



# the freedom theatre

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annual report 2014



## 2014 in brief

This year we welcomed a new theatre school class and graduated another. We took our theatre productions on tours across the West Bank and introduced live streams, enabling audiences around the world to watch us perform live. We met our international audiences at speaking tours in the UK and USA, and were invited to give workshops and speak at seminars, conferences and other events in Sweden, Norway and Denmark.

We organized a Freedom Ride to some of the key sites of oppression and resistance in occupied Palestine, where internationals and Palestinians came together on an intense, transformative journey to share experiences, create art and build alliances.

*“I don’t know if there are words to express how I feel or the truth that sings in my heart. [...] The injustices that I have witnessed with my own eyes are at times too catastrophic to explain, but I know I will do my best. My hope is that I will bring this truth home with me and share it everyone and anyone I come into contact with. I will carry this truth with me wherever I go. The stories that I have heard, the people I have met will always be with me. Inshallah.”*

*Meredith Pass, 2014 Freedom Ride participant*

Within our multimedia program, we published two photography exhibitions, one book of novels, one photography book and two issues of our youth magazine. Some of our short films were selected for participation in international film festivals.

During the summer our hearts and minds were focused on Gaza. As bombs were raining down on the besieged population, causing unimaginable horror to countless civilians, we cancelled all our planned activities and engaged in an advocacy campaign, joining a wave of local and international grassroots initiatives. We held street theatre events supporting the BDS (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions) movement, while staff and members wrote many articles, joined vigils and spoke at demonstrations. The Freedom Theatre together with partnering cultural institutions in Palestine made a statement expressing support to our colleagues in Gaza, urging fellow artists worldwide to support the cultural and academic boycott of Israel.

*“As artists, the most powerful weapon we have is our ability to play, dream and imagine. The oppressive forces fear this weapon because as long as we are able to imagine another kind of reality, we have the power to pursue it - a free and just Palestine. Together, we can turn hopelessness into determination and the forces of division into unity. It is within our power.”*

*PAN statement, July 2014*

The autumn was a milestone for The Freedom Theatre as we began working on several theatre productions simultaneously, many of which went on tour to villages, Bedouin encampments, towns and refugee camps throughout the West Bank. These tours shared the aim of countering the very deliberate Israeli strategy of fragmenting and dividing Palestinian society.

None of this would have been possible without the contribution of our friends and partners in Jenin, Palestine and all over the world. To all of those who rallied by our side, donated, fundraised, spread the word, or volunteered their time: **THANK YOU** for being the best members and supporters anyone could wish for!







MAGIC NOTES photo Stefano Gambini

Join us in looking proudly upon some of the main highlights of 2014, and catch a glimpse of what is to come in 2015:

## *theatre*

### *theatre school*

The Freedom Theatre School is a three-year educational programme with a focus on acting and devising. While gaining professional acting skills, our students are encouraged to engage in their communities using drama as a tool for social and political change.

After three years of study, practice and performance, our Theatre School class of 2011 were ready to fly out into the world of performing arts. The four students graduated in April 2014 after completing their final project, *Commands*, four theatre pieces that the students devised, directed, designed and acted in. The graduates belonged to the last group of students of Juliano Mer Khamis, co-founder of The Freedom Theatre, and their graduation ceremony was a tribute to Juliano's work and legacy.

In 2014 a new class of Theatre School students was also formed. In the beginning of the year we welcomed a group of 18 aspiring actors into an eight - week trial period, after which ten students were selected, who later become eight. The three young women and five men come from all over the West Bank.



## productions

This year we produced five new theatre plays and re-staged two of our most successful productions to date. There were also a number of smaller public presentations by our Theatre School students. A total of over 7150 people attended our performances in Jenin and elsewhere in the West Bank. Internationally, we performed *The Island* in Norway and one of our former Theatre School students performed his graduation piece, *Khawla*, in Sweden, while a commedia dell'arte presentation, *Ouda*, was performed in Holland and France as part of a workshop attended by The Freedom Theatre graduates and trainers. These performances abroad reached over 400 people.

**MAGIC NOTES** is a theatre play for children, full of music, dance, humour and colours, which carries profound messages for children and adults alike. It speaks about the need to stand up against injustices, the need to protect children, and about how anyone of us can be the spark that lights the fire. Children by the hundreds filled up the theatre's courtyard every day to see the play. With this kind of crave for theatre, we decided to continue offering performances of Magic Notes for an extra month.

