



THEATRE (CHILDREN'S SHOW)

Arab Arts Focus Edinburgh Showcase: Al-Harah Theater presents

Jihan's Smile

EDINBURGH FRINGE PREMIERE

An uplifting and heart-warming children's tale about a girl who loses her smile from one of the longest running theatres in Palestine's West Bank

Written by Bashar Murkus (based on *The Girl Who Lost Her Smile* by Karim Alrawi)

Part of the Arab Arts Focus Edinburgh Showcase

Old Lab, Summerhall, 4 - 13 August 2017 (not 7), 10:15 (11:15), U

This colourful tale, based on former Theatre Royal Stratford East director Karim Alrawi's play, tells the story of Jihan, an ordinary child, who woke up one day to discover that she had lost her smile. The story tells of how the sun set, the moon disappeared, everything lost its colour, cold spread throughout the town, and the people got sick. All of the people of the village now have to search for Jihan's smile. Once her smile returns, the sun will rise, the moon will shine, the stars will dance, colour and joy will return to the village.

Raeda Ghazaleh, performance director from Al-Harah Theater said: "I first read Karim Alrawi's *The Girl Who Lost Her Smile* in 2000 during a dark period in Palestine at the beginning of the second Intifada. The story of Jihan, a girl searching for her smile, and the insistence on continuing to find light when everything is dark, deeply affected me. I continued to dwell on it over the next 15 years with all the changes and suffering in Palestine, the Arab world, and the wider world, on how we can expect children, young people and even ourselves to find happiness and keep the light shining inside us during such difficult times.

"We want to share Jihan's story and her smile with children and adults, so that they too would be encouraged to maintain their right to happiness. Bringing the show to the fringe will give a chance for Jihan's Smile to meet a new audience and have a new life."

Al Harah Theater is a theatre company based in the West Bank in Palestine, and is one of the longest running in the region, making theatre for both adults and children under extremely challenging circumstances. Established in 2005, the theatre is a non-profit organisation based in Beit Jala, Bethlehem. Al-Harah Theater strives to produce highly artistic, yet accessible theatre productions and present them to audiences throughout Palestine, the Arab world and further afield.

Believing that theatre can change the lives of those who make it and who watch it, Al-Harah Theater offers drama training for groups of special education teachers, rehabilitation workers and social workers to encourage the incorporation of theatre education into Palestinian curricula. It also organises theatre trainings for children and young people, playwriting and script writing workshops, and produces performances with which it tours to reach audiences in different villages and refugee camps.

The theatre activities target all age groups and social backgrounds, and among the beneficiaries are about 16,000 males and 20,000 females. Al-Harah Theater currently has 9 full time employees and 5 freelancers.

Company

Press Contact: Sharon at SM Publicity on sharon@smpublicity.co.uk and 07970 178643 or the press team at SM Publicity on fringepress@smpublicity.co.uk and 07401 878154

Performers	Nicola Zreineh Hanin Tarabay Shibly El-Baw Mirna Sakhleh Firas Abu Sabbah Nour Rai'e
Director	Raeda Ghazaleh
Text	Bashar Murkus - Based on <i>The Girl Who Lost Her Smile</i> by Karim Alrawi
Scenography	Fairouz Nustas Issam Rishmawi
Lighting Design	Muath Al-Jubeh
Sound Technician	Issam Rishmawi
Music Composition	Nour Rai'e
Singer	Lina Sleibi
Recording	RJ Music Productions - John Handal
Choreographer	Laila Boukhari
Production Management	George Matar
Produced by	Marina Barham – Al-Harah Theater 2015

Funded by Sida – through Palestinian Performing Arts Network

Web and social media links: @ArabArtsFocus | www.aaf.orientproductions.org | <http://www.alharah.org/en/> | #JihansSmile #familyshow #HelpJihanfindhersmile | #AAFE

NOTES TO EDITORS:

The Arab Arts Focus Edinburgh is the first showcase of contemporary Arab theatre, performance and visual art at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. Presented by D-CAF Festival (Cairo), the Tamasi collective for the performing arts and Orient productions (Egypt) in collaboration with Kenmure Productions (Scotland), the showcase will feature theatre, contemporary art, dance, talks and late night cabaret Chill Habibi with the aim to increase the visibility of Arab artists (especially those not residing in Europe), evolve different, non-reductive discourses on the Arab world and change stereotypes about the region; opening the door for mutual understanding at a time when it is needed most.

With the support of Ford Foundation, Studio Emad Eddin Foundation, British Council Egypt, Qattan Foundation and Swedish International Development Agency.

In collaboration with Sundance Theatre institute and with special thanks to Lorne Campbell and Northern Stage (Newcastle).

Listings information

Arab Arts Focus: Al-Harah presents

Jihan's Smile

Old Lab, Summerhall, 1 Summerhall, EH9 1PL

4 - 13 August 2017 | 10:15 (11:15) | £12 (£10) | Family Ticket £20

Previews: 2 - 3 August 2017 | 10:15 (11:15) | £8

Box office: 0131 560 1581 | www.summerhall.co.uk