responsible for overseeing the annual plan and that appropriate policies and procedures are followed. The general director is also responsible for the flow of information between the members, the board of trustees, the staff and for compiling quarterly reports to the board, and representing The Freedom Theatre.

The General Director manages the ongoing operations of the organization concerning its policies and process manuals, and is responsible for following the program coordinators for implementing and overseeing the activities that fall under their particular programme as well as presenting future plans for their programmes, to ensure that programme targets are met.



## Staff

Mustafa Sheta, General Director  
Nabeel Al-Raee, Artistic Director  
Mohammed Moawia, Multimedia Coordinator  
Rania Wasfi, HR and Theatre Coordinator  
Isra Mustafa, Accountant  
Baraa Sharqawi, Photography Instructor  
Ahmed Matahen, Stage Designer and Theatre Technician  
Sami Al-Sadi, Sound Engineer and Theatre Technician  
Miriya Abu Ateyah, Housekeeper

## Volunteers

Alessandra Guarino - Anne-Marion Michels - Asma Patel - Bernadette De Heer  
Catherine Mooney - Elise Hagan - Fran Ellis - Hannah Phillips - Irem Aydemir  
Jane King - Krysztina Winkel - Liz Pagett - Natasa Zavolovsek - Patricia Echeverria  
Ronny Hardiz - Shaden Abusaleh - Susanne Sklar - Tara Louise  
Theresa Mockel - Tiffany Dahhan - Willaim Leighton

## Friends Associations

The Friends of The Freedom Theatre are associations formed of people who believe in the work of The Freedom Theatre. The support of these groups has from the start been essential to the continuation and growth of TFT. The current groups are located in USA, Portugal, Sweden, UK, France and recently in Ireland

- Associacao dos Amigos do teatro da Liberdade da Palestina.
- Frihetsteaterns Vänförening, Malmö, Göteborg and Stockholm, Sweden.
- Les Amis du Théâtre de la Liberté de Jénine, France.
- The Friends of The Jenin Freedom Theatre, United States.
- UK Friends of The Freedom Theatre, United Kingdom.

As every year, The Freedom Theatre's Friends Associations have made invaluable contributions to our work, through networking, fundraising and representation all over the world.

More information about TFT's structure can be found on the website

## Financial and human resource procedures

The Freedom Theatre's financial and HR work is regulated by a set of manuals and policies that describe the correct procedures of implementation. TFT maintains a separation between its petty cash and accounts. TFT incomes are divided between four main sources:

Financial and human resource procedures

## Our main sources:

- Friends Association initiatives (6%).
- Crowdfunding (14%).
- Sales of artistic products and promotional merchandise (2%).
- Grants from donor agencies (78%)

## Donors and supporters for 2019

- Open Society Foundation (OSF) 11%
- Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) 27%
- Middle East Children's Alliance (MECA) 28%
- Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA) 2%
- Tides 10%



Friends Associations in  
USA, UK, France,  
Sweden & Portugal

We are equally grateful to the many individuals all over the world, who supported the theatre through private donations. Each and every one of them are regarded as members of the extended family of The Freedom Theatre.

## Financial control and transparency

The Freedom Theatre accounts are audited annually by internationally accredited auditing firms, where they are asked more than just reviewing The Freedom Theatre in maintaining financial records in accordance with international standards, but also ensuring that The Freedom Theatre works in line with internal regulations that include reviewing the minutes of TFT Board, and the number of meetings, as well as the records of membership lists in the General Assembly, as well as access to public accounts, and The Freedom Theatre is requesting a review of a set of specific projects by an external auditor. The financial year for The Freedom Theatre is from January 1 to December 31. The accounts are independently audited by an external audit firm.



Certified Accountants & Consultants

محاسبون قانونيون ومستشارون

### Independent Auditor's Report

#### **To General Assembly of the Freedom Theatre –TFT**

#### **Jenin – Palestine**

#### **Opinion**

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of The Freedom Theatre (TFT), which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2019, the statement of activities and changes in net assets and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of TFT as at December 31, 2019, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards.

#### **Basis for opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the TFT in accordance with International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (IESBA), and we have fulfilled out the ethical responsibilities in accordance with the IESBA code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### **Responsibilities of management and the board of directors for the financial statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reportings standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing TFT's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the TFT or cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

The board of directors is responsible for overseeing TFT's financial reporting process.

#### **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with as will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or taken together, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken based on these financial statements.