**ENEMY**, the stage debut of our first-year Theatre School students, is a physical theatre production based on the students' personal stories of discovered internal fears intertwined with the legendary Greek myth of Medusa. In this play, Medusa becomes a representation of the plight of the oppressed – but also of the fierce strength inherent in those seemingly powerless.

**ATUWANI** is the second play out of a trilogy about Palestinian popular resistance and follows last year's play *Our Sign is the Stone*. The play documents the life and resistance of people in the village of Atuwani in the South Hebron Hills. The play was developed out of extensive research and interviews with community members, with a special focus on the women who play a central role in Atuwani's struggle. Atuwani was performed in 10 locations across the West Bank.

**ASKADINYA** centers on the topic of gender-based violence. The project was carried out in partnership with UNESCO – Ramallah Office and started off with interactive theatre workshops with women in marginalized communities throughout the West Bank. Based on the women's stories a play was devised and presented to diverse audiences in Jenin, Bethlehem and Ramallah.

*“If this was the students’ first production, I can’t wait to see how good they are by graduation! They all will have bright future ahead of them.”*

*Audience member,  
Enemy*



ENEMY (student production)



*“To me this play is a perfect exercise in cultural resistance. We go to a community that is facing unimaginable pressure and harassment from settlers and army. Yet they have managed to stay together, to fight together. We collect their stories, analyze them, turn them into a play, and then our students tell the stories to other communities around the West Bank.”*

*Faisal Abu Alheja,  
Director of Atuwani*



**ATUWANI** (student production)

**THE ISLAND**, originally produced in 2013, was invited to perform a Vårscenefest, a theatre festival in Norway. The play is inspired by a true story from the days of apartheid in South Africa and reflects the experiences of Palestinian political prisoners in Israeli prisons. The Island also highlights the parallels between apartheid South Africa and Palestine today.

**SUICIDE NOTE FROM PALESTINE**, originally produced in 2013, was also re-staged this year and performed to new audiences in Jenin, Hebron and Birzeit. Suicide Note from Palestine features Amal, a student who has a concerning nightmare: she is Palestine and she has decided to die. Amal's nightmare drafts between confusion, torture and despair – notions set as strange characters that symbolise some of the key players that shape the history, land, politics and occupation of her country. It is a play that raises questions about foreign aid, the role of the UN, Europe and America and consequences of victimization and dependency.

**POWER/POISON**, is a play for youth that focuses on sibling relationships within an uncertain world. It deals with the fear of abandonment that is common among all children – but in Palestine this fear is aggravated by arbitrary arrests and killings that separate children from parents. Poison/Power puts the spotlight on how children and youth copy the reality they see around them, in this case Jenin Refugee Camp, and how the behaviour of adults affect how the young imagine their future. The play was presented to an invited audience in October 2014, to be further developed and performed in January 2015.

## ***hosting performance & events***

The Freedom Theatre hosted performances by among others Al Harah Theatre, The Palestinian Circus School, as well as individual artists. The hosted performances reached 940 children, youth and adults. Throughout the year, we also made our theatre hall and workshop spaces available to other organisations and artists.

*“The whole production was outstanding. The performances, the lighting, the effects, the different levels. The way the frames were moved to create different spaces. Hard to believe they were all students with such controlled movement and strong voices. Brilliant!”*

*Audience member, Enemy*



## ***stage management***

Stage Management operates at the very heart of the working processes of a fully functioning theatre company, and it was on this basis that we began to introduce SM into The Freedom Theatre as a daily practice in 2013. Over the last two years both the SM students and all of The Freedom Theatre's staff have been learning how to manage a system of taking responsibility and caring for the theatre's stage and its many productions.

Initially the stage management course was envisioned as a three-year course; first year Assistant Stage Manager, second year Deputy Stage Manager, third year Stage Manager. However the two current students, both of whom began the program in September 2013, so quickly understood the basic concepts of the job, took on the spirit of the process with such ease, that we were soon able to integrate them into many of The Freedom Theatre's projects in positions of responsibility above those normally expected from an ASM, for example SM on the book, Tour or even Production Manager.

Now, a little less than 18 months later, both students have reached the level of Stage Manager, hoping to graduate in the coming few months.

