SHUBBAK

شباك: نافذة على الثقافة العربية المعاصرة A WINDOW ON CONTEMPORARY ARAB CULTURE 1-16 JULY 2017

MUSIC PERFORMANCE VISUAL ARTS LITERATURE FILM SHUBBAK.CO.UK

CONTENTS

WELCOME TO SHUBBAK 2017!



As chair of Shubbak, I am delighted to invite you to discover our programme for 2017, our fourth festival. Once again we proudly present artists from across the Arab world with different voices, different tones and different imaginations. At Shubbak we are constantly reminded of how necessary it is, especially at this time, to exhibit a plurality of artistic expression. London is blessed by a rich and international cultural life and its global connections inspire artists from around the world to create and present their work. Our dense festival programme seeks to shine a light on the power of imagination of Arab artists, wherever they may live.

MAYSOON PACHACHI, CHAIR

Welcome to Shubbak 2017, with over 150 Arab artists taking part in the festival across London. Events range from a free concert on Trafalgar Square to intimate encounters with theatre makers, from outdoor dance performances in public squares to thought-provoking debates. We have also invited two festivals from Beirut and Tunis to bring new experiences to unusual locations in Shepherd's Bush and Dalston.

At a time when the world feels more fragile and less secure we have travelled far and wide, and also looked in our own city, to discover and commission inspirational new works by artists who reflect on our current times. The individual and collective voices of these artists help us to look deeper, listen more carefully and find subtlety and nuance. Their works address urgent issues of migration, shelter, identity and freedom but equally explore personal themes of autobiography, memory and human connections.

Shubbak 2017 has a record number of new commissions and UK premieres – this is a festival of adventure, curiosity, surprise and shared experiences.

We hope you join us on the journey.

ECKHARD THIEMANN, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR DANIEL GORMAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

PRINCIPAL PARTNERS

With gratitude to our principal partners and all our festival partners, without whose support the festival would not be possible.









SHUBBAK.CO.UK



TUE 4 JULY | 7.30PM

CINÉ LUMIÈRE INSTITUT FRANÇAIS 17 Queensberry Place SW7 2DT

INSTITUT-FRANCAIS.ORG.UK

020 7871 3515 £15 | £13 concs



Al Atlal means *The Ruins*. It is about the remains of lost love and homeland. Actress and singer Norah Krief felt a burst of nostalgia remembering her mother listening to the Egyptian Diva Umm Kulthum on their record-player. Her joy of singing about nostalgia drove Norah Krief to create this personal and autobiographical work. She reinterprets Ibrahim Nagi's famous poem and includes testimonials of people who speak of their life in exile.

She is accompanied by a trio of musicians: Frederic Fresson, Lucien Zerrad and Yousef Zayed.

Norah Krief has worked with many theatre writers and directors. In 2005, she was awarded the prestigious Molière award for Best Supporting Actress and recently appeared at the Barbican in *Phèdre(s)* by Krzysztof Warlikowski as part of LIFT.

UK PREMIERE IN FRENCH & ARABIC

WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES Presented in partnership with Institut français du Royaume Uni as part of its series En Scène!

AND HERE I AM HASSAN ABDULRAZZAK

MON 3 - SAT 8 JULY | 8PM WED 5 & SAT 8 JULY | 3.30PM

ARCOLA THEATRE 24 Ashwin Street E8 3DL ARCOLATHEATRE.COM 0207 503 1646 £17 | £14 concs



Based on the actor Ahmed Tobasi's personal coming of age story, *And Here I Am* is an epic voyage of identity and self discovery. Combining fact and fantasy, tragedy and comedy, spanning both the first Palestinian intifada and the second, we follow him through his transformation from armed resistance fighter to artist, his journey as a refugee in the West Bank to Norway and then back again.

This series of tragicomic episodes is vividly brought to life by award winning writer Hassan Abdulrazzak, transporting us to the heart of the hardships, struggles and contradictions of a young Palestinian man growing up under occupation and his pursuit for the true meaning of freedom. POST-SHOW TALK WED 5 & FRI 7 JULY

SHUBBAK ON TOUR

And Here I Am is touring nationally, for more details see page 37 or visit developingartists.org.uk

Presented in partnership with Developing Artists and Arcola Theatre.



WED 5 - SAT 15 JULY | 7.45PM THE MARIA, YOUNG VIC WED 12 & SAT 15 JULY | 2.45PM 66 The Cut SE1 8LZ Press Night: Fri 7 July | 7pm

YOUNGVIC.ORG 020 7922 2922 £20 | £10 5 & 6 July



"With this small pencil I will draw the word I will write the world."

A lyrical story of the life of Palestinian poet Taha Muhammad Ali, written and performed by Amer Hlehel.

Forced from his home in Galilee in 1948, Taha and his family must face the reality of war. At a young age he supports his family, immerses himself in literature, teaches himself Arabic - and falls in love. Growing up in a world where stability is only ever fleeting, poetry becomes a comforting constant.

Amir Nizar Zuabi (The Beloved, I Am Yusuf and This Is My Brother), founder of celebrated theatre company ShiberHur, returns to the Young Vic to direct this London premiere.

Amer Hlehel's Taha is a dramatic and lyrical tour de force. Hlehel's epic account of Taha Muhammad Ali's coming of age and coming to poetry against all odds is "a delight for the mind and nourishment for the heart." 2013 Pulitzer Prize winner Ayad Akhtar.

UK PREMIERE

IN ENGLISH

SHUBBAK ON TOUR

SAT 1 JULY | 8PM OUAYS THEATRE THE LOWY. SALFORD THELOWRY.COM

An Amer Hlehel, Young Vic and Shubbak Festival co-production. Taha is supported by A.M. Qattan Foundation and was developed, in part, at the 2015 Sundance Institute Theatre Lab at the Sundance Resort.

SACRÉ PRINTEMPS! CIE CHATHA

WED 5 JULY | 6 & 7.30PM SOUTHBANK CENTRE SOUARE BRITISH LIBRARY PIAZZA Belvedere Road. SE1 8XX

THU 6 JULY | 1, 4 & 6.30PM FREE 96 Euston Road, NW1 2DB



Inspired by the hopes and pressures of building a new civil society, choreographers Aïcha M'Barek and Hafiz Dhaou create a visceral streetscape of today's Tunisia.

Featuring life-sized silhouettes by seminal street artist Bilal Berreni (Zoo-project), which appeared on Tunis' main avenue after the revolution, Sacré Printemps! celebrates the diverse individuals who fought for their civil rights. Five dancers jostle, fight and compete among over 30 cut-out sculptures, but also joyfully unite in their strife to join different voices and individualities into one hope.

Aïcha M'Barek and Hafiz Dhaou were both born in Tunis and have been creating together as Cie Chatha since 1995. Having first studied at the Music and Dance Conservatory of Tunis, and now based in Lyon, their works tour internationally, including Tunis, Beirut and Abu Dhabi.

Music is by Eric Aldéa and Yvan Chiossone, interpreted by Sonia M'Barek, one of Tunisia's major singers.

UK PREMIERE

SHUBBAK ON TOUR

SUN 9 JULY | 1, 2 & 3PM LIVERPOOL ARAB ARTS FESTIVAL OPEN EYE GALLERY WINTER GARDEN ARABARTSFESTIVAL.COM

Presented in partnership with The Place and the Southbank Centre, Additional support from Institut Français and Ville de Lyon. Photo: Blandine Soulage.



PERFORMANCES BETWEEN TWO SHORES

Performance(s) between two shores is a series of three new works from Arab theatre artists who are now creating in Europe. Commissioned by 6 partners and funded by the European Commission, these works tour internationally and develop new audiences for Arab theatre artists in Europe.

TRANSACTION MITHKAL ALZGHAIR

MON 10 JULY | 7.30PM

HACKNEY SHOWROOM Hackney Downs Studios, Amhurst Terrace. E8 2BT HACKNEYSHOWROOM.COM 020 3095 9747



Mithkal Alzghair presents his newest creation: a meditation on the power of images from conflict situations. Performed in a warehouse and suspended in harnesses from the ceiling, four performers from Syria and France create fragile and emotional states of active and passive bodies. With a live soundtrack created purely by the performers' voices, Mithkal Alzghair conjures up a delicate state of being that whispers louder than cries of pain. As the action gradually rises from the horizontal to the vertical, we are drawn towards the individual human being.

UK PREMIERE

Presented in partnership with Hackney Showroom Performance(s) between two shores is supported by the European Commission. Photo: Didier Nadeau.



LILIAN BAYLIS STUDIO

Rosebery Avenue, EC1R 4TN

SADLER'S WELLS

"This isn't a documentary of the Syrian war, it touches on the fundamental question of what it is to be human" MOUVEMENT

DISPLACEMENT

MITHKAL ALZGHAIR

THU 6 & FRI 7 JULY | 8PM

How does a body react when its movement is forced or prevented? *Displacement* introduces the poignant work of Syrian dancer and choreographer Mithkal Alzghair.

In a solo and a trio, he draws attention to the human being amidst the complexities of migration and war. Deconstructing Syrian traditional dances, he brings to the surface the paradox of a deeply rooted culture and its current experience of displacement.

Alzghair trained in Damascus and Montpellier, having fled to France to avoid military service. Since winning the First Prize at the Danse élargie 2016 contest, organized by the Théâtre de la Ville-Paris and the Musée de la danse-Rennes, in partnership with the Fondation d'entreprise Hermès, *Displacement* has toured extensively to major international festivals.

