

**1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

## **ASHTAR Theatre International Youth Festival - ONLINE**

**JOIN FROM YOUR OWN HOME**

### **About ATIYF:**

ASHTAR Theatre International Youth Festival – ATiYF, is a unique opportunity for young people who are involved in theatre, or are just started their acting career. Usually every second year actors from around the world come to Palestine and live together with local theatre students and makers in one place for ten days. They follow daily training and each group presents its play in the evening to the general public.

**This year young people will participate in the festival online from their own homes.**

ATiYF is an opportunity for mutual cultural learning between participants. Constructive dialogue and freedom of expression is at the heart of the encounter. Raising social awareness and responsibility of young people towards our planet is another. ATiYF is an artistic celebration, a human sharing and an eye-opening experience for participants and the audience.

The groups also experience the situation in Palestine, developing wider awareness of the situation and perhaps becoming more involved in the socio-political justice movements.

The festival involves Palestinian and international young people in a way that combats the isolation of our young artists, who cannot move easily between cities or travel freely abroad due to occupation.

### **Objectives:**

To create a platform to exchange experiences between local and international young theatre makers and emerging professionals.

To enhance solidarity between young people from Western countries and Palestine

To raise awareness among each group about the culture of the others

To develop theatre skills for the participants.

To present the local audiences in Palestine and online with a wide variety of theatre.

### **Who is the festival for?**

The festival will host 50 internationals and 20 local participants online

70 students will be following the daily workshops online, throughout the ten days of the festival, led by international theatre masters.

Audiences for the digital performances of plays made by the international companies will be from 14 to 84 years old, they will come from cities, refugee camps and villages. The plays will be shown online.

### **Participants:**

Every year ASHTAR Theatre holds the festival in cooperation with Ramallah Municipality.

In addition to the international groups and workshop leaders.

the festival hosts theatre students from the local theatre: Al Kasaba Theatre in Ramallah, Al Hara Theatre in Beit Jala, Yes Theatre in Hebron, The Freedom Theatre in Jenin, Rasael Theatre in Nablus, and the Palestinian Circus School.

This year ASHTAR will be hosting online the following international groups:

Mandala theatre group from Oxford – UK	(12 people)
Essex University drama group – UK	(8 people)
Co-Op Theatre from New York – USA	(2 people)
Kildare Youth Theatre from Newbridge – Ireland	(17 people)
Spekwerk Theatre from Hamburg – Germany	(4 people)
2 Physical Theatres from Essen – Germany	(12 people)
Mataro – Spain	(8 people)

### **Workshop Facilitators and Trainers:**

Four trainers will be coming to this festival from different countries: Germany, Norway, Sweden and Ireland, in addition to a Palestinian trainer.

The workshops will be given every day for 4 hours. There will be a total of 28 hours of master classes will be given to the mixed participants from the different attending groups.

In this festival the workshops will be around the following techniques:

Physical Theatre, Speech and Sound in Theatre, Improvisation and Chaos, Immersive Theatre.

### **ASHTAR Theatre:**

ASHTAR for Theatre Productions & Training is a non-profit NGO which was founded in 1991. ASHTAR began its work as the first drama training school in Palestine targeting children and youth. Soon became a dynamic theatre with a local flavor and international orientation, whose objective is to spread creativity and commitment for change through a unique mix of theatre training programs and professional performances. ASHTAR Theatre tries to reach Palestinian audience in all its localities, spreading its work on four major areas: Jerusalem, Ramallah, Gaza and The Jordan Valley.

ASHTAR Theatre conducts intensive training programs for children aged 10 – 15 and youth 16 - 22 over four years, from which many theatrical performances result. These programs offer youth essential skills that reach beyond acting and contribute to raising

their self-awareness, enhancing their self-confidence and giving them leadership skills and dynamic team work and emancipatory thinking.

ASHTAR Theatre specializes in the technique of Forum Theatre founded by the Brazilian Director Augusto Boal, which aims at spreading effective dialogue and commitment for change within society. This theatre form pushes the audience to interact with the actors on stage about important social and political issues, transforming the audience from being receivers to becoming participators. Through the use of Forum Theatre, ASHTAR stands as an active agent of change in Palestine.

ASHTAR annually produces joint international theatrical productions with theatres organizations and professionals from different countries, presenting new and different theatre forms in Palestine; enhances the professional development of actors and raises the general public esthetics.

ASHTAR Theatre has won many national and international awards, toured worldwide, and presented its works in numerous international theatre festivals.