*“If one is foolhardy enough, one can make many definitive statements about stage management. One of mine would be that SM is a central communicating system, like the processor in a computer, receiving and immediately passing on the information. Another would be that you must turn up on time! No serious work is going to happen until everyone is here.”*

*Alan Wright, Production Manager and Supervisor of the Stage Management program at The Freedom Theatre*

*“I used to be able to cry but now I am beyond tears  
All the water in my body has dried*

*I have lost interest in other people  
I can't make decisions  
I can't eat*

*I can't sleep  
I can't think  
I can't overcome my loneliness,  
my fear, my disgust*

*I am fat  
I cannot write  
I cannot love*

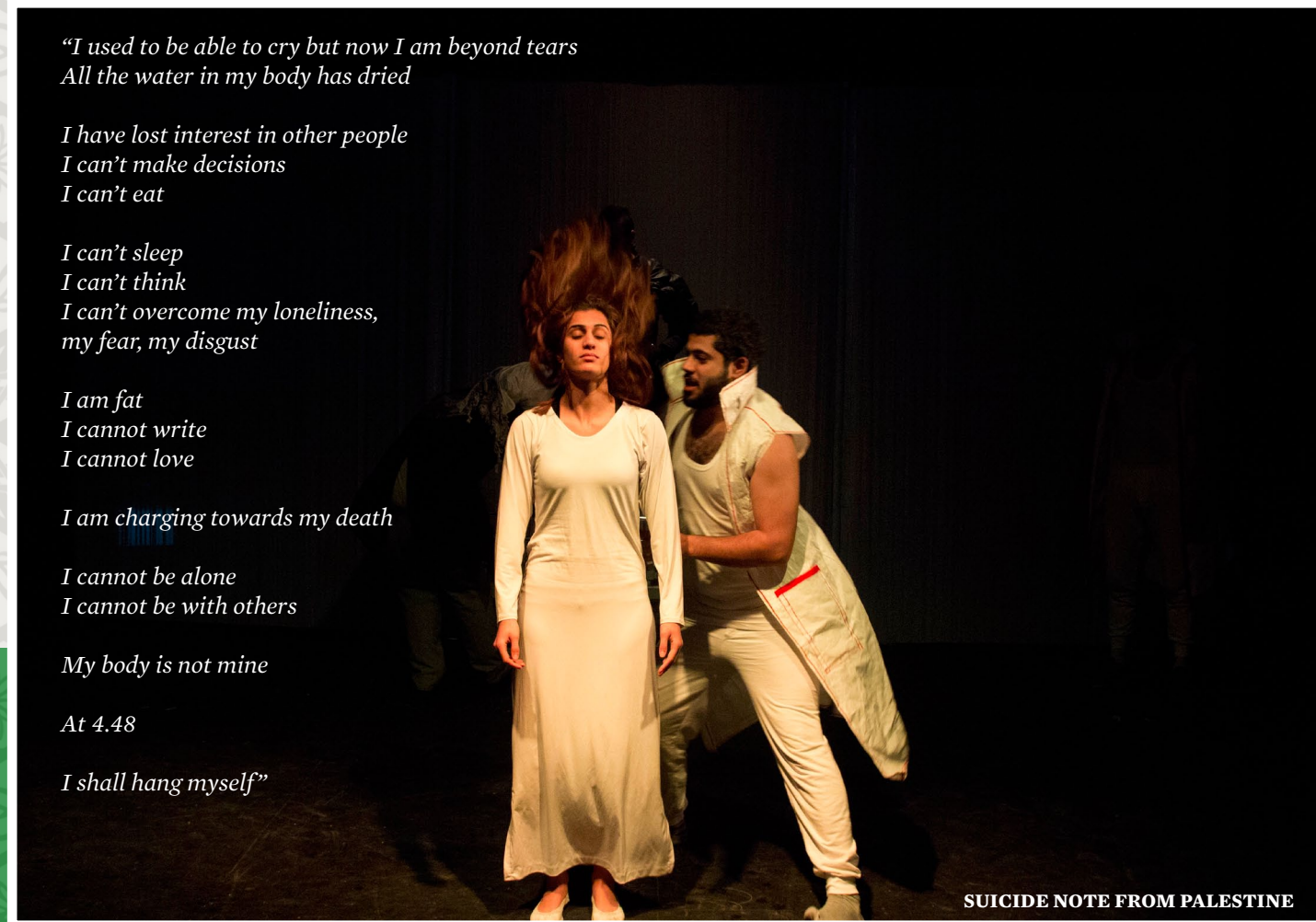
*I am charging towards my death*

*I cannot be alone  
I cannot be with others*

*My body is not mine*

*At 4.48*

*I shall hang myself”*



**SUICIDE NOTE FROM PALESTINE**



## ***playback theatre & the freedom bus***

The Freedom Bus project carried out a Freedom Ride to the Jordan Valley and the South Hebron Hills in March 2014. People from across Palestine and abroad joined residents in some of the most marginalised Palestinian communities in Area C and A of occupied Palestine, including the Jordan Valley and the South Hebron Hills, where they participated in volunteer work, interactive cultural events, workshops and much more. Side by side, armed with mud-bricks and solidarity, Freedom Bus participants came together with community members to create art, share stories, build houses and build alliances. A total of close to 1500 people participated in the 13-day Freedom Ride.

Following the success of the Freedom Bus project, community members also approached The Freedom Theatre requesting trainings in the method of Playback Theatre. 12 people participated in a five-day introductory training in Playback Theatre with a focus on the method's applicability for popular struggle. The workshop also provided training in movement, voice, improvisational theatre and ensemble work. It was organized in close cooperation with the South Hebron Hills Popular Struggle Committee. By the end of the workshops all participants received a certificate of completion. A final-day performance was attended by 30 women, men and children. Several stories were shared about hostile encounters with the army and settlers and various non-violent actions that the villagers took in response to these threats.



**MAGIC NOTES**  
photo Stefano Gambini



**ASKADINYA**

## ***hakawati (storytelling) & playback theatre for children***

The Freedom Theatre offered storytelling performances to children in remote areas of the West Bank, including villages and Bedouin encampments, where children are particularly vulnerable and where cultural activities are very rare. We also gave a course in the playback theatre technique to 23 children and youth in the village of Bil'in, who then prepared a playback theatre performance for their peers. This was