UK PREMIERE

SADLERSWELLS.COM

£17 (Transaction fee applies, max £3)

020 7863 8000

Presented in partnership with Sadler's Wells with additional support from Institut français du Royaume Uni as part of its series En Scène! Photo: Tanz im August, Dajana Lothert 2016.

PERFORMANCES BETWEEN TWO SHORES MIND, THE GAP HANI SAMI & FOR THE ABSENT ONES

PARALLEL CROSSINGS

TUE 11 & WED 12 JULY | 8PM ARCOLA THEATRE

ARCOLATHEATRE.COM 0207 503 1646



MIND, THE GAP A lecture performance on how we perceive and consume images in our current age. A collaboration between two key figures of Cairo's independent theatre scene, theatre director Hani Sami and choreographer and writer Mona Gamil; *Mind, The Gap* intertwines live performance, theoretical musings and visual projections. Focusing on iconic images from the last decades, the performance will guide audiences on a journey of intellect, trauma and catharsis. Hani Sami is a film and theater maker with a BA in Theatre from the American University in Cairo and an MA in Filmmaking from l'École Supérieure d'Audiovisuel in Toulouse.

FOR THE ABSENT ONES The artist cannot be with us tonight, and yet the artist is present. Created as an audio-experience by theatre artists Abdullah Alkafri (Syria), Moez Mrabet (Tunisia), Jon Davis and Jonathan May (UK). *For the Absent Ones* is a response to tightening borders and restrictions on travel. Equipped with headphones and entering a theatre space, the audience listens to moving voices of those unable to move freely.

UK PREMIERES

IN ENGLISH AND ARABIC WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

BUY TICKETS FOR BOTH MIND, THE GAP & FOR THE ABSENT ONES AND THREE ROOMS FOR JUST £20.

resented in partnership with Arcola Theatre. erformance(s) between two shores is supported y the European Commission.

PERFORMANCES BETWEEN TWO SHORES THREE ROOMS AMAL OMRAN, HATEM HADAWE, KATHRYN HAMILTON

FRI 14 & SAT 15 JULY | 8PM ARCO

ARCOLA THEATRE

ARCOLATHEATRE.COM 0207 503 1646 £12



Three Rooms is a live film that takes place simultaneously in Istanbul, London and Paris, with one performer in each location. Originally the trio were planning to stage a play, but the changing political landscape meant that two of the performers couldn't get visas. Refusing to replace those unable to travel, they began to experiment with ways of working that could overcome the physical restrictions, creating a new kind of live-ness for this new world.

Three Rooms invites the audience into the quiet intimacies of daily life when you are essentially confined to your room - making tea, reading books, smoking cigarettes while watching the seagulls over Istanbul roof-tops, or watching the grey clouds over the Paris suburbs. It gestures towards the irreplaceability of people, and the impossibility of representing their experience without them.

WORLD PREMIERE IN ENGLISH WITH SOME ARABIC

BUY TICKETS BOTH FOR MIND, THE GAP & FOR THE ABSENT ONES AND THREE ROOMS FOR JUST £20.

Presented in partnership with Arcola Theatre. Performance(s) between two shores is supported by the European Commission. In partnership with: Les Bancs Publics - Festival Les Rencontres à l'échelle (FR), BOZAR (BE), Dancing on the edge (NL), Slobalize: Colonge platform for dance & theater (DE), SEE Foundation (SE) – D-CAF Festival (EG). Photo: Sofie Kniff.





FRI 14 JULY | 8 & 9.30PM SERPENTINE GALLERIES* Kensington Gardens, W2 3XA SAT 15 JULY | 2 & 5PM TATE MODERN South Terrace, Bankside, SE1 9TG



"I wanted to take over the streets and fill them with a horde of crows. Like an immediate act, a sound sculpture, raw and urgent, resounding infinitely." BOUCHRA OUIZGUEN

A group of women emerge, silently they arrive, then come to a halt. Forming geometric alchemical arrangements they move again and again, now accompanied by their piercing sounds and extraordinary cries in a stirring performance of movement and sound. Drawing from Persian literature from 9th – 11th century and memories of long trance nights in Marrakech, Bouchra Ouizguen has created an intense performance that interrupts and takes possession of public spaces. *Corbeaux* is performed by ten women from Morocco and up to ten local performers, brought together by Serpentine Galleries to work with Bouchra Ouizguen for the London performances.

Corbeaux was commissioned by Marrakech Biennale 2014 for the city's railway station, and has since toured internationally including the Kunstenfestivaldesarts (Brussels), Kampnagel (Hamburg), Home Works (Beirut) and The Louvre in Paris.

UK PREMIERE

FREE

*Part of *Park Nights*, the Serpentine Pavilion's annual series of summer events.

Presented in partnership with Serpentine Galleries and Tate Modern. With additional support from: Bagri Foundation, Fluxus Art Projects, Embassy of The Kingdom of Morocco UK and Amal – A Said Foundation Project. Photo: @ Hasnae El Ouarga. **CAIROKEE & TANIA SALEH**

SAT 1 JULY | 7.30PM

BARBICAN Silk Street EC2Y 8DS **BARBICAN.ORG.UK** 020 7638 8891 £17.50 - £30 plus booking fee



"Incendiary lyrics and high powered motorbikes: Egypt's revolutionary rock band won't keep quiet." CNN

Kicking off Shubbak's music programme, the Barbican plays host to the songs of the modern Middle East as Cairokee and Tania Saleh bring their music to London. Egyptian band Cairokee and Lebanon's Tania Saleh are two artists who capture the urgency of our time, their songs reflecting the social and political turmoil experienced not only in the Middle East, but the whole world over.

Lebanese songwriter and visual artist Tania Saleh brings worlds together, marrying traditional styles tarab, mawwal and dabke with folk, alternative rock, bossa nova and jazz to take us on an eclectic, poetic musical journey.

She is followed by a performance from Egypt's Cairokee who will be singing tracks from their new album. Taking their name from a portmanteau of the Egyptian capital and 'karaoke', Cairokee sing for Cairo; these are bold truths presented with infectious music, mixing rock, rap and traditional Egyptian sounds in optimistic odes to a better future.

"Citizen of sound and engaged with sensitivity to art, Saleh represents musical eclecticism against all tyranny. Her latest album is a tribute of great freedom to the Arab woman." ELLE MAGAZINE ON TANIA SALEH

UK PREMIERE – TANIA SALEH Produced by the Barbican in association with MARSM.



EID FESTIVAL 2017 HAWIDRO, OXFORD MAQAM, MAYA YOUSSEF & RASHA

SUN 2 JULY | 2 - 5PM Eid Festival times: 12 - 6pm TRAFALGAR SQUARE FREE WC2N 5DN



The Mayor of London's Eid Festival on Trafalgar Square celebrates the end of Ramadan. It includes a popular food festival, live music and fun activities for children and families. Shubbak presents three hours of rousing open-air festival music.

Straight from Egypt comes Afro-Egyptian band Hawidro – a blend of sound, capturing the diversity and creativity of contemporary Cairo and Nubian heritage.

Paying tribute to the 'Nahda' era, Oxford Maqam embraces the sounds of the Arab Renaissance, an extraordinary period of creativity and musical innovation.

Virtuoso Syrian musician Maya Youssef's innovative approach to playing the kanun, a 78-stringed plucked zither, has brought her international acclaim and appearances at BBC Proms.

Highly acclaimed Sudanese artist Rasha developed her musical style with eclectic instrumentation, including oud, percussion, backing guitar and bass accentuating Rasha's spectacular vocal skills. Her work is influenced by Arabic poetry, Sufi music and hints of reggae.

NESHAMA

WED 5 JULY | 8PM



Produced in partnership with MARSM with additional support from Alaraby TV Network.

RICH MIX 35 - 47 Bethnal Green Road E1 6LA

RICHMIX.ORG.UK

020 7613 7498 £12.50 advance | £15 on the door

Weaving recordings and live performances based on folk songs from Syria and the Arab world, Neshama includes four performers playing a mix of tabl, bouzouki and oud, mixed with live loops, grooves and electronic beats.

Featuring: Wael Alkak (synths, keys, bouzouki), Syrian vocalist Yazan Alqaq (oud and bass), Jordanian Shadi Khries (percussion) and mejwiz poet Osama Alkhairat.

Neshama was founded by former member of Syrian National Orchestra Wael Alkak. After leaving Syria he travelled with his mobile studio, recording musicians in Jordan Lebanon, Turkey, Egypt and US. The release of their first album led to the invitation for an artistic residency at the renowned Cité Internationale des Arts, during which he created his second album, co-commissioned by Shubbak in partnership with British Council and Culture Resource (Beirut).

TAREK YAMANI TRIO FEATURING SPECIAL GUEST YAZZ AHMED

FRI 7 JULY | 8PM

KINGS PLACE 90 York Way N1 9AG KINGSPLACE.CO.UK 020 7520 1490 £15



Born and raised in Beirut, Tarek Yamani is an American-Lebanese, New York based composer and a self-taught jazz pianist. He is the founder of the cutting edge festival *Beirut Speaks Jazz*, which aims to promote jazz in Lebanon by igniting adventurous collaborations between artists from the worlds of rock, pop, tarab, rap and blues over the foundations of jazz. His latest album *Peninsular* is a pioneering new work, which blends the virtually unexplored rhythms of the Gulf with the beats and structures of African-American jazz.

