A WINDOW ON CONTEMPORARY ARAB CULTURE

28 JUNE - 14 JULY

SHUBBAK.CO.UK
Welcome to Shubbak 2019!

Our fifth festival brings exciting, bold, poignant and urgent work by Arab artists to London’s stages, concert halls, cinemas, outdoor locations, galleries and museums.

This year’s programme champions artists who embrace questioning the norm. With sometimes joyful - sometimes sombre; sometimes mischievous - sometimes comforting; sometimes loud - sometimes whispering works, these artists comment powerfully on the world we live in.

In times when political alliances are shifting, definitions of gender are broadened, divisions between generations are interrogated, and hierarchies of power are exposed, the voices of these artists take us to new and unexpected realms of possibilities, a realm where empathy and freedom dare to live.

Shubbak 2019 features over 150 artists based in the Arab region, in Europe and in the UK. As the UK’s relationship to Europe is at a moment of change, we welcome the many participating artists from across Europe, and especially our Paris / London exchange.

We are also proud to announce a new partnership with the Gate Theatre this year, with whom we co-present a two-week season of international performance and play readings. And you’ll find that we have broadened our family programme with more family-friendly shows and an expanded workshop programme.

Immerse yourself in Shubbak 2019.

The Shubbak Team

Maysoon Pachachi, Chair

Arab artists are creating dynamic and vital works across a huge diversity of styles, artforms and approaches to audiences. As chair of London’s largest festival of contemporary Arab culture, I am delighted to present our 2019 programme. Shubbak has become a magnet for audiences, artists, programmers and media to discover the vibrant, thoughtful, inspirational, internationally-connected and also often challenging sector in which Arab artists operate.

In Shubbak 2019, along with those with a specialist interest in contemporary culture or politics, Arab artists will reach passers-by in our free outdoor events, and children and families in our family-friendly shows. We are also proud to extend our national reach by touring more works to different locations across the UK.

On behalf of Shubbak’s Board of Trustees, I hope you join me in being inspired and moved by this year’s festival programme.

Maysoon Pachachi, Chair

Shubbak.co.uk

Principal Partners

With gratitude to our principal partners and all our festival partners, without whose support the festival would not be possible.
“I am not one story, I am many stories.”

Mohamed Toukabri’s autobiographical solo delves deeply into the experience of a young man finding himself in dance and in Europe. From discovering street dance as a 12-year old in front of the railway station in Tunis to his 10 years of performing with renowned choreographers like Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker, Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui and Jan Lauwers, his movements and reflections resonate with sharp insight to explore a personal yet universal migrant experience. Subtle video projections from his family home, stories of casual racism and subtly humoured observations blend into a richly textured experience of being in-between two countries, two cultures, two traditions. With thoughtful reflection as well as a candid irony, he takes us to what he calls ‘the splendour of this mysterious zone’.

Mohamed Toukabri is a Tunisian artist based in Brussels. He performed in Shubbak 2017 in Cie Chatha’s outdoor performances of Sacré Printemps!

UK PREMIERE
TUNISIA | BELGIUM
IN ENGLISH
POST-SHOW TALK
SHUBBAK ON TOUR
21 JUNE | JERWOOD DANCE HOUSE
DANCE EAST, IPSWICH
26 JUNE | PAVILION DANCE
SOUTH WEST, BOURNEMOUTH
28 JUNE | THE LOWRY, SALFORD

*Transaction fees apply: £3 online, £3.50 over the phone. No transaction fees for in-person bookings, Southbank Centre Members and Supporters Circles.

Presented with additional support from Qatar Foundation International. Image: Emilie Jacomet.

Ayat, Hend, Ali (formerly Ola), Mariam, Rowaida and Kenda are Syrian activists who have been held in the notorious Adra prison. Their periods of imprisonment range from the 80s to more recent ones since the revolution in 2011. Using their own words, each person takes us right into the heart of prison life. With simple gestures and quiet intensity they tell of tender moments between women and children, confessional letters to loved-ones and small acts of kindness.

They speak of the strengths they drew on to survive and their determination to resist. Their personal stories are of violence and pain, but also of solidarity, hope and an unshakable faith in freedom.

With great delicacy and simple direction, director Ramzi Choukair and dramaturg Wael Kadour allow the women to present their lives and touch us with their deep humanity and dignity.

Singer Hala Omran is the seventh character, uniting the production with haunting sounds of traditional Arab song and opera.

Ramzi Choukair is an actor and director, based in Marseille. He performed in London in the National Theatre production of Salome in 2017.

UK PREMIERE
SYRIA | FRANCE
IN ARABIC WITH ENGLISH SURTITLES
POST-SHOW TALK
WED 3 JULY

Presented with additional support from a donor who chooses to remain anonymous. Image: Ahmed-Naji.
Lebanese choreographer and performer Ali Chahrour brings the final part of his acclaimed trilogy exploring mourning rituals for the first time to the UK. *May he rise...* is a dance performance and a ceremony where death in all its primitiveness emerges from the depth of the earth to become a rite for life. A mourning woman acts as a priestess, summoning the three men to experience grief and loss with her. Tapping into stories and legends summoned from deep cultural memory, this piece calls upon our collective human experience.

*May he rise...* is a collaboration with great talent including the Syrian actress Hala Omran (star of the film *Bab El Cham* by Yousry Nasrallah) and Lebanese musicians Ali Hout and Abed Kobeissy aka Two or The Dragon, an up-and-coming electro-acoustic duo revisiting traditional instruments. An affecting and daring work that places the living body centre stage.

**UK PREMIERE**
**LEBANON**
**SOME ARABIC WITH ENGLISH SURTITLES**
**POST-SHOW TALK**
**FRI 5 JULY**

Production contains female nudity.
Presented in partnership with Sadler’s Wells with additional support from British Council and Drosos Foundation.
*£17* online, £15.50 over the phone, £15 no fee in person.
Image: Zyad Ceblany.

There is a long tradition of acrobats performing on Moroccan beaches and in village squares, creating spectacles for the public with astounding human pyramids, cartwheels and somersaults, always accompanied by music and song.

For the past 10 years the highly skilled acrobats of Groupe Acrobatique de Tanger have travelled the world with their contemporary shows. Using powerful and unique physical skills, they have breathed new life into this popular practice.

In *Halka*, the 14 acrobats and musicians create an energetic spectacle which hums with the sights and sounds of Moroccan street life. Acrobatic tricks and stirring music mix the world of old traditions with exuberant parties and modern visual humour to paint a vivid picture of life in the Maghreb today. By turns the stage is transformed into the middle of the desert, to a crowded public square, a magical night-time dance and a crier calling the faithful to prayer.

*Halka* is an invitation to let yourself be captivated by this vision of communal life captured by the boundless energy and humour of these incredible acrobats.

"...as simple as it is ingenious...creating magic out of nothing but human wit, daring and imagination"

**JUDITH MACKRELL,**
**THE GUARDIAN (CHOUF OUCHOUF)**

**MOROCCO**

**SHUBBAK ON TOUR**

6 JULY | THE LOWRY, SALFORD
9 JULY | LIGHTHOUSE, POOLE

*Transaction fees apply: £3 online, £3.50 over the phone. No transaction fees for in-person bookings, Southbank Centre Members and Supporters Circles.*

Presented with additional support from British Council.
Image: Richard Haughton.
CHRONICLES OF MAJNUN LAYLA
AMER HLEHEL PERFORMS QASSIM HADDAD’S MASTERWORK
PRESENTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE BAGRI FOUNDATION

A classic love story re-told by Amer Hlehel in a contemporary bilingual rendering with live music. The actor and writer of five-star Taha (Shubbak 2017, Young Vic) transforms poet Qassim Haddad’s powerful rendering of the classic tale of Majnun Layla into a live experience. The story of love, passion, eroticism and unfulfilled desire, often described as the Arab Romeo and Juliet, is radically reinterpreted with an original soundscore and accompaniment from Rihab Azar and Kareem Samara on electronic and acoustic oud. Staying true to the sequence and emotional life of the poems, Hlehel moves between Arabic and English using Ferial Ghazoul and John Verlenden’s much-lauded translation, playing with rhythm, intonation and the particularities of both languages to bring out the universal qualities of this epic.