the first such activity in Palestine. According to the evaluations, the children appreciated a chance to express their feelings and impressions, experiences, interests and needs by using creative tools of storytelling and other interactive drama-based activities. The trainer noticed significant improvements in the children's ability to communicate, to support each other and to reflect upon their situation. Over 300 children participated in the storytelling and playback theatre activities.

## ***commedia dell' arte workshops in Jenin & in Europe***

Theatre Hotel Courage is an international theatre company that develops contemporary shows based on Commedia dell'Arte, famous for its masks and archetypal characters. Theatre Hotel Courage held a workshop at The Freedom Theatre's students, graduates and trainers and together with them created a presentation; *Ouda*, that was performed as part of the third-

year students' graduation ceremony. Some of our graduates and trainers later joined Theatre Hotel Courage for workshops in Holland and France.

## ***summer camp***

Led by The Freedom Theatre School graduates, children aged 9-14 participated in theatre, storytelling and team-building activities during the school holidays. The 10-day summer camp ended with a presentation for families.



**ATUWANI** (student production)



# *multimedia*

## *filmmaking*

The Freedom Theatre's Film Unit produced five short documentary and fiction films in 2013 and this year, three of them were featured in international film festivals. The *Racer* and *Maybe* were screened at the Malmö Arab Film Festival in Sweden, while *Journey of a Freedom Fighter* was screened at the 2014 Poitiers Film Festival, France (where the jury awarded it a special mention), the Raindance Film Festival, UK, the Boston Palestine Film Festival, the St. Louis International Film Festival and the Arab Film Festival, USA. In the latter, the film entered into competition for "Best Documentary Short".

## *photography*

This year The Freedom Theatre launched three new photography courses, one for 12 children who also learned how to use compact cameras to make their own films, a one-month course for students from the Arab American University and one for 9 young women and men. The latter produced an exhibition, *Stories*, with portraits of old women and men in the Jenin area. The exhibition was shown to an audience of about 450 children, women and men.

*"In the photography workshops, kids have the opportunity to express themselves, how they play, what they dream about and what their lives are really like."*

*Baraa Sharqawi, photography instructor*

## *publications*

This year, The Freedom Theatre published *A World of Words* – a collection of short novels (Arabic), *Spectrum* – a collection of photographs and poems (Arabic, English and Swedish), and two issues of the youth magazine *Voices* (Arabic), which was distributed throughout the West Bank and also made available online. One issue of *Voices* had a special focus on women and women's rights.