The trio will be playing original music from Tarek Yamani's albums: *Lisan Al Tarab* where he explores the relationships between jazz and Arabic rhythms/maqams. The trio features: Tarek Yamani on piano, Elie Afif on bass, Khaled Yassine on percussion and a special guest Yazz Ahmed on trumpet. Since releasing *Finding My Way Home* in 2011, British-Bahraini trumpet player Yazz Ahmed has emerged as a distinctive voice on the UK jazz scene, as a soloist, band leader and composer.

"A magician with his chromatics and disquieting passing tones." NEW YORK MUSIC DAILY

Produced in partnership with MARSM. Supported by Abu Dhabi Festival with additional support from Al Mawred Al Thaqafy and Alaraby TV Network.

WOMAN AT POINT ZERO & FOUR ARAB COMPOSERS

THU 13 JULY | 7.30PM LSO ST LUKE'S 161 Old Street EC1V 9NG ROH.ORG.UK 020 7304 4000 £15



Shubbak joins forces with The Royal Opera and Abu Dhabi Festival to present works by composers from the Arab world. This evening in two parts will share and celebrate short works by five composers, centring on the premiere of scenes from Bushra El-Turk's new opera *Woman at Point Zero*.

Woman at Point Zero is based on the seminal novel by Egyptian author, feminist and doctor Nawal El Saadawi – an allegorical tale of historical female oppression in Egypt that questions what true freedom and empowerment can mean for women today. Preceding extracts of *Woman at Point Zero* are the UK premieres of chamber works by the four participants of The Royal Opera and Shubbak's inaugural Arab Composer Residency programme: Amir ElSaffar (Iraq/US), Nadim Husni (Syria/ Poland), Bahaa El-Ansary (Egypt) and Nabil Benabdeljalil (Morocco).

PRE-CONCERT TALK 6.15PM | FREE

Available to ticket holders only

Produced in partnership with The Royal Opera. The development phase of Woman at Point Zero has been commissioned by Shubbak with Abu Dhabi Festival with support from The Royal Opera, Snape Maltings, PRS Foundation and Jerwood Charitable Foundation. Additional support from British Council for presenting Bahaa Al-Ansary.

LOVE AND REVENGE

FRI 14 JULY | 8PM

RICH MIX 35 - 47 Bethnal Green Road E1 6LA

RICHMIX.ORG.UK

020 7613 7498 £13.50 in advance | £16 on the door Standing Room Only



Love and Revenge is a live music and video performance by the musician Wael Koudaih (Rayess Bek) and the video artist Randa Mirza (La Mirza).

Produced in partnership with MARSM with additional support from Alaraby TV Network.

It revisits the old popular songs and Egyptian movies from the golden era of Cairo's Studio Misr, featuring stars such as Samia Gamal, Tahia Carioca and singing idols Leila Mourad and Farid El Attrache.

Watch the drama unfold on screen with clips from these bygone movies, whilst on stage the musicians create a danceable live soundtrack to transport us through the drama, love, pathos and tragedy of the films.

Rayess Bek's remixes and La Mirza's visuals are joined by the bass of Julien Perraudeau and the electric oud of Mehdi Haddab.

KAHAREB

FEATURING: MAURICE LOUCA, SKYWALKER, MISSY NESS, SOTUSURA, BEIRUT WORLD BEAT

SAT 15 JULY | 8PM - 1AM

35 - 47 Bethnal Green Road E1 6LA

RICHMIX.ORG.UK 020 7613 7498 £12.50 in advance | £15 on the door



Immerse yourself in the finest electronic and underground sounds in Shubbak's rousing music finale.

Maurice Louca is one of the pioneering musicians in Cairo's electronic music scene with influences from psychedelic to Egyptian shaabi. For this concert Maurice Louca will be joined by a live trio.

Skywalker, the Palestinian female DJ and electronic music producer, plays techno, house, and other deeper sub-genres, with a unique twist of her own. Missy Ness is a pioneering DJ in Tunisia. Her music is intimately related to Maghrebi urban cultures.

DJ Sotusura made his name as a Palestinian producer and beat maker of the finest Arabic hip hop and electronic music.

Italian DJ Beirut World Beat brings a world music set including videos and projected images which has proven hugely popular in many Arab countries Produced in partnership with MARSM with additional support from Alaraby TV Network.

HAWIDRO & RASHA A JOURNEY INTO THE GROOVES & SPIRIT OF AFRO-ARAB MUSIC

BUSH HALL

W12 7LJ

310 Uxbridge Road, Shepherd's Bush,

creative spirit of their homeland.

SUN 2 JULY | 7.30 - 11PM



SHUBBAK ON TOUR HAWIDRO SAT 1 JULY I 6 - 7PM ART IN THE PARK CAMPBELL PARK, MILTON KEYNES

Produced in partnership with MARSM with additional support from Alaraby TV Network.

DAR AL SULH MICHAEL RAKOWITZ

THU 6 - SAT 8 JULY | 7 - 10PM THE MOSAIC ROOMS

226 Cromwell Road SW5 0SW

MOSAICROOMS.ORG 020 7370 9990 £35 including 3 course meal rsvp@mosaicrooms.org

BUSHHALLMUSIC.CO.UK

£12.50 advance

£15 on the door

Discover two major exponents of the deep connections between Subsaharan and North African music. Hawidro in Nubian means 'the return' and this has become the central theme of their music. Hawidro comprises 8 musicians who came together with a shared vision to create

Featuring vocals by Ahmed Abayazeid with guitar, bass, drums and traditional percussion, Hawidro are boundless and encompass the

Rasha grew up in an artistic family who moved from Sudan to Cairo. Her critically acclaimed album Sudaniyat was named by Folk Roots as "one

of the 10 best of 1997". She plays the oud and percussion with a backing

guitar and bass that accentuate her spectacular vocal skills using Arabic

poetry, Sufi music and hints of reggae. She mainly sings in Arabic but also

a sound that links their African and Egyptian heritage.

performs in Spanish, English, Nubian and Creole.



LIMITED CAPACITY Advance booking essential

Presented in partnership with The Mosaic Rooms. Photo: Courtesy of Michael Rakowitz.

"You are eating a dying language from the plate of a ghost."

Dar Al Sulh (Domain of Conciliation) is a supper club with a difference hosted by the artist Michael Rakowitz in collaboration with Regine Basha and Dr. Ella Habiba Shohat. Join him in The Mosaic Rooms for a three-course meal, tasting dishes from the recipe book of his Iraqi-Jewish grandmother. The ingredients, flavours and even the tableware reflect the period when "Jews were once Arabs too".

In between each course, the artist and collaborators curator Regine Basha and Dr. Ella Habiba Shohat provide personal reflections. These will take the form of historical and musical insights, including from Regine Basha's Tuning Baghdad project.

"Rather than stand on the sidelines, Michael Rakowitz takes a can-do approach to political art." THE GUARDIAN



ZAHRAH AL-GHAMDI, DANA AWARTANI & REEM AL-NASSER

SAT 1 JULY -SAT 2 SEPTEMBER TUES - SAT | 11AM - 6PM THE MOSAIC ROOMS 226 Cromwell Road SW5 0SW

MOSAICROOMS.ORG FREE



This group exhibition brings together the UK debut of three young female artists from Saudi Arabia: Zahrah Al-Ghamdi, Dana Awartani and Reem Al-Nasser. The works reflect the artists' experiences of living in their home cities and domestic spaces. They are powerful testimonies by artists caught between a future driven by globalisation and rapid socio-cultural change, and a past cultural heritage, which is under threat of being erased.

Zahrah Al-Ghamdi's *Cell of the City* is a large site-specific wall installation made of sand and cloth, it has been informed by her memories of growing up in the traditional architecture of South West Saudi Arabia.

I went away and forgot you. A while ago I remembered. I remembered I'd forgotten you. I was dreaming by Dana Awartani is a video artwork and installation. What first appear to be traditional Islamic floor tiles is an installation composed of hand- dyed sand, which is then swept away by the artist. This is recreated in the gallery.

Reem Al-Nasser's *The Silver Plate* is a three part multimedia installation representing: the past (an audio piece), the present (dual screen video installation), and the future (a printed booklet). The piece reflects on the process of needing to negotiate the past, to be able to move towards the future.

UK PREMIERE

ARTISTS TALK SAT 1 JULY | 12PM

Artists Zahrah Al-Ghamdi, Dana Awartani and Reem Al-Nasser will be in conversation with Vassilis Oikonomopoulos (Assistant Curator, Collections International Art Tate Modern) about the works featured in the exhibition.

Presented in partnership with The Mosaic Rooms. The commission of Zahrah Al Ghamdi has been generously supported by individual donors Faisal Tamer and Sara Alireza. Photo: Courtesy of Dana Awartani and Athr Gallery.

THE CRAFT MONIRA AL OADIRI

THU 13 JULY – SUN 10 SEPTEMBER WEDS – SUN | 12 – 6PM GASWORKS 155 Vauxhall Street SE11 5RH



Co-commissioned by Gasworks and the Sursock Museum, Beirut with support from Shubbak. Image: Monira Al Qadiri, *The Craft* research image, 2017. Courtesy of the artist.

ANIMATED IMAGES

THU 6 - SAT 29 JULY 10AM - 11PM

MEZZANINE GALLERY RICH MIX

RICHMIX.ORG.UK FREE

national grandeur and political grandstanding as a

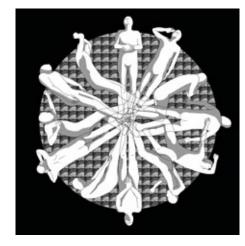
nostalgic and lovable 'other world' beyond reach.

