



ASHTAR THEATRE

PROJECTS, ACHIEVEMENTS & HIGHLIGHTS (APRIL-DEC 2025)

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THANK YOU

It is almost surreal to look back and trace everything we have done while living inside a landscape of collapse, grief, and relentless pressure. And yet, when we do look back, what we see is not only the devastation around us, but the insistence on life that you help us maintain. Your solidarity has enabled ASHTAR to keep breathing, to keep teaching, to keep accompanying our communities, and to keep insisting that our cultural and emotional worlds are worth protecting.

Your contributions do more than fund programmes; they safeguard the emotional, cultural, and imaginative life of Palestinian people. You make it possible for children to rediscover their voices, for young artists to take their first steps, for communities to heal, and for our work to continue with dignity and clarity.

Thank you for walking with us through this storm, for choosing to stand with Palestinian children, artists, and storytellers, and for believing in theatre not just as art, but as an act of resistance, healing, and continuity.



Touring and Performances

The Gaza Monologues, Were presented more than 300 times during this year in various countries and communities, reaching to more than 4000 people around the world.

Iman Aoun directed a performance with acclaimed artists in London in May, and in Prizren with artists from Kosovo and Albania for the closure of Prizren Fest in Kosovo in July.

The Gaza Monologues were also performed at the Al-Daraj Festival in Beit Jala in collaboration with PowerGroup.

In November Iman participate in the presentation of The Gaza Monologues in Ireland directed by Nasser Omar in West Cork.

12,216 Audience reached

Oranges and Stones toured Portugal and Kosovo presenting four performances.

Ashtar Muallem's circus-theater show "**Awalem**" was performed in Trondheim in collaboration with Propellen -Teater.



The Gaza Monologue UK Team At The Palestine House - London



Seenaryo CT Training – Amman

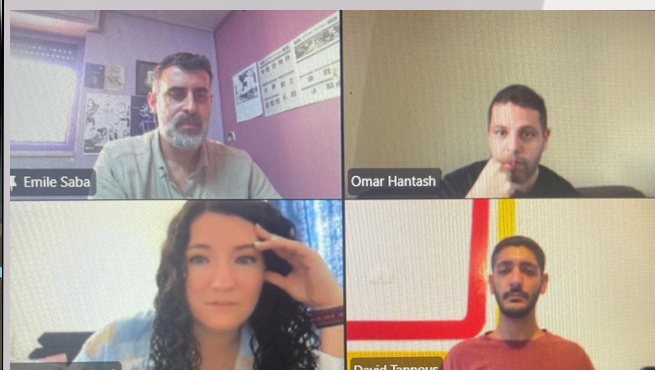
ASHTAR Theatre joined forces with Seenaryo for an intensive training on co-creation and creative facilitation, strengthening the team’s inclusive and child-centered theatre methods.

Four Trainers from ASHTAR, David Tannous, Nada Khawaja, and Hadil Khaled, supervised by Emile Saba, joined a 3-day intensive training program where they learned and exchanged knowledge and skills on facilitating and creating children theater shows.



Reading Of A New Play

Emile Saba and playwright Omar Hantash conducted the first reading of a new play currently in development, with a group of actors from Ashtar and Kuwait. The script is now being further developed.



“The Personal is Political” – Theatre Workshop in Norway

Artistic Director Emile Saba led a dynamic three-day workshop in Trondheim, in collaboration with Propellen Teater. Bringing together youth and professionals, the workshop explored political theatre through personal stories and collective creation.

TOT & Curriculum Testing – Birzeit

Ongoing Training of Trainers (TOT) sessions continued at, developing the next generation of trainers and facilitators.



3RD YEAR ACTING STUDENTS PROJECT

ASHTAR Third-year students worked with trainer David Tannous on a new play written by Ali Abu Yasin from Gaza “Son of the See”.



INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS AND TRAINING

397
International
Trainees

Academic Partnership – AP Hogeschool, Antwerp, Belgium.

A new partnership with AP Hogeschool was established this year. Directors Iman Aoun and Emile Saba, participated at the Guestfest, paving the way for a long-term artistic and educational exchange.

In July, they worked with the students on Theatre of the Oppressed and improvisations, culminating in a forum presentation for the university.

Iman and Emile also joined a panel discussion on Trauma, Art, and Society, presenting a short film about ASHTAR and its way in maintaining resilience in Palestine.

In December Emile and David Tanous attended the show case of the students at AP Hogeschool.