Qassim Haddad is a multi-award winning Bahraini poet. The English translation of Chronicles of Majnun Layla was published in 2014. Amer Hlehel is a Palestinian actor and writer, who has performed at the Royal Shakespeare Company, Royal Court and Young Vic.

MON 1 - WED 3 JULY | 7PM
WORLD PREMIERE
BAHRAIN | PALESTINE
IN ENGLISH & ARABIC
WITH ENGLISH SURTITLES
POST-SHOW TALK
2 JULY
SHUBBAK ON TOUR
FRI 5 JULY
BRADFORD LITERATURE FESTIVAL
SUN 7 JULY
LIVERPOOL ARAB ARTS FESTIVAL

Produced by Alia Alzougbi.
Presented in partnership with the Gate Theatre.
Presented with additional support from Arab Fund for Arts and Culture, British Council and Drosos Foundation.

METTE LOULOU VON KOHL & DIMA MIKHAYEL MATTA
IN DEVELOPMENT: TWO BOLD WORKS ON QUEERNESS

NO ONE LIKES AN UGLY REVOLUTIONARY
METTE LOULOU VON KOHL

With frank honesty Palestinian/Danish-US-based artist Mette Loulou von Kohl delves into her infatuation with Palestinian freedom fighter, hijacker and icon Leila Khaled. Alternating between reverence and fetish, and grappling with her own position on racism, orientalism, sexuality and lineage of resistance and activism, No One Likes An Ugly Revolutionary becomes a cauldron of conflicting forces – yet told with disarming charm and poignant irony.

THIS IS NOT A MEMORIZED SCRIPT, THIS IS A WELL-REHEARSED STORY
DIMI MIKHAYEL MATTA

“Yesterday, I woke up with the certainty that holding hands with the woman I love in Beirut is revolutionary.”

The body is the city. The city is the body. Dima Mikhayel Matta draws a powerful picture of her queer existence in relation to Beirut. Remembering past and current relationships, childhood memories and confronting prejudice head-on, Matta’s pithy text accuses, moves and reflects in equal measure. Dima Mikhayel Matta is a writer, professor, actor and spoken word artist. In 2014 she founded the popular storytelling initiative Cliffhangers.

THU 4 JULY | 7PM
LEBANON | PALESTINE
USA | DENMARK
IN ENGLISH
POST-SHOW TALK
Presented in partnership with the Gate Theatre.
Presented with additional support from Arab Fund for Arts and Culture, British Council, Cockayne Grants for the Arts and London Community Foundation.

Images L-R: Lippe & Joseph Maalouf.
ÉVOLVŌ + ONE DAY & ONE NIGHT BEIRUT
YARA BOUSTANY

A magic visual delight from one of Beirut’s freshest young talents. Conjuring up complex and wondrous images and optical illusions, évolvō follows a journey from idyllic nature in the mountains of Lebanon, filled with birdsong and the buzz of insects, to the busy street-life of Beirut with its startling rooftops and noisy traffic. A strange creature invades the city. Is it an ancient monster or an image of the city drowning in plastic pollution? The city is haunted by animal spirits. Like an open-ended riddle, évolvō can be read in many ways – filled with wonder and visual surprises.

évolvō is performed alongside the shorter work One Day and One Night Beirut.

Yara Boustanly works at the crossroads of visual arts and performance. In 2015, she founded Amalgam, a theatre, dance, and circus training space in the heart of Beirut.

FRI 5 & SAT 6 JULY 3PM | 7PM
UK PREMIERE
LEBANON
OUTDOOR CREATIVE MOVEMENT WORKSHOP WITH YARA BOUSTANY
THU 11 JULY LIVERPOOL ARAB ARTS FESTIVAL
SAT 13 JULY THE LOWRY, SALFORD

Shubbak on Tour
THU 11 JULY LIVERPOOL ARAB ARTS FESTIVAL
SAT 13 JULY THE LOWRY, SALFORD

Fiftysomething Lebanese performer Hanane Hajj Ali jogs every day to avoid osteoporosis, obesity and depression. Her route takes her through her own personal space and the public spaces of Beirut, revisiting roles, characters, desires, aspirations and disappointments along the way. The exercise brings her body a rush of adrenaline and dopamine; alternating destructive and constructive effects, mirroring an ever-changing city that destroys to build and builds to destroy. Alone on a bare stage, Hanane – woman, wife and mother – compares herself with Medea figures: the mythical and everyday Beirut woman.

Hanane Hajj Ali is an important Beirut-based actor, writer and activist. Apart from her theatre works she plays an active role in cultural policy development and cultural planning.

Jogging is the result of a collective lab led by Hanane Hajj Ali, with director Eric Deniaud and dramaturge Abdullah El Kafri.

“IT’S a meditation on Medea, mothers, motherlands, Middle Eastern politics and pigeon shit – completely absorbing” THE STAGE
MON 8 - WED 10 JULY 7PM
LONDON PREMIERE
LEBANON
ARABIC WITH ENGLISH SURTITLES
THEATRE-MAKING WORKSHOP WITH HANANE HAJJ ALI
WED 10 JULY 3PM | £10
Ages 18+

Presented in partnership with the Gate Theatre.
Presented with additional support from Arab Fund for Arts and Culture, British Council and Drosos Foundation.
Image: Marwan Tahtah.
UNDER A LOW SKY

WAEL ALI

Forty-year-old Syrian cinematographer Jamal is obsessed with the idea of losing his past. He has been living in France for a decade, and is now confronted with so many places from his memory being abandoned or destroyed, and his friends spread all over the world. Jamal decides to travel to different European cities to connect to the people he once knew, and travels into the past in his research covering the period of the birth of the Syrian state in the early twentieth century. Gradually he weaves fragments and snippets of narratives into a reflection of how he can possibly understand the present. Under A Low Sky is a succession of unusual, unexpected, familiar or impossible meetings, taking us to a febrile mood of grasping and losing memory and a sense of self.

Wael Ali is a leading Syrian writer, dramaturg and director, based in Lyon whose work has been shown internationally, including at Gorki Theatre in Berlin, Toneelhuis in Antwerp, Journées Théâtrales de Carthage, Tunis.

MON 8 - WED 10 JULY | 9PM

UK PREMIERE

SHUBBAK CO-COMMISSION

SYRIA | FRANCE
IN FRENCH AND ARABIC WITH ENGLISH SURTITLES

Presented in partnership with the Gate Theatre.
Presented as part of Performance Beyond Two Shores, a project co-funded by the European Commission within the framework of the Creative Europe Programme. Working with nine partners across Europe, the project aims to support Arab artists in Europe. Presented with additional support from British Council.
Image: Felix Tchverkin, Unsplash.

WORKING METHOD

ENKIDU KHALED

“Enkidu Khaled powerfully transcends the dilemma and the self-involvement typical of most one-man-shows.”

AL ARTE MAGAZINE (BELGIUM)

Can art really save the world? Enkidu Khaled fled Baghdad in 2008. His award-winning show is a unique form of creative exchange. Based on traumatic events he witnessed years back, he invites the audience to join him in analysing and simplifying the complex process of making theatre from personal experience. In four easy steps he creates a new performance every night, showing how memory, association and tiny fragments of ideas can become a story and how simple decisions can have devastating effect. The name Enkidu means ‘reason’: his method is trying to make sense.