GASWORKS.ORG.UK

FREE

Monira Al Qadiri's first UK solo exhibition, *The Craft*, includes a semi-autobiographical science fiction film, sculptures and photographs in which international diplomacy is envisaged as an alien conspiracy. Under this umbrella, embassies, conferences, cultural exchange and political activism are represented as elaborately staged ways to conceal diplomats' true dealings with the 'third kind'. Poking fun at collapsing postcolonial empires, these works explore how the current rise of nationalism and political populism trivialises formerly common ways of being international in the world, depicting the era of diplomatic rituals,

35 - 47 Bethnal Green Road, E1 6LA



Syrian artist Sulafa Hijazi's series of animated images is a response to our ever-increasing relationship with new media.

While trawling her 'facebook feed' she became conscious of the great plethora of images that we are bombarded with, from a friend's wedding to updates from warzones.

Animated Images uses lenticular print techniques to reveal shifting transformations as the viewer passes by the images. The works invite you to look closer, zooming in to reveal the details of images from diverse sources.

In this era of 24-hour news, she asks whether we can shift our emotions at the same speed as we browse through the flow of images, and what we eventually retain from them.

SHUBBAK AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM

Shubbak at the British Museum explores responses from artists and institutions to the fragility of, and threat to, cultural heritage and artistic expression.

SHUBBAK AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM

SUN 2 JULY | 10AM - 5.30PM

THE BRITISH MUSEUM Great Russell Street WC1B 3DG BRITISHMUSEUM.ORG FREE 020 7370 9990

INANIMATE VILLAGE



The commission of Zahrah Al-Ghamdi has been generously supported by individual donors Faisal Tamer and Sara Alireza. Presented in partnership with The Mosaic Rooms. Image courtes vol Zahrah Al-Ghamdi. For one day only Saudi Arabian artist Zahrah Al-Ghamdi will be producing a site-specific installation in the Great Court. This is the first time she will construct the large scale floor installation in front of an audience. Zahrah Al-Ghamdi grew up in the southwestern region of Saudi Arabia surrounded by traditional domestic architecture. Her work looks at the importance of location and tradition, using everyday materials such as sand and ephemera she has collected from abandoned villages. Flashes of colour allude to a rich and vibrant world that existed in these domestic spaces.

Displayed in the British Museum we are gently reminded of the importance of the role of artists and museums in preserving the past.

UNEARTHED ISSAM KOURBAJ



"The sheer number of them - all these lost, redundant books of which only the cover remains - is a poignant reminder of the growing number of lost lives in Syria." HUFFINGTON POST Photo: Emma K Freeman. A section of the Great Court will be filled by Syrian artist Issam Kourbaj with hundreds of old hardback book covers placed side-by-side to cover sixty square meters of floor. Some covers are painted with blocks of colour, many others have a black line across them, echoing the Syrian tradition of placing black ribbons over the photographs of the recently deceased. Watch the artist create the installation over a matter of hours. Positioned close to the former reading room of the British Library these covers evoke memories of lost knowledge and lives.

LIVING HISTORIES GALLERY TALK WITH VENETIA PORTER AND ISSAM KOURBAJ



1.45 - 2.30PM | GALLERY 34

Curator Venetia Porter discusses the stories and multiple histories behind some of the exhibited works by Fadi Yazigi, Sulafa Hijazi, Azza Abo Rabieh, Jaber Al Azmeh, Ammar Dawood, Mahmoud Obaidi, Dia Azzawi and Issam Kourbaj. The exhibition *Living Histories* is on display until 10 September.

Image: Untitled, ink on rice paper, 2014, Fadi Yazigi. 2016, 6049.1 (thanks to the British Museum acquisitions group, CaMMEA). Photographed by Wafai Naily.

SURVIVAL OF THE ARTIST

From Palmyra to the old city of Aleppo, the destruction of ancient sites has been widely reported in the media. Artists, curators, collectors, cultural commentators and institutions are also put under increasing risk. *Survival of the Artist* hears about the challenges individuals, institutions and commentators face in times of unprecedented challenge. A full day divided into three sessions, it reflects on how artists and art spaces survive and continue to work in times of civil and political conflict, and on how they respond to the continuing threat to cultural heritage. *Strictly Prohibited* explores experiences of curtailment of freedoms, censorship and public space. *Representing The Artist* explores the efforts of collectors and institutions to support artists at risks. *Displaced History* explores responses to preserve and re-tell important historical narratives under threat. *Survival of the Artist* includes contributions from artists Khaled Barakeh, Sofiane & Selma Ouissi, Larissa Sansour, Zahrah Al-Ghamdi and Khaled Jarrar alongside presentations by Atassi Foundation, Al Mawred Al

Thaqafy, Ruya Foundation, Ettijahat, and the director of one of the region's most influential visual arts spaces Cairo's Townhouse, William Wells. In addition there will be performances throughout the day of *For the Absent Ones* (for details see page 10).

MOSAICROOMS.ORG

Booking required rsvp@mosaicrooms.org Includes break for lunch £15 | £12 concs/British Museum Friends

Presented in partnership with The Mosaic Rooms and the British Museum. In collaboration with the Atassi Foundation, with additional support from AI Mawred AI Thaqafy.



IRAQ: WAR, LOVĚ, GOD & MADNESS

+ INTRODUCTION BY MAYSOON PACHACHI

WED 5 JULY | 8.30PM

CINEMA 2. BARBICAN Beech Street, EC2Y 8AE

020 7638 8891 | £8.40 - £10.50

10% off 2 screenings | 15% off 3 or more screenings

DIR. MOHAMED AL-DARADJI, IRAQ - UK, 2008 (83 MINS)

In 2003, Baghdad-born Mohamed Al-Daradji returned

home after a decade in exile to film Ahlaam, the

second feature shot in Irag post-Saddam Hussein.

as he realises his dream in bizarre and turbulent

unpredictable course the film reflects the incredible

and celebrates Iragi people's spirit to survive amid

Named Variety's Middle Eastern Filmmaker of the

Year in 2011, Mohamed Al-Daradji is one of the most

prominent directors working in Irag today; his multi

award-winning films include Son of Babylon and In

Mv Mother's Arms, and have screened at festivals including Sundance, Berlin and Toronto.

Presented in association with digital movie channel MUBI

who will screen Ahlaam throughout July. www.mubi.com.

circumstances. With its improvised form and

risks confronting filmmakers in 'liberated' Irag

overwhelming social and political chaos.

This documentary follows the idealistic young director

BARBICAN.ORG.UK



+ O&A WITH HALA ALABDALLA

MON 3 JULY | 8.30PM

CINE LUMIERE, INSTITUT FRANÇAIS 17 Queensberry Place, SW7 2DT

INSTITUTFRANCAIS.ORG.UK 020 7871 3515 £12 | £10 concs

DIR. HALA ALABDALLA FRANCE-SYRIA, 2016 (90 MINS)

In this deeply personal documentary, veteran Syrian documentarian Hala Alabdalla invites us to dinner with writer and editor Farouk Mardam-Bey, for a thought-provoking reflection on Syria, culture and identity.

Based in France for the last 50 years, Farouk Mardam-Bey is a Syrian publisher who has dedicated his life to promoting contemporary Arab philosophy and poetry. In the intimacy of his kitchen, he attempts to dissipate the fog around Syria with Hala Alabdalla and her team, paying tribute to the Syrian people's resistance with a feast celebrating culture and identity.

Shubbak film programme is presented in partnership with the Arab Fund for Art and Culture - AFAC.

IMAGINED FUTURES SHORTS + O&A WITH LARISSA SANSOUR TUE 4 JULY | 6.30PM Total running time 94 mins

CINEMA 2, BARBICAN Beech Street, EC2Y 8AE

BARBICAN.ORG.UK

020 7638 8891 | £10.80 - £13.50 10% off 2 screenings 15% off 3 or more screenings



Shorts from the region's most exciting new voices present a rich mix of sci-fi, animation and drama spliced with humour, charm and prescience. Capturing the dilemmas lived by many on the Mediterranean shores, directors Rana Kazkaz and Anas Khalaf reflect a Syrian parent's choices to save his daughter in Mare Nostrum.

Chadi Aoun's award-winning animation Silence exposes the secret codes of silent creative resistance in the authoritarian darkness of a dysfunctional society.

Selma and her mother both struggle with their life decisions and futures in Batoul Benazzou's subtly observed drama Selma.

In Nation Estate multi-disciplinary artist Larissa Sansour offers a dystopian, humorous and vertical solution to Palestinian statehood: one colossal skyscraper housing the entire Palestinian population, now finally living the high life.

In Mounia Akl's Submarine, which premiered at the Cannes Film Festival 2016, wild child Hala stubbornly refuses to evacuate her derelict house when the garbage crisis in Lebanon causes her whole village to flee.