EXHIBITION BY PHOTOGRAPHY STUDENTS



# *other activities*

## ***outreach***

In 2014, The Freedom Theatre reached out to 35 communities across the occupied West Bank. With us we brought theatre performances, storytelling workshops and performances, playback theatre trainings and photography exhibitions. These efforts significantly contributed to overcoming the isolation of Palestinian communities and building alliances between organisations, artists and individuals.

Internationally, The Freedom Theatre's staff and associates travelled to Europe, the Middle East and USA. We gave a five-day intensive playback theatre workshop in Amman, held workshops and

presentations in Denmark, Sweden, Norway and Berlin, and participated in The Dubai Lynx International Festival of Creativity.

The Friends of The Freedom Theatre in the US organized two speaking tours. Among the many events was a conference at the Kennedy Center in Washington DC where Nabil Al-Raei, our Artistic Director, was invited to speak on a panel on theatre and politics. About 500 people attended the many meetings, events and press interviews.

The Friends of The Freedom Theatre UK also organized a speaking tour, during which the theatre's work was presented

and short films were screened to 1200 people in Nottingham, Glasgow, Belfast, York, London and Hastings.

The French Friends of The Freedom Theatre in Jenin (ATL Jénine) organized an exhibition, *Pictures and Stories*, with photographs taken by youth in Jenin Refugee Camp. About 200 people saw the exhibition.

Altogether the international tours and events reached approximately 4000 people directly and many more through media coverage in all the countries we visited.

## ***capacity building***

In addition to the on-the-job training that is always an integral part of our work, several members of the artistic section of The Freedom Theatre received further trainings in Palestine and abroad. Our theatre graduate joined several trainings and events in European countries, while our translator who joined an international conference in Egypt. Two of our theatre technicians initiated the first out of two years of training at PARC, Al Harah Theatre's Performing Arts Technical Training Center.

## ***hosting visitors***

Some 1500 individuals from Palestine and all over the world visited the theatre to learn more about its activities and meet with staff and students. The theatre also arranged overnight stays for visitors who were welcomed in the homes of our staff and friends in Jenin Refugee Camp.

## ***physical exercise***

Apart from the physical that is an integral part of our theatre activities, female staff members also participated in regular workout sessions as well as a three-day yoga workshop.

## ***livestream***

This year we, as the first theatre in Palestine, introduced live streaming of our performances as a service to our friends across the globe who were not able to join us in Jenin. We live streamed *Magic Notes*, *Enemy*, *Askadinya* and *Suicide Note from Palestine*.



ATUWANI VILLAGE



## PAN

The Freedom Theatre is part of the Palestinian Performing Arts Network, PAN, which connects 12 performing arts organisations in one cultural program that aims to “contribute towards the development of a democratic and pluralistic society that respects human rights and enhances Palestinian national identity”. The network also advocates for arts and culture to be at the forefront of national priorities, by acting as a collective voice towards decision-makers. The network consists of Al Kamandjâti Association, Al Harah Theatre, Ashtar for theatre productions and training, El Funoun Palestinian Popular Dance Troupe, The Edward Said National Conservatory of Music, The Freedom Theatre, The Magnificat Institute, The Ministry of Education, The Palestinian Circus School, The Popular Art Centre, Theatre Day Productions and Yes Theatre. The twelve partners have come together in a wide range of interrelated performing arts activities that mainly target Palestinian children and youth, notably in less privileged areas. Among many other joint activities this year, PAN members issued a call in solidarity with Gaza.



شبكة  
الفنون  
الأدائية  
ال فلسطينية  
Palestinian  
Performing  
Arts  
Network

EL-FUNOUN DANCE TROUPE, MEMBER OF PAN



# ***supporters***

The Freedom Theatre is grateful for the generous support of the following donors:

Arab Fund for Art and Culture (AFAC)  
Caisse Centrale d'Activités Sociales du personnel des industries électriques et gazières (CCAS)  
European Union  
Kinderpostzegels  
Medico International  
MECA – Middle East Children's Alliance  
Prince Claus Fund  
Sparkplug Foundation  
Swedish Institute  
Swedish International Development Agency (Sida)  
Swedish Postcode Lottery  
Tides Foundation  
The British Council

We are equally grateful to the many individuals all over the world, who have supported the theatre through private donations. Among them we would especially like to thank:

Annuschka Wiesemann	Jill Kirshner
Gabrielle Kirk	Jozelyn Davis
Dan Thurley	Katy Francois
David Chavkin	Margo Viscusi
David Toorawa	Michael Gilsenan
Etienne Balibar	Mireille Bergenström
Jerry Arnold	Thoraya Obaid

Ewa and Bo Harringer, their son Josef Harringer, actor, and all those who honoured their wish to donate to The Freedom Theatre instead of getting flowers for Josef's funeral.