Part lecture, part performance, part workshop, Working Method moves seamlessly from the lightest of conversation to emotional punch. Engaging and honest, it questions how life and theatre interact.

Enkidu Khaled studied theatre in Baghdad, before settling and working in Belgium.

THU 11 - SAT 13 JULY | 7PM

LONDON PREMIERE

IRAQ | BELGIUM
IN ENGLISH

POST-SHOW PANEL DISCUSSION:
WRITING IN EUROPE

THU 11 JULY

Arab theatre makers working in Europe discuss their practice.

Platform 0090 & Richard Jordan Productions in association with Theatre Royal Plymouth, Big in Belgium, STORMMONTAAT, de Beaker Gond en de Schelde, C’TAKT and RBC.
Presented in partnership with the Gate Theatre.
Presented with additional support from British Council.
Image: Bas de Brouwer.
Ahlam is an Egyptian playwright writing in English. A story of generation who fought and who lost. This is a story of love who they choose. This is a story about a generation who fought and who lost. This is a story of people longing to live how they want. This is a story about a new, much harsher, military regime. This is the “Arab Spring” Cairo. The old police state is propped up by a new, much harsher, military regime. This is a story about a generation who fought and who lost. This is a story of Cairo and those desperate to rebuild it.

Ahlam is an Egyptian playwright writing in English. The old police state is propped up by a new, much harsher, military regime. This is a story about a generation who fought and who lost. This is a story of Cairo and those desperate to rebuild it.

Every summer, the National Theatre puts on a free outdoor festival right on the south bank of the Thames. Shubbak takes over the stage for the stage for a weekend of music, performance, workshops and installations. Family activities, bands, spoken word and late DJ sets bring the best of London’s southern cultural scene to this free and iconic setting.

We open with a special Paris/London exchange - in collaboration with Institut des Cultures d'Islam - with Lebanese Paris-based DJ and music producer Hadi Zeidan and London-based Amira Kheir, whose third album Mystic Dance smoothly blends the nostalgic sounds of North Sudan/ Southern Egypt Nubian musical traditions. Visit shubbak.co.uk from 5 June for full line-up and times.

“Mystic Dance is an assured mix of traditional influences, a contemporary sensibility and classy production”

EVENING STANDARD

EGYPT | LEBANON

SUDAN | FRANCE

Produced in partnership with Arts Canteen. Presented with additional support from Qatar Foundation International. Images L-R: Mahmoud Baayoun, Emma Marshall.
GEOGRAPHICAL CHILD’S PLAY
BRICKLAB: ABDULRAHMAN & TURKI GAZZAZ

Bricklab, the designers of the first Saudi pavilion at Venice Architecture Biennale create a new pop-up sculpture especially for Shubbak. 22 brightly coloured units equalling in number the 22 states of the Arab League are arranged in different constellations to offer new viewpoints of geographies, nations and the power to imagine other realities. No unit can stand on its own, but has to be grafted onto others. Some constellations seem hierarchical, others more egalitarian. Geographical Child’s Play conjures up poignant and surprising alignments and dependencies. Stretching nearly 10m as a line or barely 3m as a circle, Geographical Child’s Play is Bricklab’s most public and engaging sculpture so far. The bright colours and low level hint at nursery furniture or playground equipment. It is an invitation to imagine geopolitics through the lens of play and a deliberately naïve hope.

Established in Jeddah in 2015 Bricklab quickly established itself as one of the most dynamic current design practices in Saudi Arabia. Their work has been shown at 21,39 Saudi Art Week, Alserkal Avenue in Dubai and Venice Architecture Biennale. In 2018 they took part in the British Council and V&A International Designers Workshop.

Geographical Child’s Play will travel to different locations across the festival period, visit shubbak.co.uk for details.

HICHAM BERRADA

Hicham Berrada’s kaleidoscopic sculptures, installations, video and performance works offer a heady combination of art and science. To create his often spectacular artworks, Berrada makes use of chemical processes and natural phenomena, such as ‘heat, cold, magnetism’ and light. For his solo exhibition in Hayward Gallery’s HENI Project space – his first in a UK institution – Berrada brings together new and existing works, including a series of illuminated tanks that feature delicate and ephemeral chemical landscapes, and a large-scale immersive video installation that explores morphogenesis, the biological process that causes an organism to change shape.
Aïcha El Beloui visits London to research the psychogeography and history of Moroccan immigration. Gathering personal narratives through interviews, researching the sound archives in the British Library and walking through West London’s streets, the artist discovered the agreements between Morocco, Spain and France as the catalysts to Moroccan presence in the city. Drawing from this material she will create one of her distinctive maps. Seemingly simply rendered in black and white, they are filled with richly textured incident and associative connections. Charting routes between Morocco and London, and recognising original dreams and aspirations as well as today’s experiences of second and third generation young people, the artist invites the viewer to reflect on themes of citizenship and belonging. Aïcha El Beloui’s map will be available in paper formats, digitally and as an installation, travelling to different sites across the city.

Aïcha El Beloui is a Casablanca-based illustrator, graphic designer, and creative director. Trained as an architect, she worked originally for UNESCO in heritage preservation. She regularly works with communities to discover a neighbourhood and filters her observations into maps and illustrations. More locations will be added over the festival, visit shubbak.co.uk for details.

Casablanca-based street artist Mehdi Annassi explores the neighbourhoods of North Kensington to create a new mural in a public location. Nicknamed Petit Larache, the Golborne Road has long been at the centre of Moroccan identity in London. Together with residents and community groups, the artist will delve into its history and scenes of everyday life. He will develop a short graphic story, which will be painted directly on one of the walls in this iconic neighbourhood.

Mehdi Annassi aka Machima works on large-scale murals, comics, zines, animation, illustrations and street art (Street Art Caravane, Jidar Festival, Sbagha Bagha Festival). He is known for his contribution and involvement to Morocco’s thriving comic art scene and is a founding member of Skdefkef, the first Moroccan independent comics magazine. He is currently working on his first graphic novel.

Visit shubbak.co.uk for dates and location from 5 June.
BELONGING, SIDEWAYS
RIMA DJAHNINE, MOUNIR GOURI, SARAH OUADAH, FETHI SAHRAOUI & ABDO SHANAN
CURATED BY TOUFIK DOUIB

SAT 29 JUNE - SUN 14 JULY
10AM - 11PM
MEZZANINE GALLERY
RICH MIX
35-47 Bethnal Green Road,
E1 6LA
RICHMIX.ORG.UK
FREE

ALGERIA
PRIVATE VIEW
FRI 28 JUNE | 6PM
CURATOR’S GUIDED TOUR WITH ARTISTS
SAT 29 JUNE | 3PM
Presented with additional support from the British Council.

Five Algerian contemporary artists explore identity and location. Looking at cultural diversity, migration and the challenges of coexistence, Belonging, Sideways features work from different corners of Algeria and dealing with complex histories, geographies and biographies.

Mounir Gouri’s stitched plates refer to the trade of illegal migrants in his coastal hometown in the North East of the country. Artist illustrator Sarah Ouadah re-interprets the classic poem of the tragic Bedouin love story Hyzia as a digital fantasy for a new generation of readers. Rima Djahnine’s cartography-inspired installation weaves fragments of maps, film, GPS data and documents into personal narratives of homecoming and memories.

With his iPhone, the photographer Fethi Sahraoui captures a series of cars as scenes of ordinary life in the Saharawi camps located on the southwestern province of Algeria. Abdo Shanen displays material from his award-winning book Diary: Exile, which reflects on his experiences as an artist of Algerian and Sudanese origin, who lived for many years in Libya.