MARE NOSTRUM

DIR. ANAS KHALAF, RANA KAZKAZ SYRIA/FRANCE, 2016 (13 MINS)

SILENCE

DIR. CHADI AOUN LEBANON, 2016 (15 MINS)

SELMA

DIR. BATOUL BENAZZOU ALGERIA - FRANCE, 2014 (35 MINS)

NATION ESTATE

DIR LARISSA SANSOUR PALESTINE - DENMARK, 2012 (10 MINS)

SUBMARINE

DIR. MOUNIA AKL LEBANON, 2016 (21 MINS)



OFF FRAME (AKA REVOLUTION UNTIL VICTORY)



UK PREMIERE + Q&A WITH DIRECTOR ALA EDDINE SLIM

THU 6 JULY | 8.30PM

CINEMA 2, BARBICAN Beech Street, EC2Y 8AE

BARBICAN.ORG.UK 020 7638 8891 | £10.80 - £13.50 10% off 2 screenings | 15% off 3 or more screenings

DIR. ALA EDDINE SLIM TUNISIA, 2016 (95 MINS)

Distinctive and bold, *The Last of Us* tells the story of 'N', an anonymous sub-Saharan man on a journey to Europe. Reflecting on the question of borders and contemporary solitude, Ala Eddine Slim oscillates between a recognisable reality and magical realism as N finds himself in an enchanted – perhaps imaginary – territory. *The Last of Us* was lauded at Venice Film Festival for its unpredictable narrative, striking cinematography and layered boundary pushing reflection on migration today.

Tunisian director Ala Eddine Slim has experimented with form and content across genres. His awardwinning work has screened at festivals including FID Marseille and Clermont Ferrand, as well as at MoMA in New York, and Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris.



UK PREMIERE + Q&A WITH DIRECTOR MOHANAD YAQUBI

FRI 7 JULY | 8.30PM

CINEMA 2, BARBICAN Beech Street, EC2Y 8AE

BARBICAN.ORG.UK 020 7638 8891 | £10.80 - £13.50 10% off 2 screenings | 15% off 3 or more screenings

DIR. MOHANAD YAQUBI PALESTINE - FRANCE - QATAR - LEBANON, 2016 (80 MINS)

Image construction and representation is at the heart of Benazzou directorial debut, which reflects on the Palestinian people's struggle to produce an image on their own terms in the 60s and 70s, alongside the establishment of the Palestine Film Unit as part of the PLO.

Told through rarely seen footage from archives across the world, *Off Frame* fills a gap in collective memory from a distinctly and seldom seen Palestinian perspective, deftly bringing the past into dialogue with the present.

Mohanad Yaqubi has produced award winning documentaries and fiction including *Infiltrators* (by Khaled Jarrar), *Though I Know the River is Dry* (by Omar R. Hamilton) and *Suspended Time*, an anthology of 9 films reflecting on 20 years since the signing of the Oslo Peace Accords.

BLOODY BEANS



+ Q&A WITH DIRECTOR NARIMANE MARI

SAT 8 JULY | 6.30PM

CINEMA 2, BARBICAN Beech Street, EC2Y 8AE

BARBICAN.ORG.UK 020 7638 8891 | £10.80 - £13.50 10% off 2 screenings | 15% off 3 or more screenings

DIR. NARIMANE MARI ALGERIA, 2013 (84 MINS)

Radical and playful *Bloody Beans* follows a group of children 'playing' war by reenacting Algeria's War of Independence. Reduced to a diet of 'bloody beans', they loot a French army base and abduct a soldier. With a poetic realism recalling the works of Jean Vigo, combined with an electro soundtrack by Zombie Zombie, history and memory collide in a trance-like and hallucinatory narrative that brilliantly captures the children's unreal understanding of historical fact and play.

Multi-award-winning *Bloody Beans* (*Loubia Hamra*) was Narimane Mari's first feature length film. In February 2015 she directed *La vie courante* for Hors Pistes at the Centre Pompidou.

SHORTS FROM SYRIA



PUSHING THE BOUNDARIES PRE AND POST 2011 SCREENINGS + DISCUSSION WITH CHARLOTTE BANK

SUN 9 JULY | 2PM

CINEMA 2, BARBICAN Beech Street, EC2Y 8AE

BARBICAN.ORG.UK 020 7638 8891 | £10.80 - £13.50 10% off 2 screenings | 15% off 3 or more screenings

FOAM, DIR. REEM ALI SYRIA, 2006 (46 MINS) LA DOLCE SIRIA, DIR. AMMAR AL-BEIK SYRIA, 2014 (27 MINS)

Leaving the metaphorical language of their predecessors behind, Syrian filmmakers in the 2000s began to push for direct language. Art historian and Syrian film specialist Charlotte Bank presents a series of short films that have pushed and tested the boundaries of what can be said in an authoritarian regime.

Reem Ali's *Foam* (2008) demonstrates how young filmmakers began striving for a greater outspokenness in their works.

Since the beginning of the Syrian uprising in 2011 the aesthetic of YouTube videos has been increasingly employed, along with a wider use of found footage. Ammar Al-Beik's *La Dolce Siria* (2015) is a stunning example of this new filmic approach.



TRAMONTANE



UK PREMIERE + Q&A WITH DIRECTOR SOUDADE KAADAN

SUN 9 JULY | 4.30PM

CINEMA 2, BARBICAN Beech Street, EC2Y 8AE

BARBICAN.ORG.UK 020 7638 8891 | £10.80 - £13.50 10% off 2 screenings | 15% off 3 or more screenings

DIR. SOUDADE KAADAN SYRIA - LEBANON, 2017 (75 MINS)

6-year-old Ahmad doesn't want to remember that he is Syrian. He recently lost his older brother to the war, and now lives with his family in a Lebanese refugee camp. Traumatised, overwhelmed and disengaged, he prefers to be silent. Soudade Kaadan's patient observational documentary accompanies Ahmad as he recovers a sense of childhood despite his grief. Against the knowledge of ongoing violence, this thoughtful and heartbreaking film poses a question about a possible future. In Kaadan's words, "it explores the impossibility to verbally express what is happening in Syria now."

Soudade Kaadan is an award winning Syrian director currently based in Lebanon. Educated in both theatre criticism and filmmaking, she has directed and produced documentary films for Al Jazeera, UNDP and UNICEF. She is currently working on her first feature fiction film.



UK PREVIEW SUN 9 JULY | 6.30PM

CINEMA 2, BARBICAN Beech Street, EC2Y 8AE

BARBICAN.ORG.UK 020 7638 8891 | £8.40 - £10.50 10% off 2 screenings | 15% off 3 or more screenings

DIR. VATCHE BOULGHOURJIAN LEBANON, 2016 (105 MINS)

Things begin to unravel unexpectedly when young blind musician Rabih applies for a passport to go on tour with his choir. Doubt is cast on whether his documents are real, setting into motion a quest for his true identity. As past and present collide for Rabih, Vatche Boulghourjian subtly reflects on Lebanon's fractured past. This poetic and sensitive debut, conveyed through Rabih's voice and songs, which make up the film's mesmerising score, is a reminder of the role culture plays in holding up a mirror to often harsh realities.

Tramontane is Lebanese director Vatche Boulghourjian's first feature, which premiered at Cannes Film Festival in 2016.

Shubbak film programme presented in partnership with the Arab Fund for Art and Culture – AFAC and the Barbican, with additional support from AI Mawred AI Thaqafy and Molinare.

TALKS INTERNATIONAL EQUALITY

BEYOND LONDON

Alia Alzougbi plus international guests.

From the Oscars to the UK's theatre landscape and museums' exhibition programmes, gender equality is a widely debated topic in the national and international discourse of culture. International Equality hears from a number of female Arab artists appearing in Shubbak. Spanning different artforms, they speak about the creative impulses behind their work and what issues they face in the process of creating and presenting new works. Chaired by film maker Maysoon Pachachi (Iraq/UK), the discussion includes writer Rasha Abbas (Syria/Holland), actor & singer Norah Krief (France), visual artist Dana Awartani (Saudi Arabia) and film maker Hala Alabdalla (Syria/France).

MON 3 JULY | 6.45PM

INSTITUT FRANÇAIS MEDIATHEQUE

17 Queensberry Place, SW7 2DT

INSTITUT-FRANCAIS. ORG.UK

020 7871 3515 £5 | FREE for ticket holders for *Al Atlal* (performance) or *Farouk, Besieged Like Me* (film).

Presented in partnership with Institut français du Royaume Uni as part of its series Women Shaping the World.

FRI 7 JULY | 4.30PM

ARCOLA 2

24 Ashwin Street E8 3DL

FREE

Supported by Jerwood Charitable Foundation

CURATING IN SAUDI: A NEW GENERATION

London is home to a number of Arab writers, actors, producers and directors.

A new generation of Arab theatre is being produced and touring in European

countries. Festivals like Shubbak regularly invite theatre from the Arab region.

How do UK's Arab theatre artists connect internationally? What are the issues

for working across borders and genres? How local or international is London's

Arab theatre? Hear and discuss these urgent issues with leading practitioners.

Participating writers and producers include Hassan Abdulrazzak, Sabrina Mahfouz,

Fiona Fox and Matilda Pye discuss their experiences over the last year working with six aspiring Saudi women curators, developing their skills and experience within the cultural sector. The curators came from national museums, commercial galleries and not-for-profit organisations in Riyadh, Jeddah and the Eastern Province. Fiona Fox and Matilda Pye led the British Council's Contemporary Collective programme, which aims to develop the next generation of curators and cultural pioneers in Saudi Arabia.