Psycho-Social Curriculum Building

The Psychosocial Theatre Training for social workers and psychologists has been launched by Ashtar Theatre, at the invitation of Art Lab - UNESCO Doha and Dreema Foundation, under the patronage of the Qatar Foundation for Social Work.

The program is based on a specialized methodology developed by artists Edward Muallem, Iman Aoun, and Emile Saba, and was delivered over one week by trainers Edward Muallem, Iman Aoun, and Sasha Asbah in Doha for Social and Psychological workers.

The newly developed psychosocial theatre curriculum focuses on strengthening emotional resilience and creative expression through theatre.



Improvisational workshop with Hetpaleis - Antwerp

Emile Saba led a one-day workshop in Hetpaleis Theatre, working with teenagers on improvisation and physical theatre.



Drama For Life

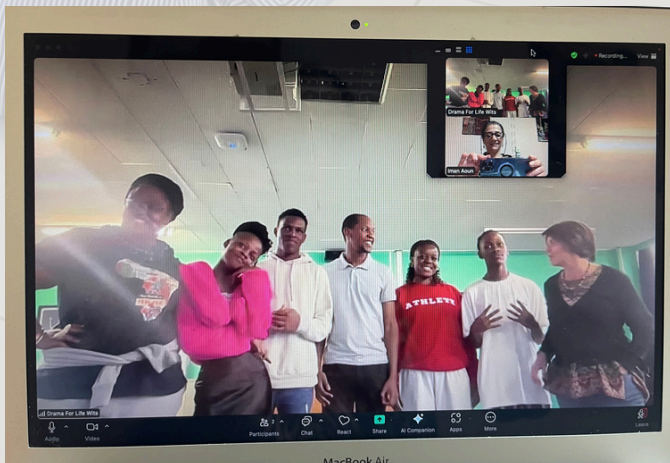
Director Iman Aoun trained students at Witwatersrand University - Johannesburg on The New Gaza Monologues, that were presented at the uni.

ASHTAR Theatre participated in FREEDOM A Radio Play By Outlandish Theatre



Iman Aoun was invited by Outlandish Theatre in Dublin to participate alongside Antigone Theater in Ghent, Belgium, in a new sound performance of a new adaptation of Antigone, called FREEDOM.

The project explores the intersection of art, culture, and global politics, featuring Maud Hendricks, Iman Aoun, Haydar Al Tamimi, and Bernadette O'Reilly.



INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Seenaryo and ASHTAR in Birzeit

In collaboration with The Popular Committee of Birzeit Camp, two plays were produced with the children “A Random Planet” and “The World of Imagination.”

The plays were performed at Ashtar Theatre, for the students’ families.



ACT with Miftah Foundation

ACT (Applied Creative Training)
Storytelling, Identity, and Communication Skills for Advocacy

This workshop offers an intensive program that helps participants strengthen their presence, communicate with clarity and confidence, and navigate psychological and media pressure with ease.

It focuses on how to transform personal experiences into powerful narratives that contribute to supporting the Palestinian cause in both local and international spaces.

The program also aims to develop storytelling skills, build an expressive and intentional voice, and deepen the understanding of the relationship between individual identity and social and political structures.



NABADAT (Pulses)

A series of open workshops for all ages, including: Yoga and Acro-balance with Ashtar Muallem • Acting workshop with Emile Saba, • Storytelling workshop for children with Hadil Khaled • Voice & Body Awareness with Konrad Suder Chatterjee.

ASHTAR also presented a storytelling workshop at the Shams Al-Hurriyah summer camp in Farkha village with Hudhud the storyteller.

“Lipstick” a students’ performance, directed by David Tannous was performed at ASHTAR Theatre.

Junun al-Shama'

Leslie Rudolf, a Swiss - French director, worked with a group of our youth theatre students over a month, and produced a physical show with them. Actors: Jude Obied, Ghassan Mashki, Khaled Ladadweh, Raghad Badawi, participated in this experiment.

Junūn al-Shama' (Wax Delusion) is an experimental theatrical work that rejects linear storytelling in favor of a fragmented, sensory journey through the contemporary Palestinian condition. Blending visual and physical performance, theatre of the absurd, and live music, the production unfolds inside a minimalist black box where bodies, shadows, sound, and light replace conventional narrative.



Institutional Development



Renovation of The Performing Arts Academy in Birzeit continues..

Once completed, the space will offer expanded and fully equipped hub for training, rehearsal, production, and public performances, serving students, emerging artists, and professional practitioners alike.