10 TO 10
HASSAN AL-MOUSAOY

FRI 28 JUNE - SUN 14 JULY
10AM - 6PM
THE ATTIC, BUSH THEATRE
7 Uxbridge Road, W12 8LJ
BUSHTHEATRE.CO.UK
FREE

IRAQ | UK
Presented with additional support from Paul Hamlyn Foundation, in collaboration with the British Red Cross, Young Roots, and Barnet Refugee Service.

Image: Hassan Al-Mousaoy.

Shubbak invites photographer Hassan Al-Mousaoy to work with recently arrived young people in West London, charting their daily lives in sequences of personal photographs. Participants will select, edit and install their work in the intimate setting of the Bush Theatre Attic. The images follow the rhythm of their day.

Based in London for 11 years, Hassan Al-Mousaoy’s unique project My Life in Pictures brought together images taken by young Iraqis from his first visit back to Iraq with images by young migrants in London.

Workshops and events will accompany the exhibition, visit shubbak.co.uk for full details.

BECOMING
HELA AMMAR

FRI 28 JUNE - SAT 13 JULY
9AM - 6PM
Closed on Sundays
SHEPHERD’S BUSH MARKET
Shepherd’s Bush, W12 8DF
FREE

TUNISIA
Presented with additional support from Qatar Foundation International, British Council, and Paul Hamlyn Foundation, in collaboration with Single Homeless Project and Scheherazade Initiative.

Image: Hela Ammar.

Becoming is a new site-specific installation in Shepherd’s Bush Market. Tunisian artist Hela Ammar spent time with women in London who have recently arrived, and carefully balancing the normality of London living with a period of personally unsettled existence.

Large-scale portrait photographs are pasted on different surfaces in the market. Voices and stories, sourced through interviews, are audible and blend with the different sounds of the market.

Visitors are invited to pause and contemplate on questions of displacement, migration, integration, coexistence, belonging and becoming in the midst of a bustling market environment, where many nationalities and cultures meet.

Hela Ammar is a Tunisian visual artist and lawyer. Memory, identity and marginal communities are recurrent themes in her work. She has exhibited in major international biennales, including regular installations at Dream City in Tunis. Her works are in the collections of the British Museum and the Institut du Monde Arabe.
"Amma baad is presence which occurs in the future, it occupies a space in reality through a presence that precedes it." — NASSER AL SALEM

In his first solo presentation in the UK, Nasser Al Salem presents a project exploring the relationship between language, time and space through a series of sculptural and multimedia workings of the phrase ‘there after’ in its Arabic script. ‘Amma baad’ is an expression used in official correspondence which follows sentences of salutations and greetings and precedes the act of formulating the story to come. ‘Amma’ acts as a substitute to the act and asserts what is to follow, while ‘baad’ is a dimension in time and space.

Nasser Al Salem is formally trained in calligraphy and architecture, both disciplines that have had a strong impact in the development of his practice. He engages with new perspectives towards the written word and calligraphy. He lives and work in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. During summer 2018 Al Salem was an artist-in-residence at Delfina Foundation.

Curated by Yasmina Naji, Raw Queens offers a cultural and political re-evaluation of the perceptions of women in the Arab world, and especially in Morocco. Featuring artists Fatima Mazmouz and Meriem Bennani, the exhibition explores art, feminism and post-colonialism. As an art project it seeks to open new spaces for conversation on gender and popular culture, constructing a new representation of indigenous figures of power.

Casablanca-born Fatima Mazmouz lives and works in Casablanca, Morocco. Through her multimedia practice, photography, performance and installation she often questions individual and cultural identities. Meriem Benanni is based in New York and was born in Rabat in Morocco. She works in video, sculpture, multimedia installation, drawing and Instagram. She is known for her playful and humorous use of digital technologies such as 3D animation and motion capture.

Yasmina Naji is the founder of Kulte Center for Contemporary Art and Editions in Rabat, Morocco.
SYRIA AND YEMEN: MAKING ART TODAY

SYMPHONY

Since 2011, Syria and Yemen have witnessed unprecedented destruction and degradation of art and cultural infrastructure, in addition to humanitarian crisis, as a result of the ongoing conflicts in both these countries. In this symposium, artists, curators and scholars investigate the current status and future of art and culture from the point of view of artists working inside these countries as well as those who are presently living outside Syria and Yemen. What are the challenges? How is war affecting artistic expression? What means are there for artists to communicate their practice? How does artistic mobility reflect on art and how do artists cope with migration and exile, forced or voluntary? How can artists engage individually and collectively, through art and other means of expression with a possible future post-conflict era?

The symposium will be divided into three sessions, one each on Yemen and Syria, introduced by overviews of the art scenes prior to the present conflicts. The third session, in the afternoon, will show a series of recent films by Syrian and Yemeni filmmakers.

For full details of speakers and films, visit shubbak.co.uk from 1 May.

AICHA EL BELOUI
10AM - 5.30PM | GREAT COURT

Gathering personal narratives through interviews, researching the sound archives in the British Library and walking through West London’s streets, Aicha El Beloui discovered the agreements between Morocco, Spain and France as the catalysts to Moroccan presence in the city. Drawing from this material she will create one of her distinctive maps.

See page 18 for full details.

THE SECOND COPY 2045

YOUNESS ATBANE

“It is a cloth, which is becoming a flag, which is becoming art, then an identity, a policy, a film, a choreography and finally a history”

We are in 2045, a time when current conflicts have ended. Artists’ archives become a source of knowledge for a new generation. Youness Atbane’s performance features in a future documentary film by a young film maker about the history of Moroccan art and the role of the artist in the early 21st century. The fictional film includes footage of the very performance we are watching. With lucid clarity and deadpan humour, The Second Copy takes a look at the dynamics of contemporary art, the role of institutions and the telling of history. Atbane makes us rethink the connections between objects, documentary and fiction in a museum context.

Youness Atbane is an artist dividing his time between Casablanca and Berlin and working between visual arts and performance. His work has been shown in major biennales and festivals. He won the prestigious ZKB Acknowledgment Prize 2018 at Theater Spektakel, Zürich.

GEOPGRAPHICAL CHILD’S PLAY
BRICKLAB - ABDULRAHMAN & TURKI GAZZAZ
10AM - 5.30PM | GREAT COURT

The designers of the first Saudi pavilion at Venice Architecture Biennale create a new pop-up sculpture especially for Shubbak: 22 brightly coloured units equalising in number the 22 states of the Arab League are arranged in different constellations to offer new viewpoints of geographies, nations and the power to imagine other realities.

See page 16 for full details.
OPENING PARTY
KAHAREB
BEST OF ARABIC ELECTRONIC & UNDERGROUND MUSIC

FRI 28 JUNE | 8PM - 4AM
RICH MIX
35-47 Bethnal Green Road, E1 6LA

RICHMIX.ORG.UK
020 7613 7498
£16 in advance | £18 on the door*

Bringing together the finest selection of electronic and underground artists from the Middle East and North Africa, Kahareb celebrates the vibrant scenes of techno, folktronik, global bass, house, trance and more - and the spectacular regional talent that’s making it all happen. Following Shubbak’s ground-breaking electronic showcase in 2017, Kahareb opens this year’s festival with an infectious late-night launch party.

Sama’ (aka. Skywalker) is a DJ and electronic music producer from Palestine playing techno, house, and other deeper sub-genres with a unique twist of her own. Masterfully refining the distinct sound of Oriental Slow-House, Shkoon mixes Arabic scales, melodies and traditional folk songs with classical harmonic structures.

A producer and percussionist from Tunisia, Nuri is one of the most promising upcoming musicians of African futurism, mixing deep bass, organic percussion with poly rhythmic grooves.

Glitter combines her chaabi roots with her razor-sharp electronic selection, diffusing a sound that takes her North African roots on a ride through techno and cosmic disco.