WHERE ACTIVISM & IMAGINATION INTERSECT

BASMA ABDEL AZIZ IN CONVERSATION WITH ENGLISH PEN DIRECTOR JO GLANVILLE

Cairo-based Basma Abdel Aziz is a celebrated novelist and non-fiction writer, a psychiatrist specialising in the treatment of victims of torture, a sculptor and a poet. The publication of her debut novel *The Queue* in English translation by Elisabeth Jaquette in 2016 led to her being named one of Foreign Policy's Leading Global Thinkers for 2016. As an outspoken Egyptian woman working across disciplines and a long-standing critic of government oppression, Basma Abdel Aziz is uniquely placed to comment on the current moment in Egyptian cultural and political life. English PEN Director Jo Glanville hosts this lively conversation.

TUE 11 JULY | 7PM

THE MOSAIC ROOMS 226 Cromwell Road, SW5 0SW

MOSAICROOMS.ORG 020 7370 9990

FREE

Presented in partnership with the Mosaic Rooms.

WED 12 JULY 7 - 8.15PM

FREE WORD CENTRE 60 Farringdon Road, EC1R 3GA

FREEWORDCENTRE.

020 7324 2570 £7/£5 concessions

Presented in partnership with English PEN.

SHUBBAK AT THE BRITISH LIBRARY TWO DAYS OF INSPIRATIONAL ARAB LITERATURE

SAT 15 & SUN 16 JULY

+ BOOK STALL

BRITISH LIBRARY KNOWLEDGE CENTRE 96 Euston Road, NW1 2DB

From Al Sagi Bookshop throughout Shubbak festival

BL.UK

01937 5461546 (Mon – Fri, 9am – 5pm) Or in person at the British Library Single event tickets: £8 | £6 concs One day: £16 | £14 concs Both days: £24 | £22 concs

WRITING AGAINST THE GRAIN



SAT 15 JULY | 12.30 -1.45PM

This session explores urgent issues of current literary writing. What are the inspirations, and the challenges, for the engaged Arab writer working in the current climate? What does it mean to write against the grain in 2017? How do the wider global contexts, regional events, national regimes, personal stories, and other artistic influences shape the form and the content of today's literature? And what does it mean to be a literary activist?

Syrian British writer Robin Yassin-Kassab hosts readings and a lively conversation with three very different writers: Iraqi novelist, poet and publisher Ali Badr, dissident Libyan playwright and novelist Mansour Bushnaf and the bilingual Kuwait-born activist poet and translator Mona Kareem.

A NEW CONFIDENCE

RECENT QUEER WRITING



Image: Al Qaws.

SAT 15 JULY | 2.15 - 3.30PM

Recent years have seen a new confidence on the part of Arab artists writing queer narratives. Join three of the most exciting contemporary writers – who embody a multiplicity of identities and sexualities across apparent divisions of class, gender, and region – for readings from their work and discussion, hosted by Alberto Fernández Carbajal of the University of Leicester.

Saleem Haddad was born in Kuwait City to an Iraqi-German mother and a Palestinian-Lebanese father. His first novel *Guapa*, written in English, broke new ground to rapturous reception in 2016.

Lebanese-Russian writer and academic Alexandra Chreiteh is the author of two novels in Arabic, translated and published in English as *Always Coca-Cola* (2009) and *Ali and His Russian Mother* (2010).

Amahl Khouri is a Jordanian documentary playwright and theatremaker based in Munich. Her work has been published in several U.S. journals and in the *Queer Dramaturgies* international anthology.

WEAVING A MAGIC CARPET OF POEMS

CHILDREN'S POETRY WORKSHOPS WITH SABRINA MAHFOUZ



SAT 15 & SUN 16 JULY | 2.30 - 3.30PM | FREE*

Come and join poet Sabrina Mahfouz for a lively, fun and interactive children's poetry workshop. Learn to weave your everyday experiences into the fabric of Arab folk tales and produce your own magic carpet of poetry!

Sabrina Mahfouz was raised in London and Cairo. Her work includes the plays *Chef, With a Little Bit of Luck, Clean, Battleface* and *The Love I Feel is Red*; and the poetry collection *How You Might Know Me*. She received a Fringe First Award for *Chef* and won a Sky Arts Academy Poetry Award.

Photo: Eliza Power.

*For children over the age of 6 (15 July) and 10 (16 July), accompanied by a guardian. Places are limited so advance booking is essential. Day and weekend passes do not include the free afternoon children's workshops which must be booked separately.

RASHA ABBAS THE SEVEN OF CUPS



SAT 15 JULY | 4 - 5PM

Syrian writer Rasha Abbas, now based in Berlin, is undertaking a monthlong creative research residency with Shubbak and the British Library. During her intensive immersion in the vast collections of the Library, she will be digging deep into the Arab Union, the brief period when Syria and Egypt became one nation (1958-61). Zooming in on the questions that this historical phase raises about Arab nationalism and populism both then and now, Rasha Abbas will present a narrative framed by specific tarot cards. She says of the title card "Seven of Cups tends to arise in situations involving multiple illusions and various realities".

SHUBBAK LITERARY COLLABORATIONS

Shubbak is collaborating with leading international literature publications to publish new works from a selection of groundbreaking festival artists.

Digital magazine *Words Without Borders* will publish newly translated works including political nonfiction from Egyptian Basma Abdel Aziz; an extract of Nadia Alkokabany's new novel about the Yemeni revolution; an extract of Mohamed Abdelnabi's International Prize for Arabic Fiction-shortlisted gay Egyptian novel; and a short play by seminal Libyan playwright Mansour Bushnaf.

THIS SPECIAL FEATURE WILL GO LIVE ON 1 JULY SHUBBAK.CO.UK | WORDSWITHOUTBORDERS.ORG Modern Poetry in Translation's summer issue will include a Shubbak focus on Arabic-language poetry, with new work from the poets appearing at the festival including Shubbak's new commission by Golan Haji, in translation by Stephen Watts, a conversation between the literary programmer Alice Guthrie and a poet participant, and more. A range of podcasts and recordings will accompany the magazine.

SHUBBAK AT THE BRITISH LIBRARY

KEEPERS OF THE FLAME CONTEMPORARY ARABIC POETRY



SAT 15 JULY | 5.30 - 7PM

Celebrated poet and artist Malika Booker hosts four mesmerising poets for bilingual performances of their work, which keeps the fragile flame of poetry alive.

Golan Haji is a Syrian Kurdish poet and translator. He will be premiering new poems commissioned by Shubbak, translated by British poet Stephen Watts.

New York-based bilingual poet and translator Mona Kareem was nominated for the Best Translated Book Award 2017 for the poetry of Saudi poet Ashraf Fayadh.

Dunya Mikhail is a multi award winning Iraqi-American poet. In 2001, she was awarded the United Nations Human Rights Award for Freedom of Writing.

Al-Saddiq Al-Raddi is one of the most acclaimed African poets writing in Arabic today. He has gained a wide audience in his native Sudan as well as being shortlisted for the prestigious Ted Hughes Award in 2015.

THE WAKING NIGHTMARE POST-REVOLUTIONARY EGYPTIAN DYSTOPIAS



SUN 16 JULY | 1.30 - 2.45PM

Six years after the revolution, in a climate of suppressed dreams, a new wave of Egyptian writers are blending horror, realism and black humour to reflect on this painful phase of their nation's history. Hosted by celebrated literary translator Elisabeth Jaquette, three writers working in the continuum from nightmare present realism to dystopian futurism will read from and discuss their brave work and its troubling context.

Basma Abdel Aziz is an award-winning journalist, psychiatrist, and visual artist, whose debut novel *The Queue* appeared in English translation in 2016. Ganzeer is a multidisciplinary maker, writer and designer and is one of Egypt's most famous street artists. Mohammad Rabie is a writer and literary editor whose third novel, *Otared*, was shortlisted for the International Prize for Arabic Fiction in 2016.

Shubbak at the British Library is presented in partnership with the British Library with support from: The International Prize for Arabic Fiction, AI Mawred AI Thaqafy, British Council, The British Institute for the Study of Iraq, Modern Poetry in Translation, Words Without Borders and the Institut français du Royaume-Uni. Photos: Dunya Mkhail - Cary Loren, AI-Saddiq AI-Raddi - Crispin Hughes, Ganzeer - K.P. Norman, Susan Abulhawa - Chase Burkett.

UNDER THE RADAR WOMEN WRITING FROM OUTSIDE THE ARAB LITERARY MAINSTREAM



SUN 16 JULY | 3.15 - 4.30PM

Coming from countries removed from the major literary markets how can female Libyan and Yemeni authors maintain their literary output? What effect do multiple levels of marginalisation have on their inspiration and publications? The discussion and bilingual readings are hosted by UK journalist Bidisha.

Najwa Benshatwan was the first woman in her family to be literate. Persecuted for her anti-authoritarian writing, she now resides in Italy. Shortlisted for the International Prize for Arabic Fiction 2017, she is currently working on a novel about Eastern European female immigrants in Western Europe. Nadia Al-Kokabany teaches architecture at Sana'a University and is a prolific writer. Her acclaimed novel *The Ali Muhsin Market* is a tale of the Yemeni revolution.

SUSAN ABULHAWA



SUN 16 JULY | 5.30 - 7PM

Multi award winning Palestinian-American novelist Susan Abulhawa is one of the most commercially successful Arab authors of all time. Her 2010 debut novel *Mornings in Jenin* was an international bestseller, translated into 26 languages, and in 2015 *The Blue Between Sky and Water* also met a vast global readership. Her powerful, political and romantic historical fiction is written in English, yet it is deeply rooted in the land and language of Palestine.