# ***Maya Angelou*** ***in loving memory***

The Freedom Theatre would like to pay respect to our great supporter Maya Angelou, who passed away in 2014. She was a key adviser to the US Friends of the Jenin Freedom Theatre. Maya Angelou is known throughout the world as a supporter and fighter for civil and human rights: from working for civil rights in the USA to advising The Freedom Theatre. Maya Angelou lent her voice to The Freedom Theatre because she thought it was a model for the future for young people to be working together to create art and change their own lives in spite of the occupation.



# *partners*

In 2014, The Freedom Theatre collaborated with the following organisations and communities:

Al Harah Theatre, Bethlehem, Occupied Palestine  
Al Jalameh School, Occupied Palestine  
Al Kasaba Drama Academy, Ramallah, Occupied Palestine  
Al Khadamat, Jenin, Occupied Palestine  
Al Maleh, Tubas, Occupied Palestine  
Al Mufaqarah community, Occupied Palestine  
Al-Quds Open University, Jenin, Occupied Palestine  
Arab American University in Jenin, Occupied Palestine  
Aroub Refugee Camp, Occupied Palestine  
Arrabe Municipality, Occupied Palestine  
Ashtar Theatre, Ramallah, Occupied Palestine  
Atuwani community, Occupied Palestine  
Bardala community, Occupied Palestine  
Beit Al Mussinein, Jenin, Occupied Palestine  
Beit Ommar community, Occupied Palestine  
Beit Sahour Guesthouse, Occupied Palestine  
Cinema Jenin, Jenin, Occupied Palestine  
Clowns Without Borders, Palestine  
Dar Al--Kalima College, Bethlehem  
Der Abu Masha'al community, Occupied Palestine  
Ein al Hiluwa community, Occupied Palestine  
Faquaa Community, Occupied Palestine

Fasayil community, Occupied Palestine  
Goethe Institute, Ramallah  
Ibrahmin School, Jenin, Occupied Palestine  
Jenin Governor's Office, Occupied Palestine  
Jenin Visitor Centre, Occupied Palestine  
Jiftlik community, Occupied Palestine  
Jordan Valley Solidarity, Occupied Palestine  
Kay La Nansa, Jenin Refugee Camp, Occupied Palestine  
Khirbit Samra community, Occupied Palestine  
Kufr Qadum community, Occupied Palestine  
Local Committee, Jenin Refugee Camp, Occupied Palestine  
Maghayir al--Abeed community, Occupied Palestine  
Makhul community, Occupied Palestine  
Ministry of Education, Occupied Palestine  
Ni'lin community, Occupied Palestine  
Palestinian Performing Arts Network, Occupied Palestine  
Palestinian Circus School, Birzeit, Occupied Palestine  
Palestinian Heritage Center, Jenin, Occupied Palestine  
Palestinian Medical Relief Society, Occupied Palestine  
Popular Struggle Coordination Committee, Nabi Saleh, Occupied Palestine  
Qalqiliya Municipal Library, Occupied Palestine

Ras Al Ahmar community, Occupied Palestine  
Rehabilitation Center, Jenin, Occupied Palestine  
Red Cross Society, Jenin, Occupied Palestine  
Red Noses Society, Occupied Palestine  
South Hebron Hills Popular Committee, Occupied Palestine  
Tamer Institute, Jenin, Occupied Palestine  
Tawasol, Occupied Palestine  
Tuba community, Occupied Palestine  
UNESCO – Ramallah Office through the activities of Palestinian Women's Research and Documentation Centre, PWRDC, funded by the Government of Norway and in cooperation with the Palestinian Ministry of Women's Affairs  
UNRWA Girls School, Jenin, Occupied Palestine  
WMCA, Occupied Palestine  
Women's Center, Jenin, Occupied Palestine  
Women's Center, Tulkarem, Occupied Palestine  
Women's Center, Tura, Occupied Palestine  
Women's Cultural and Heritage Association, Jenin, Occupied Palestine  
Working Women's Association, Jenin, Occupied Palestine  
Yalu Women Center, Occupied Palestine  
Youth Centre, Tura, Occupied Palestine  
Youth Development Association, Sebastiya, Occupied Palestine  
Yes Theatre, Bethlehem, Occupied Palestine