COSMIC ANALOG ENSEMBLE
A CRATE DIGGER’S DREAM

FRI 5 JULY | 8PM
CAMDEN ASSEMBLY
49 Chalk Farm Road, NW1 8AN
CAMDENASSEMBLY.COM
020 7424 0800
£16

“Prolific producer Charif Megarbane mixes symphonic soul, grainy funk, and old European film scores to offer a relatively concise glimpse into his wide musical world.”

PITCHFORK

With an unparalleled discography of 80 albums, Cosmic Analog Ensemble is the project of the mastermind Lebanese producer and multi-instrumentalist Charif Megarbane. Performing live in Europe for the first time with a full 5-piece band he will be bringing his discography to life, and with it, a mesmerising performance of a new genre.

Combining styles such as cinematic soul, free jazz and Saharan blues, his music is a hypnotising and powerful force to be reckoned with. Releasing the critically acclaimed Les Sourdes Oreilles in 2017, Bandcamp described the album as “a crate-digger’s dream, a magnum force of infectious grooves and sample-ready melodies”.

PALESTINE | MOROCCO | SYRIA
TUNISIA | FRANCE | GERMANY

Produced by MARSM.
Presented with additional support from Cockayne Grants for the Arts and London Community Foundation.
*Tickets bought online or by phone are subject to a £1.50 booking fee - no fee in person.

PITCHFORK

FULL BAND EUROPEAN DEBUT
LEBANON

Produced by MARSM.
Presented with additional support from Cockayne Grants for the Arts and London Community Foundation.
Image: Dominique Hemalas.
LUMINISCENCIA
AMIR ELSAFFAR ENSEMBLE
PRESENTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE ABU DHABI FESTIVAL, AND IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE FLAMENCO FESTIVAL LONDON

SAT 6 JULY | 5.30PM & 8PM
LILIAN BAYLIS STUDIO, SADLER’S WELLS
Rosebery Avenue, EC1R 4TN

SADLERSWELLS.COM
020 7863 8000
£17*

THE TRACE OF THE BUTTERFLY:
A TRIBUTE TO RIM BANNA
TANIA SALEH, FARAJ SULEIMAN, DINA EL WEDIDI,
BU KOLTHOUM + MORE

TUE 9 JULY | 8PM
BARBICAN
Silk Street, EC2Y 8DS
BARBICAN.ORG.UK
020 7638 8891
£17.50-£25*

The acclaimed Iraqi-American musician Amir ElSaffar is known for effortlessly fusing the mysticism of the Iraqi maqam tradition with flamenco and jazz. In Luminiscencia, ElSaffar brings together an ensemble of great exponents of the new vanguard of Flamenco; including vocalist Gema Caballero, a rising star and one of the most distinct voices on the scene, Vanesa Albar, a Flamenco dancer going beyond the conventions of the form and Flamenco percussionist Pablo Martin Jones, a regular collaborator to Flamenco artists. The ensemble also includes mastermind electronics musician Lorenzo Bianchi Hoesch, as well as ElSaffar’s sister Dena ElSaffar, who plays violin and traditional Iraqi fiddle.

Using elegant, melodic arabesques to connect traditions, this special line-up merges passions for classical forms into a unique evening of soulful dance and music.

"Amir ElSaffar is uniquely poised to reconcile jazz and Arabic music without doing either harm”
THE WIRE
UK PREMIERE
IRAQ | SPAIN | USA
A Fondation Royaumont production, supported by The Abu Dhabi Festival and presented in partnership with Flamenco Festival London and Sadler’s Wells.
* A transaction fee of £3 applies to phone and online bookings – no fee in person.
Image: Michael Crommett.

A special tribute concert to the late Palestinian singer, songwriter and composer Rim Banna featuring the musicians who knew her best as well as close peers in the regional music scene.

Artists include Lebanese singer-songwriter Tania Saleh, Palestinian composer and pianist Faraj Suleiman, Egyptian singer Dina El Wedidi; and Syrian producer/MC Bu Kolthoum who will be performing newly re-orchestrated versions of Rim Banna’s material, accompanied by a specially assembled band.

The Trace of the Butterfly, is the name of one of Banna’s songs as well as a poem by Mahmoud Darwish. A pivotal and influential figure in the contemporary Palestinian music scene, Rim Banna’s life was tragically cut short in March 2018 after a ten-year struggle with breast cancer. The artist left an eclectic repertoire of twelve albums, including her last project and recording Voice of Resistance – a conceptual album where she transformed her medical files and scans into a sonic and musical backdrop for her poetry.

EGYPT | LEBANON
PALESTINE | SYRIA
Produced by the Barbican in association with Marsm.
Presented with additional support from A. M. Qattan Foundation.
*Transaction fee apply, max £4.
Image: Barbro Steinde.
MO KHANSA & KABAREH CHEIKHATS
GENRE-BENDING PERFORMANCE

FRI 12 JULY | 8PM
RICH MIX
35-47 Bethnal Green Road, E1 6LA
RICHMIX.ORG.UK
020 7613 7498
£16.50 in advance | £19.50 on the door*


"Since I was a little boy I have been dreaming to be a cheikha. Not the kind they would show on TV. No, my dream was to be a real cheikha, like Kharbusha" GHASSAN EL HAKIM

From Casablanca comes the most surprising hit of recent years: Kabareh Cheikhats. Led by theatre director Ghassan El Hakim, 11 actors and musicians pay tribute to Morocco's most famous female traditional folk singers. Both adored but also stigmatised, the cheikhats had an ambiguous position in society. With deep reverence yet wild and infectious flair Kabareh Cheikhats sing, dance and re-enact these powerful songs once again: songs of love, rebellion and fierce independence. Using traditional costumes, make-up and instruments and re-inventing traditions of drag and gender ambiguity, Kabareh Cheikhats create a party night like no other: frenzied anarchy and outrageous fun with a political edge.

"In a feverish atmosphere, Kabareh Cheikhats summed up the ambiguity of Moroccan society that evening" LE SOIR

LEBANON | MOROCCO
Produced by MARSM.
Presented with support from Bissear Sleiman.
Presented with additional support from British Council and Cockayne Grants for the Arts and London Community Foundation.

*Tickets bought online or by phone are subject to a £1.50 booking fee - no fee in person.

Mo Khansa image: Alinea Shojai.
Kabareh Cheikhats image: Manon Aubel.

TONGUE FU
AMERAH SALEH, CLAUDINE TOUTOUNGI, FARAH CHAMMA & SAMIRA SALEH
HOSTED BY CHRIS REDMOND

SAT 13 JULY | 8PM
RICH MIX
35-47 Bethnal Green Road, E1 6LA
RICHMIX.ORG.UK
020 7613 7498
£8 (advance) | £10

Tongue Fu is one of the UK's leading spoken word and music shows. Poets, comedians, rappers and storytellers re-imagine material live with brand new soundtracks and visuals created by some of London's top improvising musicians and VJs. Created and hosted by poet and musician, Chris Redmond (BBC Radio 1, 2, 4, XFM, CBBC, SKY Arts), it's a riotous experiment in literature, music, film and improvisation. For Shubbak, we present an exclusive night with Arab spoken word artists.

Amerah Saleh is a Yemeni artist from Birmingham. Co-Founder of Verve Poetry Press and member of Beatfreeks Collective, her book I Am Not From Here explores being British and Yemeni.


Farah Chamma is a Dubai-born Palestinian performer. She writes and performs poetry in Arabic, English and French. Her current goal is to create Arabic content that mixes Modern Standard Arabic (fus-ha) and colloquial Arabic.

Samira Saleh is a Dutch-born poet of Moroccan origin and a rising star in the Belgian and Dutch slam world. She hosts regular slam nights and the Mama’s Open Mike nights in Antwerp.

"Spoken word magicians"
THE GUARDIAN

LEBANON | MOROCCO
PALESTINE | UAE | YEMEN
NETHERLANDS | UK
ENGLISH, WITH SOME ARABIC AND TRANSLATION

Produced by Tongue Fu.
Presented with additional support from Cockayne Grants for the Arts and London Community Foundation.