Special Visits to the Academy

Wessam Sharabati
Null Island
Architect of
The Academy

Her Excellency Anick Vancalster
Belgian Consul

His Excellency Fayez Abu Al Rub
Qatar Ambassador



The Gaza Monologues Writers Preparing for their next project



ASHTAR on International Panels

1) LIFEs 2025 – Jakarta (August 14–17, 2025):

AHSTAR Theatre participated in the “Guest from Across the Sea” discussion program and the Reading The Gaza Monologues. Iman Aoun, alongside writers Heba Daoud and Amjad Abu Yasin, discussed the background of the project, moderated by Gladhys Elliona translator of the monologues in Indonesian.

2) Arts in Conflict – Switzerland:

Aoun also participated in a session of Art in Conflict, a monthly series by the Centre for Art and Peacebuilding (CAP) in collaboration with Zurich University of the Arts, featuring an interview with Toni Shapiro.

3) “Theatre Under Surveillance: Censorship in Contemporary European Theatre” – Greece:

In November 2025, ASHTAR Theatre participated in the international forum “Theatre Under Surveillance: Censorship in Contemporary European Theatre” in Athens, hosted by the B. & M. Theocharakis Foundation for the Fine Arts and Music and curated by Rafika Chawishe. Artistic Director Emile Saba joined theatre makers and scholars from across Europe and the U.S. to discuss censorship and artistic freedom in the arts. A screening of our filmed production Guernica, Gaza: Visions from the Centre of the Earth opened space for powerful conversation about resistance and the role of theatre in moments of crisis.

4) Arts and Culture Against Genocide and Occupation - Spain

ASHTAR Theatre participated in the Arts and Culture Against Genocide and Occupation network meeting in Spain, held in dialogue with cultural actors and institutions, including engagement connected to the Spanish Ministry of Culture. ASHTAR contributed to the closing session the Palestinian Performing Arts Network (PPAN), joining an international conversation on the role of arts and culture in resisting oppression, defending human rights, and mobilising cultural solidarity.

5) ASHTAR Theatre was invited to participate in the 2025 Premis Butaca gala in Catalonia

One of the most significant theatre awards platforms in the region. ASHTAR’s presence formed part of a broader engagement with Catalan cultural institutions, highlighting Palestinian theatre as a space of artistic excellence, resistance, and international dialogue, while opening new pathways for solidarity and long-term collaboration.



**1491
International
Attendees**

**The Role of Theatre in
Times of War**

Iman Aoun talking at
Avignon Festival



**Iman Aoun Won Athena40 Women &
Sustainability Award 2025**



ASHTAR Psycho-Social Program, combining drama and theatre with psychosocial support in schools across the West Bank and Gaza.

ASHTAR trainers: Edward Muallem, Noursan Ziad, David Tannous, Tamer Taffash, and Sasha Asbah led continuous workshops with eight UNRWA schools and six private schools and organizations in the WB reaching 780 students with the program, encouraging their creativity, self-expression, and confidence.

The psychosocial program promotes drama as an educational tool to strengthen students' skills, confidence, and positive character development.

In Gaza six of ASHTAR trainers: Amjad Abu Yasin, Ihab Alayan, Yasmin Jarour, Mohamad Turk, Ahmad Taha and Mahmoud Nijem trained 300 students in the North for a week.

The Gaza group participated with Ali Abu Yasin in a writing workshop, that culminated in writing new Gaza Monologues set that will be shared with the world soon.



**803
Student
Trained**

In House Shows

كانون الأول
في عشتار
December in
ASHTAR 2025

كوكيم / كوكيمون
حفلة موسيقى
8:30 pm **11**

سانتا والقبعة الحمراء
عروض مسرحي لعيد
الميلاد
5:00 pm **14**

بنضات

In December we had a series of diverse theater and music shows on our Stage:

Starting with a live concert with the Palestinian pop singer and artist Kokym, in his tour Kokymon which was a lovely event and a big success.

We also hosted artist Khalid Massou in his Christmas show "Santa and the red hat" by Diar Theater - Bethlehem. A play for children that was lovely and warm.

We had the great pleasure to host Palestinian comedian Maysoon Zayed, in a conversation with Emile Saba, marking 20 years of her first presence on ASHTAR stage.

We closed the year by the play "Darkness" written by Emile Saba and produced by Nakhleh Esheber Organization in Jerusalem.