AL Balad Theatre, Amman, Jordan  
FLOW, Denmark  
Follow the Women, Denmark  
Hotel Courage, Netherlands  
Nordic Black Theatre, Norway  
RadArt, Norway  
Rådstua, Norway  
Tromsønettverk for fri scenekunst, Norway  
Filmpedagogerna, Sweden  
Filosofiska i Sverige, Sweden  
Gothenburg University, Sweden  
Folkwang University of Arts, Berlin, Germany  
ITFOK, India  
Jana Natya Manch, India  
Jewish Voice for Peace, USA  
Middle East Children's Alliance, MECA, USA  
New York Theatre Workshop, USA

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.

- Friends of The Freedom Theatre, Germany
- Frihetsteaterns Vänförening, Malmö and Stockholm, Sweden
- Les Amis du Théâtre de la Liberté de Jénine, France
- Scottish Friends of The Freedom Theatre, Scotland
- The Friends of The Jenin Freedom Theatre, United States
- UK Friends of The Freedom Theatre, United Kingdom



## staff



Adnan Nagnaghiye, Location and Stage Manager  
 Ahmad Al-Rokh, Actor and Instructor  
 Ahmed Mattahen, Theatre Technician  
 Ahmad Tobasi, Resident Artist  
 Alan Wright, Production Stage Manager  
 Baraa Sharqawi, Photography Instructor  
 Faisal Abu Alheja, Actor and Instructor  
 Jameyla Kiswani, Executive Producer  
 Johanna Wallin, Communications Officer  
 Jonatan Stanczak, Managing Director  
 Micaela Miranda, Theatre School Director  
 and Movement Teacher  
 Miriyam Abu Ateyah, Housekeeper  
 Mohammad Assaadi, Theatre Technician  
 Mohammed Moawia, Graphic Designer,  
 Filmmaker and Multimedia Coordinator  
 Nabeel Al-Raei, Artistic Director and Teacher  
 Omar Kabeya, Financial Director  
 Rania Wasfi, Program Coordinator  
 Rewa Attiyeh, Translator and Interpreter  
 Sami Saade, Theatre Technician  
 Taiseer Khatib, Creative Writing Instructor

## associates

Agneta Regell, Drama  
 in Education Supervisor  
 Ahmad Abualhof, Webmaster  
 Arabic website  
 Assil Abu Warda, Actress  
 Ayman Hassanien, Actor  
 Ben Rivers, Applied Theatre  
 Practitioner  
 Fidaa Atayah, Storyteller  
 Fidaa Zidan, Actress  
 Gary English, Artistic  
 Associate and Consultant  
 Hamoudi Dabdoub, Actor  
 Hassan Taha, Actor  
 Khulood Tannous, Actress  
 Mo'min Swaitat, Actor  
 Noor Al-Raei, Musician  
 Samer Abu Hantash, Musician  
 Zoe Lafferty, Associate Director

### ***Theatre School graduates 2014***

Alaa Shehada  
 Anas Arqawi  
 Motaz Malhees  
 Saber Shreim

### ***First-year Theatre School students***

Alia Alrosan  
 Ameer Abu Alrab  
 Ibrahim Moqbel  
 Ihab Talahma  
 Ismael Aloul  
 Osama Al Azzeh  
 Raneen Odeh  
 Samah Mahmood

### ***Stage Management Students***

Yousef Mohammed  
 Habeeb Al-Raei

## volunteers

The Freedom Theatre is fortunate to benefit from a large number of volunteers who contribute greatly to the theatre's work with their knowledge and inspiration. During 2014, the following people joined The Freedom Theatre:

Ahmed Tobasi	Katrien van Beurden
Alexandra Schwartz	Lars Fagerström
Amina Issa	Lena Schmailzl
Andy Purves	Maria Karlsen
Anna Gisle	Mark LeVine
Anne Fe De Boer	Matt Shroads
Antti Seppänen	Moritz Drotleff
Armando da Rita	Mustafa Sheta
Ashley Bond	Noelle Ghoussaini
Barbara Bradzyska	Nora Fischer
Bex Tyrer	Philipp Gallon
Bryan Reynolds	Raha Askarizadeh
Daniel Gott	Sacha Muller
Daphne Bunskoek	Sonja de Vries
Fida Abdallah	Tamara Markus
Gianmarco Marzola	Tanja van Dijk
Humphrey T Davies	Zina Papageorgiou
Irene Giacomini	Zoe Lafferty
Ismael Jabarine	



# *board of directors*

## **The Freedom Theatre's Board (until November 2014)**

Abed Zubeidi  
Amani Sbani  
Bilal Assaadi, Chairperson  
Emad Abu Hantash  
Khaled Abu Al Hijah  
Kifah Ado Hamad  
Maha Staiti, Vice Chairperson  
Nahah Jarrar, Secretary  
Reem Aoudi, Treasurer

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.

## **From November 2014**

Abed Zubeidi, Board Member  
Bilal Al-Saadi, Chairperson  
Ibrahim Abu Khalifa, Treasurer  
Imad Abu Hantash, Vice Chairperson  
Jamal Al-Ghanim, Board Member  
Mervat Ayyash, Board Member  
Mustafa Helal Sheta, Secretary  
Rami Nursi, Board Member  
Susan Haj Saleh, Board Member

## **The Freedom Theatre Foundation Executive Board**

Avraham Oz  
Dror Feiler  
Henry Ascher  
Judith Butler  
Khulood Badawi, Chairperson  
Luisa Morgantini  
Salwa Nakkara  
Suzanne Osten

## **The Freedom Theatre Foundation Honorary Board**

Abeer Kopty  
Elias Khoury  
Etienne Balibar  
Howard Brenton  
Michel Khleifi  
Noam Chomsky  
Salim Daw  
Sana'a Badawi





## looking ahead

In 2015 we will launch a brand new **child & youth theatre program** that will include drama workshops and a theatre production for children. The production will be built around the concept of resistance, from children's perspectives.

We also hope to progress our plans of offering **creative activities to small children** in a more comprehensive form that can also meet local needs for day-care.

In January, The Freedom Theatre will go to **India** to perform ***The Island*** at the International Theatre Festival of Kerala, one of the major theatre festivals in India, and meet with Indian theatre and activist organisations such as the street theatre company Jana Natya Manch. We aim to establish partnerships with Indian artists that can involve collaborations of different kinds, both in India and in Palestine.

In March, The Freedom Theatre will organize another **Freedom Ride** in occupied Palestine, inviting artists, activists and others from around the world to join in a solidarity ride to communities around the West Bank. Further training in **Playback Theatre** and other community theatre techniques will also take place.

In spring 2015, after performing and touring parts of occupied Palestine, The Freedom Theatre will **tour Britain** for the first time, with ***The Siege***, a theatre play inspired by the true stories of a group

of fighters who during the height of the second Intifada took refuge in the Church of the Nativity. The directors traced the fighters who are now exiled across Europe and collected their untold accounts of an event that with time has taken on almost mythical proportions.

In 2015 we will present two new **photography exhibitions** made by our photography students.

In the autumn our production ***The Siege*** will perform at the **New York Public Theatre**, where it has been invited for a two-week residency. Shortly after, ***The Island*** is expected to perform in Montreuil in **France**.

In addition, the **Theatre School students** will move into their second out of three years of training, the students of **Stage Management** will complete their second year and our two **technicians** studying at PARC in Bethlehem will complete their first year of stage design and sound design.

Throughout 2015, The Freedom Theatre will further **develop its organisational sustainability** and continue the capacity development of all its resources.



MAGIC NOTES photo Stefano Gambini





the freedom theatre

*Generating a Cultural Resistance*

the freedomtheatre  
jenin refugee camp, occupied palestine  
[www.thefreedomtheatre.org](http://www.thefreedomtheatre.org)  
[www.facebook.com/thefreedomtheatre](https://www.facebook.com/thefreedomtheatre)  
[info@thefreedomtheatre](mailto:info@thefreedomtheatre)  
[@freedom\\_theatre](https://www.instagram.com/freedom_theatre)