*Tickets bought online or by phone are subject to a £1.50 booking fee - no fee in person.


Claudine Toutoungi
Farah Chamma
Amerah Saleh
Samira Saleh
THE ENDLESS WAVE: NEW FEMINIST WRITING

What does it mean to be an Arab feminist in 2019? How does the legacy of previous generations intersect with current creative practice and globalised movements like #MeToo? Three artists using diverse artforms discuss and perform their work.

French-Moroccan journalist, commentator and Prix Goncourt-winning novelist Leïla Slimani’s recent nonfiction work on Moroccan women’s sexuality generated much debate. Award-winning Egyptian graphic novelist and web comic artist Deena Mohamed is the creator of the veiled female superhero Qahera. Badriah al Beshr is a Saudi journalist, chatshow host and novelist known for tackling women’s issues.

SPOTLIGHT: NEW ARAB WRITING FROM LONDON MALU HALASA

“Halasa exhibits some of the verve and complexity of Naguib Mahfouz’s incomparable Cairo Trilogy” NEW YORK TIMES

Malu Halasa has co-edited five anthologies on Middle East culture and politics. Her debut novel, Mother of All Pigs, unveils contemporary life in Jordan, as one family confronts its secrets over the course of a weekend’s festivities. At times witty and energetic, passionate and awe-inspiring, an Arabic translation is forthcoming in 2020. Malu Halasa reads from and discusses her novel and practice.

SPOTLIGHT: NEW SYRIAN FICTION DIMA WANNOUS

Damascus-born Dima Wannous is a writer and cultural journalist. She has written for multiple Arab and international newspapers, managed the cultural section of the online magazine Modon, and hosted a cultural TV show from 2008-18. Her second novel, The Frightened Ones, focuses on the notion of fear and how central it is to dictatorship. Shortlisted for the International Prize for Arabic Fiction in 2018, the novel is about to be published in Elisabeth Jaquette’s English translation. Dima Wannous talks about her novel and practice.

SPOTLIGHT: NEW KURDISH FICTION BAKHTIYAR ALI

Bakhtiyar Ali is a prominent Iraqi Kurdish novelist and literary critic, essayist and poet, awarded the prestigious Nelly Sachs Prize in 2017. His novel I Stared at the Night of the City was a bestseller in Iraqi Kurdistan and made history as the first Kurdish novel ever to be published in English translation. He is joined by his translator Kareem Abdulrahman, currently completing the translation of Ali’s next novel The Last Pomegranate, to read an exclusive extract and to discuss contemporary Kurdish literature in the Arab region and beyond.

Tell the Past: Contemporary Arab Historical Novels

Many Arab writers create historical novels to recast fraught histories. What are their motivations and methods in approaching history through the creative lens? Twice shortlisted for the International Prize for Arabic Fiction, Iraqi writer Inaam Kachachi’s novels focus on contemporary Iraqi history. Iraqi-Welsh writer Ruqaya Izzidien’s debut novel features Iraqi, Welsh and English characters in WW1 Baghdad. Sudanese IPAF-shortlisted author Hammour Ziada’s latest historical novel examines cycles of oppression through twentieth-century Sudan. Palestinian novelist Rabai al-Madhoun’s IPAF winning Destinies, Concerto of the Holocaust and the Nakba is a four-part epic of the Palestinian exodus and right to return.

A NEW DIVAN: TYRANNY IN TRANSLATION

The 200th anniversary of Johan Wolfgang Goethe’s West-Eastern Divan forms the inspiration for A New Divan (Gingko, 2019), a collection of poems by twenty-four leading poets in eleven languages, with English translations. Palestinian poet Mourid Barghouti and his translator George Szirtes read from their poems and discuss translation, the theme of tyranny, and reflect on Goethe’s time in the shadows of the Napoleonic wars and its relation to today’s violent conflicts.

Telling the Past

Contemporary Arab Historical Novels

Many Arab writers create historical novels to recast fraught histories. What are their motivations and methods in approaching history through the creative lens? Twice shortlisted for the International Prize for Arabic Fiction, Iraqi writer Inaam Kachachi’s novels focus on contemporary Iraqi history. Iraqi-Welsh writer Ruqaya Izzidien’s debut novel features Iraqi, Welsh and English characters in WW1 Baghdad. Sudanese IPAF-shortlisted author Hammour Ziada’s latest historical novel examines cycles of oppression through twentieth-century Sudan. Palestinian novelist Rabai al-Madhoun’s IPAF winning Destinies, Concerto of the Holocaust and the Nakba is a four-part epic of the Palestinian exodus and right to return.
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CINEMA 2 & 3, BARBICAN
Beech Street, London EC2Y 8AE
BARBICAN.ORG.UK
020 7638 8891
£13.50 Film + Screentalk*
£12 Film / Panel Discussion*
10% off for two or more screenings

OF SHEEP AND MEN
UK PREMIERE + SCREENTALK
FRI 5 JULY | 6.30PM
DIR. KARIM SAYYAD
ALGERIA, 2017 (80 MINS)
“Majestic, mysterious & hypnotic images”
CINEUROPA
Set in Bab el Oued, Algiers, Of Sheep and Men follows young Habib – a sixteen year old who, unable to follow his dreams of becoming a veterinarian, has bought a sheep to train into a fighting champion instead – and 42-year-old Samir, who simply sees his cattle as a means to an end, and is looking towards the Eid celebration on the horizon to sell his sheep. Reflecting on the codified rituals of violence that underline the deeply empathetic relationship these two men have with their animals, Karim Sayyad's subtly observed, charming debut feature documentary also brings into play a reflection of Algeria's history, tainted by sacrifice and violence.

ARAB-BRITISH SHORTS
SAT 6 JULY | 12.30PM
STRANGE CITIES ARE FAMILIAR
DIR. SADEED TAJI FAROUKY
ABDULLAH AND LEILAH
DIR. ASHTAR AL KIRSAN
RUN(A)WAY ARAB
DIR. AMROU AL KADHI
THREE CENTIMETRES
DIR. LARA ZEIDAN
AVE MARIA
DIR. BASIL KHALIL
Identity, notions of nationality and of borders, bring together an eclectic selection of short films by Arab-British directors, looking to explore questions of identity, faith, gender and everything in between. Key to these films, and ever-pertinent today, are reflections on how the decisions and actions of older generations have impacted on younger generations today: from questions of exile to the notion of belonging; and from acceptance to pride.

ARAB-BRITISH FILM MAKERS PANEL DISCUSSION
SAT 6 JULY | 2.30PM
EGYPT | IRAQ | LEBANON
LIBYA | PALESTINE
TUNISIA | UK
Reflecting this year's programme focus on identity as explored through different generations, a multi-award winning panel of Arab-British directors will discuss how they interpret their hyphenated identities and how it has impacted on the stories they tell and films they make. Panellists include Sally El Hosseini (My Brother The Devil), Nazihra Arebi (Freedom Fields), Amrou Al Kadh (Run(away Arab, Anemone), Claire Belhassine (The Man Behind The Microphone), Saeed Taji Farouky (The Runner, Tell Spring Not To Come This Year) and Mustapha Kseibati (Skateboards and Spandex, Painkiller).

