

WAR & PEACE الحرب والسلام



Gaza (Palestine) - London (UK) غزة (فلسطين) — لندن (بريطانيا)
Tolstoy's novel as theatre مسرحية عن رواية تولستوي

Launch event at Rich Mix, London on Sunday 14th September 2014 4pm

“But should art have a purpose? Tolstoy stated quite clearly that there is no such thing as Art without purpose, and that Art has the express purpose of helping relations between human beings”

From Narrator's Introduction to Erwin Piscator's stage version of Tolstoy's War and Peace.

The last few weeks have seen hundreds of thousands of people across the world take to the street to protest against the attack on Gaza. But when everyone goes home the siege doesn't end.

Gaza Drama Long Term is a unique ten-year collaboration between Theatre For Everybody (Gaza - Palestine) and Az Theatre (London - UK) whose aim is to develop a long-term, two-way international dialogue breaking the blockade through theatre. We are undermining the siege in any way we can, words have been exchange and work created.

FACEBOOK: AZ Theatre
TWITTER: @AZtheatreorg
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War and Peace

This evening is a launch event for the latest phase of this ten-year partnership focusing on the development of an original Arabic stage adaptation of Tolstoy's War and Peace produced in Gaza eventually to be livestreamed from there. We are including specially written pieces by Caryl Churchill, Hassan Abdulrazzak and Haifa Zangana, responding to recent events in Gaza and Tolstoy's work, and also messages from Theatre for Everybody director, Hossam Madhoun, received over the past weeks.

This work will be read by Philip Arditti, Tony Bell, David Calder, Annabel Capper, Tom Chadwick, Tom Clark, Mark Edel Hunt, Esther Ruth Elliott, Zaydun Khalaf, Joseph Kloska, Elsa Mollien, David Mumeni, Andrea Smith Valls, Jennie Stoller, Anthony Wright-wilson and Harriet Walter.

Projected photographs by Eman Mohammed and Lazar Simeonov will accompany the reading.

Music by Soufian Saihi and Alex Munk.

Exhibition of art for sale from Gaza curated by Arts Canteen and featuring the work of Raed Issa.

Production and Direction: Rory Adamson, Jonathan Chadwick, Esther Ruth Elliott Anna Karabinska-Ganev, Zoe Lafferty, Anna Masing, Nahar Ramadan, Sheelah Sloane

Az Theatre (London - UK)

Az Theatre seeks to connect the transformative power of the actor to the investigative power of theatre through research, development and production projects, based on international and community partnerships. Az Theatre is directed by Jonathan Chadwick. It is a UK-registered Charity NO. 1112922

Theatre For Everybody (Gaza - Palestine)

"We don't lecture people, we just stimulate them, we question them about themselves, about their beliefs, their behaviours. Our theatre is committed to life but not directly political: we don't deliver messages."

Theatre For Everybody started their work in 1987 during the first Intifada. From that day to this they have kept up a continuous theatre presence in Gaza and have performed internationally mainly through a partnership with the Belgian Company Theatre du Libre. They have given thousands of performances in schools and community centres and in public spaces in Gaza of contemporary world classics by Brecht, Ionesco, Beckett and other writers. Theatre for Everybody is directed by Jamal Al Rozzi and Hossam Madhoun.

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Programme:

Part One

(approximately 70 minutes)

Oud by Soufian Saihi

Reading from WAR & PEACE by Leo Tolstoy, translation by Rosemary Edmonds

Message from Hossam Madhoun from Gaza in Palestine 3 July 2014

ON WAR AND PEACE by Haifa Zangana

Message from Hossam Madhoun from Gaza in Palestine. 9th July 2014

SDEROT CINEMA by Hassan Abdulrazzak.

Message from Hossam Madhoun from Gaza in Palestine. 22nd July 2014

Reading from the stage adaptation of WAR & PEACE by Leo Tolstoy Adapted for the stage by Alfred Neumann, Erwin Piscator and Guntram Prufer. English adaptation by Robert David Macdonald.

Message from Hossam Madhoun from Gaza in Palestine. 15 August 2014.

WAR PEACE GAZA by Caryl Churchill

Message from Hossam Madhoun from Gaza in Palestine. 25 August 2014.

Guitar by Alex Munk with Images by Projected photographs by Eman Mohammed and Lazar Simeonov

INTERVAL

(approximately 20 minutes)

Refreshments in Studio 2 plus sale of artwork by Raed Issa

Part Two

(Approximately 40 minutes)

Skype conversation with Jamal Al Rozzi and Hossam Madhoun direct from Gaza

Music by Soufian Saihi and Alex Munk

References in Haifa Zangana's On War and Peace:

1. 'Operation Summer Seeds': (2011) Arming of settler population on the acceptance by the United Nations of Palestine's observer status.
2. 'Operation Summer Rain': (2006) 40,000 sound grenades and live missiles dropped on Gaza during the summer
- 3 'Amud Anan' (2012) In English: 'Pillar of Defense', in Hebrew: 'Pillar of Cloud' see Exodus 14:19-20.
- 4 'Crocodiles' 2000 Ehud Barak at the time Prime Minister of Israel
- 5 'Snakes' 2000 Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, leader of Shas Party
6. 'Wild beasts' 2014 Benjamin Netanyahu at the time Prime Minister of Israel
7. 'Beasts walking on two legs' 1982 Menachem Begin, former Prime Minister of Israel
8. 'would be crushed like grasshoppers, heads smashed against boulders and walls' 1981 Yitzhak Shamir, former Prime Minister of Israel

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Thanks:

War and Peace: Gaza (Palestine) – London (UK) thanks to Street Theatre Workshop Trust and the British Shalom Salaam Trust for their support. This project receives no government money and is supported mainly through individual donations. We consider those individual supporters to be our most precious asset. They are our producers' network and we want to keep them in contact with the ongoing work. All the people attending the launch are directly supporting the work in Gaza through buying a ticket. All the work in the UK is voluntary. Rich Mix have let us use their venue free of charge and we are grateful for all the help the people working at Rich Mix have given us. All the money collected goes directly to Theatre for Everybody in Gaza for the ongoing work of production. The following people have contributed money but may not have been able to make this event:

Susan Rayner
Jenny Hughes
Sos Eltis
Adrian Hornsby
Nicolas Jacobs
Maeve O'Neill
Michaela Crimmin
Julia Rada
Jia Ching Chen
Valentina Zagaria
Frederick Pyne
Miranda Pennell
Rosamund Shelley
Tony Haynes
Susan Kyd
Anthony Meyer
Liane Aukin
Jeremy Seabrook
Bob Goody
Peter Chadwick
Jenny Morgan

There will be other events linking up with Theatre for Everybody's work on War and Peace in Gaza. Please ensure you give us your name and contact details to remain in contact with this project.

We have received messages of support from people world-wide. This is one such message from US/UK playwright Naomi Wallace:

"I send solidarity and hope to all of you for this important project. And I honour your crucial work in this crucial struggle against occupation, lawlessness, racism and ongoing dispossession.

In the words of the great Nelson Mandela:

"We know too well that our freedom is incomplete without the freedom of the Palestinians." "

This event is being filmed by Maysoon Pachachi and Kasim Abid. We will only use this video for promoting the project and communicating with our partners in Gaza. If you do not wish to appear in the video, please tell one of the production team.

Special thanks to Eman Mohammed for photograph and Emma Sangster for graphic image design

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