In this special guest appearance hosted by South Africa born novelist, playwright and memoirist Gillian Slovo, Susan Abulhawa will read from her books and discuss her themes – from the historically specific and the politically engaged to the timeless and the universal.

COMICS AND CARTOON ART FROM THE ARAB WORLD



TUE 13 JUNE – SUN 29 OCTOBER BRITISH LIBRARY TREASURES GALLERY | FREE

Explore the art, history and significance of Arab comics, cartoons, caricatures and graphic novels through original examples taken from the British Library's collections. From 19th century Egyptian satirical press, to mid-20th century children's comics and contemporary graphic novels discover this vibrant visual archive that illustrates and engages issues concerning everyday life, politics and society across the Arab world and beyond.



SHUBBAK IN DALSTON A COLLABORATION WITH SELMA & SOFIANE OUISSI

FRI 7 – SUN 9 JULY TIMES VARY

VARIOUS LOCATIONS FREE THROUGHOUT DALSTON

As part of its 2017 collaboration with two influential festivals in the Arab region to imagine new responses to local contexts, Shubbak has invited dancers and choreographers Selma and Sofiane Ouissi (founders of *Dream City*) to commission a series of interventions for Dalston. The works explore a neighbourhood facing rapid economic development alongside fragile existences and hidden histories.

Dream City is a Tunisian biennial of artistic interventions exploring the politics of public space, founded in 2007 and produced by L'Art Rue association. Created through research periods and residencies, invited artists create new site-specific works responding to the architectural, socio-economic, political and historical context of Tunis and its communities.

The full walking tour takes about an hour excluding stops. Make a day of it in Dalston – why not check out *And Here I am* at The Arcola or our events at Rich Mix and the Barbican?

DOWNLOAD MAP & FULL DETAILS FROM 1 JULY ON SHUBBAK.CO.UK

A MEMORY OF AN IMPOSSIBLE FUTURE LAILA SOLIMAN & RUUD GIELENS

Laila Soliman (Egypt) and Ruud Gielens (Belgium) explore the history of activism and radical civic resistance in Dalston. Gathering personal narratives through video interviews and archival research, the artists will create a performance and installation for one of Dalston's most hidden spaces. Unearthing stories of protests and radical politics, the work will attempt to assemble the advice of seasoned Dalston activists for their younger counterparts.

10AM – 6PM | THE BUNKER, BOOTSTRAP The Bootyard, 3 Abbot Street, E8 3DL

Laila Soliman is an independent theatre director, dramaturge and playwright. Ruud Gielens' versatile practice spans across various fields of the performing arts. They have collaborated since 2011 on a variety of politically motivated artistic projects.

DEAD MEAT MOVING MALEK GNAOUI



10AM – 6PM | CONTAINER YARD Ridley Road Market, E8 2NP 24 mins

In this powerful video, artist Malek Gnaoui takes us on a dark journey into a socio-political system stripped to the bone, where a dismantled society and sheep, condemned to the slaughter, are removed of any hope. Filmed in one of Tunis' largest abattoirs for *Dream City* 2015, this work is now shown close to the meat stalls of Dalston's marketplace.

SUR-ROUND MALEK GNAOUI



FOYER ISMAÏL BAHRI

Filmed in the streets of Tunis, at first *Foyer* seems to be a projection without film, where the only thing visible is a white screen. Soon we hear voices approaching the cameraman. The film becomes an interrogation of the process of film-making in the public realm. Gradually the camera becomes the 'foyer' in which people can meet and voice different points of view and subtle expressions of a social and political nuanced landscape.

HALKOUM FAKHRI EL GHEZAL



10AM – 6PM | ST BARNABAS CHURCH 20 Shacklewell Row, E8 2EA

Tunisian artist Malek Gnaoui delves into the history of boxing in Dalston. Fascinated by the historic popularity of this sport and its links to both religion and corruption, he creates a new visual and sound installation. Sculptural punchbags occupy a church hall emitting voices from local boxers – a sombre display of ambition, fate and fighting for one's place in life.

Trained as a ceramist, Malek Gnaoui's interdisciplinary art practice explores aspects of spirituality in popular imagery and custom.

10AM - 5.30PM | LOCATION TBC 32 mins (loop)

Ismaïl Bahri studied art in Tunis and Paris. His work is based on sensitive and precise visual experiments often borrowing from notions related to photography and cinema, and questioning the limits of the visible and of perception.

10AM - 6PM | LOCATION TBC 6 mins (loop)

In this three-screen video installation, Tunisian artist Fakhri El Ghezal takes interest in the world of manual labour and the working class, leading us into their universe by following a 'halkoum', or water pipe. The pipe emerges, snakes and duplicates, while agitated workers pause for a moment of respite.

Tunisian visual artist Fakhri El Ghezal works primarily in photography and video. His practice evidences the workings of Tunisian society and the world of labour.

Shubbak in Dalston is presented with additional support from the Paul Hamyln Foundation and Al Mawred Al Thaqafy.

SHUBBAK IN SHEPHERD'S BUSH

A COLLABORATION WITH NEHNA WEL AMAR WEL JIRAN FESTIVAL **INCLUDING: STUDIO KAWAKEB, ALIA ALZOUGBI,** VARIANT SPACE, MAYA YOUSSEF, OMER ELTIGANI

THU 13 - SAT 15 JULY 10AM - 7PM

SHEPHERD'S BUSH MARKET **BUSH THEATRE** Goldhawk Road, W12 8DG 7 Uxbridge Road, W12 8LJ



As part of its 2017 collaboration with two influential festivals in the Arab region to imagine new responses to local contexts. Shubbak has invited artistic directors Aurélien Zouki and Eric Deniaud (Collectif Kahraba) to commission a series of events for the Shepherd's Bush area, exploring West London's vibrant neighbourhood with a rich multicultural history.

Nehna Wel Amar Wel Jiran (We, the Moon and the Neighbours) is an annual outdoors festival in Beirut, led by Collectif Kahraba and named after a famous Lebanese song. Throughout the festival, the neighbourhood becomes alive with storytelling, puppetry, theatre, dance and music, and meetings between local residents, artists and visitors.

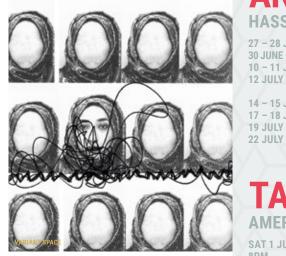
Join us for three days of creative interventions as artists take over Shepherd's Bush's busy market, and mingle with shoppers and market traders.



FREE & FAMILY FRIENDLY! FULL DETAILS FROM 1 JULY ON SHUBBAK.CO.UK

With additional support from the Paul Hamvin Foundation, HIVOS. Amal - A Said Foundation Project and Al Mawred Al Thagafy.





Experience Beirut's quirky design collective Studio Kawakeb as they occupy and transform the site through an exploration of the area's visual identity.

Let yourself be guided by Alia Alzougbi's storytelling, as she gathers personal and alternative stories with the participation of White City Youth Theatre.

Immerse yourself and take part in a soundscape booth by London's all-female arts collective Variant Space, as they record and broadcast local audio chronicles.

Come and enjoy a variety of music performances, including renowned kanun player Maya Youssef.

Let your senses be stirred by Sudanese chef and artist Omer Eltigani's exploration of food and memory.

Each day will end with a concert at the newly reopened Bush Theatre.

SHUBBAK **ON TOUR**

You can catch some of the Shubbak 2017 events as they travel around the UK this summer.

AND HERE I AM HASSAN ABDELRAZZAK P5

27 - 28 JUNE **EVERYMAN CHELTENHAM 30 JUNE - 1 JULY NUFFIELD, SOUTHAMPTON**

10 - 11 JULY**THE LOWRY, SALFORD** LIVERPOOL ARAB ARTS FESTIVAL UNITY THEATRE 14 - 15 JULY **BIKE SHED. EXETER** 17 - 18 JULY **ASSEMBLY ROOMS, EDINBURGH** NORTH WALL. OXFORD THE CUT, HALESWORTH DEVELOPINGARTISTS.ORG.UK

ТАНА AMER HLEHEL P6 SAT 1 JULY THE LOWY. SALFORD THELOWRY.COM 8PM

22 JULY

SACRÉ PRINTEMPS!