Certified Accountants & Consultants

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As part of an audit in accordance with is as, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit, we also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of TFT's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates, if any, and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on TFT's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause to cease TFT to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with TFT's Board of Directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

June 7,2020

Ramallah- Palestine

**Yousef Mohammad Hammodeh**



**License NO. 103/98**





## SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES 2020

### January

TFT Performing Arts School  
Stand Up Comedy Show  
TFT Winter Camp  
Moon City Rehearsals and Performances  
Photography Course  
Cine Club: Screening Film  
TFT Film (new production)

### February

TFT Performing Arts School  
Metro Gaza Rehearsals  
Stand Up Comedy Workshops  
Moon City Performances  
Kids Theatre Club  
Photography Course  
Cine Club: Screening Film  
Photo Course for kids  
Drawing Workshop (Painting)  
Photoshop Course (PS)  
TFT Film (new production)

### March

TFT Performing Arts School  
Metro Gaza Rehearsals  
Stand Up Comedy Shows  
Kids Theatre Club  
Cine Workshop  
Cine Club: Screening Film  
Photo Course for kids  
Drawing Workshop (Painting)  
TFT Film (new production)

### April

TFT Theatre Festival  
TFT Performing Arts School Presentation  
Metro Gaza Performances  
Stand Up Comedy Workshops  
Theatre Club Presentation  
TFT Photo Competition  
Cine Club: Screening Film  
Cine Workshop  
Activism Freedom Bus







### **May**

Cultural Ramadan Event  
Kids Film Shows  
TFT Photo Competition  
Cine Club: Screening Film

### **June**

Artistic Director Announcement  
TFT Performing Arts School (Online)  
We Got You – New Artistic Project for TFT graduated Students  
Stand Up Comedy Workshops  
Summer Camp  
Outreach: SI Project (Female Theatre Club)  
TFT Photo Competition  
Creative Writing Workshop

### **July**

Street Theatre Rehearsals  
Stand Up Comedy Shows  
Kids Theatre Club  
Outreach: SI Project (Female Theatre Club)  
Photography Course  
Creative Writing Workshop  
Kids Photography Class

### **August**

Street Theatre Performances  
We Got You Research & Reviews  
Stand Up Comedy Workshops  
Kids Theatre Club  
Outreach: SI Project (Female Theatre Club)  
Photography Course  
Voices Magazine Design and Preparation

### **September**

Little Red Riding Hood Rehearsals  
Stand Up Comedy Shows  
Kids Theatre Club  
Outreach: SI Project (Female Theatre Club)  
Filmmaking Workshop  
Voices Magazine Printing  
Cine Club: Screening Film



### October

Little Red Riding Hood Performances  
We Got You Rehearsals & Performances  
Stand Up Comedy Workshops  
Kids Theatre Club  
Outreach: SI Project (Female Theatre Club)  
TFT Photo Competition  
Cine Club: Screening Film

### November

TFT Performing Arts School  
Community Theatre Rehearsals  
Stand Up Comedy Shows  
Kids Theatre Club: Presentation  
Female Theatre Club: Presentation  
Photoshop Course (PS)  
Cine Club: Screening Film

### December

Metro Gaza Rehearsals  
Community Theatre Performances  
Stand Up Comedy Workshops Shows  
(Presentation)  
Kids for Kids play: Rehearsals  
TFT Photo Competition: Result  
Advance Photography Course  
Cine Club: Screening Film  
TFT Annual Newspaper (preparation and issued)





**Farewell 2019**



**Ibrahim Abu Khalifa**  
**The Freedom Theatre Board of Directors Member**

*there are no goodbyes for us. wherever you are you will always be in our heart*

## **We need you!**

The Freedom Theatre is a member organisation and we are nothing without our members. As a member, we kindly ask you to:

- Participate in our performances, activities and events, and make suggestions for future activities.
- Share information about our performances, activities and events, on social media and elsewhere, to spread the work of The Freedom Theatre and cultural resistance to more people.
- Join us as a volunteer in our after-school activities, events and community initiatives, reinforcing the spirit of volunteerism in our community.

If you live outside Palestine, you can support us by:

- Sharing information about The Freedom Theatre on social media and elsewhere
- Joining one of our current Friends associations or starting a new one.
- Applying for a volunteer position at The Freedom Theatre.
- Endorsing the BDS movement.
- Making a monthly or annual donation to our work.



[www.thefreedomtheatre.org](http://www.thefreedomtheatre.org)