SOFIA
LONDON PREMIERE + SCREENTALK
WED 3 JULY | 6.30PM
DIR. MERYEM BENM’BAREK-ALOÏSI
MOROCCO, 2018 (79 MINS)
“This admirably mordant film deserves to travel widely” VARIETY
Sofia’s unexpected pregnancy comes as a surprise to everyone including Sofia herself. But for a young woman out of wedlock, it also requires urgent action: a father’s letter is needed to deliver the baby. Sofia quietly leads her family to an unmarked blue door on the other side of town, where a certain Omar is indignant, as confused as anyone by the assertion that he has to take responsibility for the child. Sofia’s unexpected pregnancy comes as a surprise to everyone including Sofia herself. But for a young woman out of wedlock, it also requires urgent action: a father’s letter is needed to deliver the baby. Sofia quietly leads her family to an unmarked blue door on the other side of town, where a certain Omar is indignant, as confused as anyone by the assertion that he has to take responsibility for the child. 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PANOPTIC
LONDON PREMIERE + SCREENTALK
THU 4 JULY | 8.45PM
DIR. RANA EID
LEBANON, 2018 (71 MIN)
“An ambitious debut” VARIETY
PANOPTIC is a letter from a daughter to her deceased father, a former general in the Lebanese army, in an attempt to reconcile with her country’s turbulent past. A richly textured personal exploration of Beirut’s underground worlds – from the church groups of Ethiopian maids, to nightclub pulsating into the early hours and an opaque night-time Beirut – Rana Eid hints at layers of buried histories, unspoken words. A sound editor and designer by trade, her debut documentary is an audio-visual feast, and layered foray into what isn’t seen.

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10% off for two or more screenings

SHUBBAK.CO.UK

THE MAN BEHIND THE MICROPHONE
+ SCREENTALK

SATURDAY 6 JULY | 4PM | CINEMA 2

DIR. CLAIRE BELHASSINE
TUNISIA, 2017 (86 MINS)

"More than a music biopic, as it keeps in its purview a complicated family history and the many societal changes taking place in Tunisia" VARIETY

Known as the "Frank Sinatra of Tunisia", Hedi Jouini is the most popular musical star in Tunisian history. His songs continue to inspire revolutionaries and conservatives alike, striking at the heart of the post-colonial, social and political upheaval of Tunisia and its continuing search for identity in the wake of the Arab Spring. Yet, despite being a peerless popular figure, Hedi Jouini kept his fame hidden from his family. Father to a nation yet not to his family, The Man Behind The Microphone is a compelling portrait of Hedi Jouini, the godfather of Tunisian music, directed by his granddaughter the British Tunisian director Claire Belhassine.

THE BLESSED

SAT 6 JULY | 8.45PM

DIR. SOFIA DJAMA
ALGERIA, 2017 (102 MINS)

"Warm, intimately-hewn drama marked by graceful turns from leads..." HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

Amal and Samir are an alluring bourgeois couple, celebrating twenty years of marriage in an upmarket restaurant. Former revolutionaries – who had participated in the October '88 riots that eventually led to the rise of religious conservatism – their anniversary is bittersweet. Amal talks about lost illusions and Samir about the necessity to cope with them – they both want the best for their children. Meanwhile, their son Fahim and his friends wander the heady streets of Algiers, where drugs and alcohol are a release from boredom, an escape from a post-war state of mind that is never clearly articulated, yet omnipresent. First premiered at the Venice Film Festival, awards included the Best Actress Award for Lyna Khoudri and the Orizzonti Award.

ERASED... ASCENT OF THE INVISIBLE

LONDON PREMIERE

SUN 7 JULY | 4.15PM

DIR. GHASSAN HALWANI
LEBANON, 2018 (76 MINS)

An image caught Ghassan Halwani’s eye as he walked down the street – that of a man, staring out at him from the city walls. He had seen this face before – twenty-five years earlier, he had witnessed that man's kidnapping. Parts of his face are torn but his features appear unchanged. So begins a quest, as is documented in Halwani's powerful investigation, to make visible those who are absent – and yet undeniably present. As the director literally scrapes away at the walls of Beirut's gentrified neighbourhoods, he underlines the omnipresence of those disappeared – hidden in the layers of the city, if only you look closely enough. Erased... Ascent of the Invisible is his first feature documentary, which debuted at Locarno followed by the Toronto Film Festival.

THE REPORTS ON SARAH AND SALEEM

LONDON PREMIERE

SUN 7 JULY | 6PM

DIR. MUAYAD ALAYAN
PALESTINE, 2018 (127 MINS)

Winner of the Audience Award at the Rotterdam Film Festival 2018, Muayan Alayan's second feature has been praised for its audacity. When Sarah and Saleem – a Jewish Israeli woman and a Palestinian man – are seen together in public, their lustful, illicit affair begins to quickly escalate into a story of political espionage, threatening to tear apart their respective families – not least because Sarah is the wife of a high-ranking Israeli military official. Caught up in the occupying machinery and socio-political pressure, Sarah and Saleem find themselves trapped in a web of deceit, which not even the truth looks able to stop. Winner of the Special Jury Award at the IFFR and Best Picture in Durban.

+ SPECIALLY COMMISSIONED FOYER MUSIC CURATED BY LEBANESE SOUND DESIGNER RANA EID

Responding to the film season’s themes. Playlist available on shubbak.co.uk throughout the festival.

Shubbak film programme produced by Hakawati. Presented with additional support from British Council, Drosos Foundation and Qatar Foundation International.