CIE CHATHA P7

9 JULY 1, 2 & 3PM

1 JULY

6 - 7PM

LIVERPOOL ARAB ARTS FESTIVAL **OPEN EYE GALLERY** WINTER GARDEN ARABARTSFESTIVAL.COM

HAWIDRO / MAYA YOUSSEF

ART IN THE PARK. MILTON KEYNES

CALENDAR

SHUBBAK & WORDS WITHOUT BORDERS Goes live on: shubbak.co.uk wordswithoutborders.org P.31 INANIMATE VILLAGE INTERNATIONAL EQUALITY 645pm Institut Francais Mediatheque P.29 SHIFT 11am - 6pm The Mosaic Rooms P.20 ANIMATED IMAGES 10am - 11pm Mezzanine Gallery Rich Mix P.21 NIMATED IMAGES 10am - 11pm Mezzanine Gallery Rich Mix P.21 NIMATED IMAGES 10am - 11pm Mezzanine Gallery Rich Mix P.21 NIMATED IMAGES 10am - 11pm Mezzanine Gallery Rich Mix P.21	SAT 8 JULY ANIMATED IMAGES 10am - 11pm Mezzanine Gallery Rich Mix P.21
WITHOUT BORDERS Goes live on: shubbak.co.uk wordswithoutborders.org P.31 VILLAGE EQUALITY 6.45pm 11am - 6pm 11am - 6pm 10am - 11pm 10am - 11pm Mezzanine Gallery Rich Mix P.21 MAGINED FUTURES SHORTS MAGINED FUTURES SHORTS MAGINED 3.30 & 8pm SHIFT SHIFT SHUBBAK IN	10am – 11pm Mezzanine Gallery
P.31 FUTURES SHORTS 3.30 & 8pm SHIFT SHUBBAK IN	
SHIFT 10am - 5.30pm 8pm Cinema 2, Barbican P.25 The Mosaic Rooms P.20 10am - 6pm	SHUBBAK IN DALSTON 10am - 6pm Various Locations P.34
SHIFT ARTISTS TALK SURVIVAL OF FAROUK, FAROUK, 7.30pm Southbank Centre Square 1,4 & 6.30pm SHIFT 12pm The Mosaic Rooms P20 THE ARTIST 8.30pm Ciné Lumière, Institut français P.4 ND HERE I AM TAHA DAR AL SULH The Mosaic Rooms P.20	SHIFT 11am – 6pm The Mosaic Rooms P.20 AND HERE I AM
CAROKEE & 8pm Ine Maria, Young Vic P.6 The Mosaic Rooms P.19 4.30pm TANIA SALEH 7.30pm Arcola Theatre P.5 NESHAMA Arcola 2 P.29 Dar AL SULH 7.45pm The Maria, Young Vic P.6 7.45pm Trafalgar Square P.14 The Maria, Young Vic P.6 The Maria, Young Vic P.6 The Mosaic Rooms P.19 4.30pm	3.30 & 8pm Arcola Theatre P.5 BLOODY BEANS 6.30pm
1.45 - 2.30pm Gallery 34 The British Museum P.22	Cinema 2, Barbican P.27 DAR AL SULH 7 – 10pm The Mosaic Rooms P.19
HAWIDRO & RASHA 7.30 - 11pm Rush Hall P19 TAHA	TAHA 7.45pm The Maria, Young Vic P.6
8.30pm Cinema 2, Barbican P.26 Arcola Theatre P.5	
DISPLACEMENT Bym Lilian Baylis Studio Sadler's Wells P.8 OFE EDAME	

OFF FRAME (AKA REVOLUTION UNTIL VICTORY) 8.30pm Cinema 2, Barbican P.26

SUN 9 JULY

ANIMATED IMAGES 10am - 11pm Mezzanine Gallerv

Rich Mix P.21

SHUBBAK IN DALSTON

10am - 6pm Various Locations P.34

SHORTS **FROM SYRIA**

2pm Cinema 2, Barbican P.27

OBSCURE

4.30pm Cinema 2, Barbican P.28

TRAMONTANE

6.30pm Cinema 2, Barbican P.28

ANIMATED IMAGES 10am - 11pm Mezzanine Gallerv Rich Mix P.21

MON 10 JULY

7.30pm

TAHA

7.45pm

SHIFT TRANSACTION 11am - 6pm The Mosaic Rooms P.20

Hacknev Showroom P.9

SAUDI: A NEW The Maria, Young Vic P.6 GENERATION

7pm The Mosaic Rooms P.29

TAHA 7.45pm The Maria, Young Vic P.6

TUE 11 JULY

ANIMATED IMAGES

10am - 11pm

Rich Mix P.21

Mezzanine Gallerv

CURATING IN

MIND, THE GAP & FOR THE **ABSENT ONES**

8pm Arcola Theatre P.10

ANIMATED IMAGES

WED 12 JULY

10am - 11pm Mezzanine Gallerv Rich Mix P.21

SHIFT

11am - 6pm The Mosaic Rooms P.20

TAHA 2.45 & 7.45pm The Maria, Young Vic P.6

WHERE ACTIVISM **& IMAGINATION** INTERSECT 7 - 8.15pm Free Word Centre P.29

MIND, THE GAP & FOR THE ABSENT ONES

8pm Arcola Theatre P.10

THU 13 JULY FRI 14 JULY

10am - 11pm

Rich Mix P.21

10am - 7pm

11am - 6pm

THE CRAFT

Gasworks P.21

COMPOSERS

LSO St Luke's P.16

12 - 6pm

7.30pm

ТАНА

7.45pm

SHIFT

Mezzanine Gallerv

SHUBBAK IN

SHEPHERD'S BUSH

Shepherd's Bush Market

The Mosaic Rooms P.20

WOMAN AT POINT

The Maria, Young Vic P.6

ZERO & FOUR ARAB

& Bush Theatre P.36

ANIMATED IMAGES

ANIMATED IMAGES 10am - 11pm Mezzanine Gallerv Rich Mix P.21

SHUBBAK IN SHEPHERD'S BUSH 10am - 7pm Shepherd's Bush Market & Bush Theatre P.36

SHIFT 11am - 6pm The Mosaic Rooms P.20

THE CRAFT 12 - 6pm Gasworks P.21

TAHA 7.45pm The Maria. Young Vic P.6

CORBEAUX 8 & 9.30pm Serpentine Galleries P.12

LOVE & REVENGE

8pm Rich Mix P.17

THREE ROOMS

8pm Arcola Theatre P.11

2.30 - 3.30pm British Library P.31

TAHA 2.45 & 7.45pm The Maria, Young Vic P.6

RASHA ABBAS

4 – 5pm British Library P.31

KEEPERS OF THE FLAME

British Library P.32

KAHAREB

8pm - 1am Rich Mix P.18

THREE ROOMS

8nm Arcola Theatre P.11

ANIMATED IMAGES 10am - 11pm Mezzanine Gallerv

SUN 16 JULY

Rich Mix P.21

THE CRAFT

SHEPHERD'S BUSH Shepherd's Bush Market & Bush Theatre P.36

SAT 15 JULY

ANIMATED IMAGES

10am - 11pm

Rich Mix P.21

10am - 7pm

11am - 6pm

THE CRAFT

Gasworks P.21

THE GRAIN

12.30 -1.45pm

CORBEAUX

Tate Modern P.12

2 & 5pm

British Library P.30

12 - 6pm

The Mosaic Rooms P.20

WRITING AGAINST

SHIFT

Mezzanine Gallerv

SHUBBAK IN

NIGHTMARE 1.30 - 2.45pm British Library P.32

WEAVING A MAGIC CARPET OF POEMS

2.30 - 3.30pm British Library P.31

UNDER THE RADAR 3.15 - 4.30pm British Library P.33

SUSAN ABULHAWA

SHUBBAK.

A NEW CONFIDENCE

2.15 - 3.30pm British Library P.30

WEAVING A MAGIC CARPET OF POEMS

5.30 - 7pm

British Library P.33

5.30 - 7pm

12 - 6pm Gasworks P.21

THE WAKING



ABOUT SHUBBAK

Shubbak is London's largest biennial festival of contemporary Arab culture. Now in its fourth edition, Shubbak connects London audiences and communities with the best of contemporary Arab culture through ambitious festival programmes of premieres and commissions of visual arts, film, music, theatre, dance, literature and debate. We work with arts institutions in London and internationally.

"[A] triumphant celebration of Arab contemporary culture" THE MAJALLA

WHO WE ARE

THE TEAM Eckhard Thiemann

Artistic Director Daniel Gorman Executive Director Reem Akl Festival & Engagement Producer Alice Guthrie Literature Curator and Producer Elhum Shakerifar Film Curator and Producer Anna Arthur PR MakesThree Marketing

Thank you to all our volunteers and supporters!

Maysoon Pachachi Chair Aaron Cezar Director. The Delfina Foundation **David Freeman** Consultant, Thomas Eggar LLP Lynn Gaspard

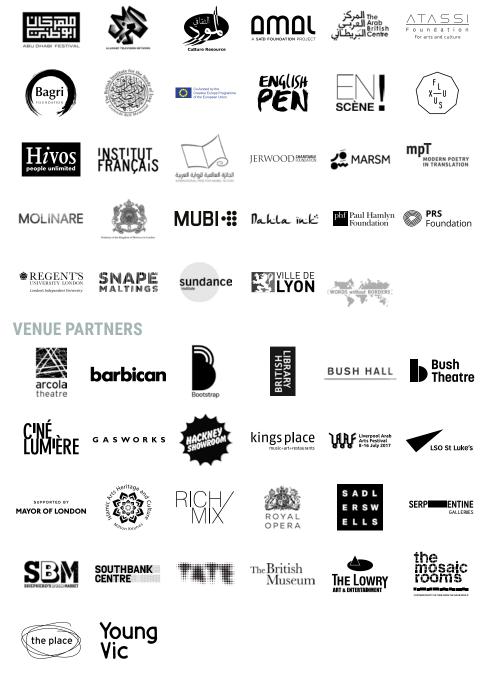
Director, Sadi Books Noreen Abu Oun Robin Start Owner, The Park Gallery Roxane Zand Sotheby's Deputy Chairman for the Middle East

CONTACT US SHUBBAK

BOARD OF TRUSTEES c/o Arab British Centre 1 Gough Square London EC4A 3DE info@shubbak.co.uk Sign up to our mailing list at shubbak.co.uk/contact Support us at shubbak.co.uk/support-us Shubbak is a registered UK charity (charity number: 1150374). Company number: 07966699. All details correct at time of printing.

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SHUBBAK IS ALSO VERY GRATEFUL TO ALL OUR INDIVIDUAL DONORS.

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