* Plus booking fee.
### FRI 28 JUNE

**BECOMING**
- 9am - 6pm
  - Milton Keynes

**BELONGING, SIDEWAYS**
- Private View: 6pm
  - Rich Mix

**KAHAREB**
- 8pm - 4am
  - Rich Mix

**THE UPSIDE DOWN MAN (THE SON OF THE ROAD)**
- 7.45pm
  - Purcell Room

**NEW SYRIAN FICTION: DIMA WANNOUS**
- 4pm - 4.30pm
  - British Library

**TELLING THE PAST: CONTEMPORARY ARAB HISTORICAL NOVELS**
- 5.30pm - 6.45pm
  - British Library

**BECOMING**
- 9am - 6pm
  - Shepherd’s Bush Market

**10 TO 10**
- 10am - 6pm
  - Bush Theatre

**BELongING, SIDEWAYS**
- 10am - 6pm
  - Rich Mix

**AMMA BAAD**
- 11am - 6pm
  - Rich Mix

### SUN 30 JUNE

**AICHA EL BELOUI**
- 12pm - 7pm
  - British Library

**BECOMING**
- 9am - 6pm
  - Shepherd’s Bush Market

**BELongING, SIDEWAYS**
- 10am - 6pm
  - Rich Mix

**AMMA BAAD**
- 11am - 6pm
  - Rich Mix

### MON 1 JULY

**AMMA BAAD**
- Private View: 6.30pm
  - Deflina Foundation

**CHRONICLES OF MAJNUN LAYLA**
- 7pm
  - Gate Theatre

**BECOMING**
- 9am - 6pm
  - Shepherd’s Bush Market

**BELONGING, SIDEWAYS**
- 10am - 6pm
  - Rich Mix

**AMMA BAAD**
- 11am - 6pm
  - Rich Mix

### TUE 2 JULY

**A NEW DIVAN: TYRANNY IN TRANSLATION**
- 6.30pm
  - John Sandoe Books

**CHRONICLES OF MAJNUN LAYLA**
- 7pm
  - Gate Theatre

**X-ADRA**
- 7.30pm
  - Battersea Arts Centre

**BELONGING, SIDEWAYS**
- 10am - 6pm
  - Rich Mix

### WED 3 JULY

**HICHAM BERRADA**
- 11am - 7pm
  - Hayward Gallery

**METTE LOULOU VON KOHL & DIMA MIKHAYEL MATTA**
- 7pm
  - Gallery

**BELONGING, SIDEWAYS**
- 10am - 6pm
  - Rich Mix

**AMMA BAAD**
- 11am - 6pm
  - Deflina Foundation

### THU 4 JULY

**SOPIA**
- 6.30pm
  - Cinema 2, Barbican

**MAY HE RISE AND SMELL THE FRAGRANCE**
- 8pm
  - Lillian Baylis Studio

**BELONGING, SIDEWAYS**
- 10am - 6pm
  - Rich Mix

**AMMA BAAD**
- 11am - 6pm
  - Deflina Foundation

### FRI 5 JULY

**RAW QUEENS**
- 11am - 6pm
  - The Mosaic Rooms

**EVOLV + ONE DAY & ONE NIGHT BEIRUT**
- 3pm | 7pm
  - Gate Theatre

**OF SHEEP AND MEN**
- 6.30pm
  - Cinema 2, Barbican

**COSMIC ANALOG ENSEMBLE**
- 6pm
  - Camden Assembly

**BELONGING, SIDEWAYS**
- 10am - 6pm
  - Rich Mix

**AMMA BAAD**
- 12pm - 6pm
  - Deflina Foundation

### SAT 6 JULY

**FAMILY DAY**
- 11am – 5pm
  - The Mosaic Rooms

**ARAB-BRITISH SHORTS**
- 12.30pm
  - Cinema 2, Barbican

**ARAB-BRITISH FILM MAKERS**
- 1.30pm
  - Cinema 2, Barbican

**EVOLV + ONE DAY & ONE NIGHT BEIRUT**
- 3pm | 7pm
  - Gate Theatre

**THE MAN BEHIND THE MICROPHONE**
- 4pm
  - Cinema 2, Barbican

**LUMINISCENCIA**
- 5.30pm | 8pm
  - Sadler’s Wells

**THE BLESSED**
- 8.45pm
  - Cinema 2, Barbican

**BELONGING, SIDEWAYS**
- 10am - 6pm
  - Rich Mix

**AMMA BAAD**
- 11am - 7pm
  - Hayward Gallery

**BELONGING, SIDEWAYS**
- 10am - 6pm
  - Rich Mix

**AMMA BAAD**
- 11am - 6pm
  - Deflina Foundation
SUN 7 JULY

AICHA EL BELOUI
10am - 5.30pm
The British Museum P.18

GEORGIOGRAPHICAL CHILD’S PLAY
10am - 5.30pm
The British Museum P.24

SYRIA AND YEMEN MAKING ART TODAY SYMPOSIUM
10.30am - 4.30pm
The British Museum P.24

THE SECOND COPY 2045
11.30am | 2pm | 4.30pm
The British Museum P.24

CREATIVE MOVEMENT WORKSHOP
2pm - 3pm
ACAVA’s Maxilla Garden P.10

ERASED... ASCENT OF THE INVISIBLE
4.15pm
Cinema 2, Barbican P.37

THE REPORTS ON SARAH AND SALEEM
6pm
Cinema 2, Barbican P.37

ONGOING
10 TO 10
10am - 6pm
Bush Theatre P.20

BELONGING, SIDEWAYS
10am - 11pm
Rich Mix P.20

HICHAM BERRADA
11am - 7pm
Hayward Gallery P.17

AMMA BAAD
11am - 6pm
Delfina Foundation P.22

MON 8 JULY

CREATIVE MOVEMENT WORKSHOP
4pm - 5pm
ACAVA’s Maxilla Garden P.10

JOGGING
7pm
Gate Theatre P.11

UNDER A LOW SKY
9pm
Gate Theatre P.12

ONGOING
BECOMING
9am - 6pm
Shepherd’s Bush Market P.21

10 TO 10
10am - 6pm
Bush Theatre P.20

BELONGING, SIDEWAYS
10am - 11pm
Rich Mix P.20

HICHAM BERRADA
11am - 7pm
Hayward Gallery P.17

AMMA BAAD
11am - 6pm
Delfina Foundation P.22

TUE 9 JULY

JOGGING
7pm
Gate Theatre P.11

THE TRACE OF THE BUTTERFLY: A TRIBUTE TO RIM BANNA
8pm
Barbican P.29

UNDER A LOW SKY
9pm
Gate Theatre P.12

ONGOING
BECOMING
9am - 6pm
Shepherd’s Bush Market P.21

10 TO 10
10am - 6pm
Bush Theatre P.20

BELONGING, SIDEWAYS
10am - 11pm
Rich Mix P.20

HICHAM BERRADA
11am - 7pm
Hayward Gallery P.17

AMMA BAAD
11am - 6pm
Delfina Foundation P.22

WED 10 JULY

JOGGING
7pm
Theatre-making Workshop: 3pm
Gate Theatre P.11

RAW QUEENS
11am - 6pm
Queen Elizabeth Hall P.17

UNDER A LOW SKY
9pm
Gate Theatre P.12

ONGOING
BECOMING
9am - 6pm
Shepherd’s Bush Market P.21

10 TO 10
10am - 6pm
Bush Theatre P.20

BELONGING, SIDEWAYS
10am - 11pm
Rich Mix P.20

HICHAM BERRADA
11am - 9pm
Hayward Gallery P.17

RAW QUEENS
11am - 6pm
The Mosaic Rooms P.23

AMMA BAAD
11am - 6pm
Delfina Foundation P.22

THU 11 JULY

WORKING METHOD
7pm + Post-show Talk
Gate Theatre P.13

HALKA
7.30pm
Queens Elizabeth Hall Southbank Centre P.7

ONGOING
BECOMING
9am - 6pm
Shepherd’s Bush Market P.21

10 TO 10
10am - 6pm
Bush Theatre P.20

BELONGING, SIDEWAYS
10am - 11pm
Rich Mix P.20

HICHAM BERRADA
11am - 9pm
Hayward Gallery P.17

RAW QUEENS
11am - 6pm
The Mosaic Rooms P.23

AMMA BAAD
11am - 6pm
Delfina Foundation P.22

FRI 12 JULY

SHUBBAK @ NATIONAL THEATRE RIVER STAGE
6pm - 11pm
National Theatre P.15

ONGOING
BECOMING
9am - 6pm
Shepherd’s Bush Market P.21

10 TO 10
10am - 6pm
Bush Theatre P.20

BELONGING, SIDEWAYS
10am - 11pm
Rich Mix P.20

HICHAM BERRADA
11am - 7pm
Hayward Gallery P.17

RAW QUEENS
11am - 6pm
Meriem Bennani’s YouTube Playlist: 7pm

AMMA BAAD
11am - 6pm
Delfina Foundation P.22

SAT 13 JULY

SHUBBAK @ NATIONAL THEATRE RIVER STAGE
5pm - 9pm
National Theatre P.15

ONGOING
BECOMING
9am - 6pm
Shepherd’s Bush Market P.21

10 TO 10
10am - 6pm
Bush Theatre P.20

BELONGING, SIDEWAYS
10am - 11pm
Rich Mix P.20

HICHAM BERRADA
11am - 7pm
Hayward Gallery P.17

AMMA BAAD
11am - 6pm
Delfina Foundation P.22

SUN 14 JULY

SHUBBAK.CO.UK
SHUBBAKFESTIVAL

AMMA BAAD: SHUBBAK: THREE CENTIMETRES
ABOUT SHUBBAK
Shubbak is London’s largest biennial festival of contemporary Arab culture. Now in its fifth edition, Shubbak connects London audiences and communities with current 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 and partners in London, across the UK and internationally.

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

WHO WE ARE
THE TEAM
Eckhard Thiemann
Artistic Director
Daniel Gorman
Executive Director
Taghrid Choucair-Vizoso
Programme & Engagement Producer
Alice Guthrie
Literature Curator & Producer
Elhum Shakerifar / Hakawati
Film Curator & Producer
Arts Canteen, Seif Abdel Salam, Vyvienne Abla, Alia Alzougbi, Yasmeen Elkhoudary, Cedar Lewisohn, MARSM, Will Sandy, Axel Satgé Project Producers

CONTACT US
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THANK YOU TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS AND SUPPORTERS!

SUPPORTERS

PARTNERS

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