

## The Game of Gaza International Tour 2008?



*"The Game"* was written by Jackie Lubeck and directed by Jan Willems. It is an absurd comedy based on the situation of scarcity in Gaza and played out by "4 friends and 2 persons." During the winter and spring of 2008, with the borders of Gaza sealed, the shops emptied out along with all other merchandise needed by the 1.5 million people who live in the Gaza Strip. For weeks, there was not a drop of benzine so people couldn't get to work or school. At one point, there were no tissues and this is when *"The Game"* was written.

Throughout 2007, the partners and friends of Theatre Day Productions in Europe were organizing an international tour of *"The Game."* Commitments were being made and dates were fixed, The opening was set for November 28, 2008 in Rotterdam. Performances would continue around the Netherlands and in Belgium.

Audiences, young and not so young, will have the opportunity to meet Palestinians in an unexpected way... on a stage, with a story that is both funny and not so funny. The exchange was meant to show another side of the Palestinian question, a side that rarely reaches the European media or public. And as rare, the actors will have a first opportunity to perform for a new public, one that is far from their homes and their daily problems.

Back in Gaza, however, the borders were closed and no one seemed to be going anywhere. Still, with lots of advice, we applied for permits to leave

through the Rafah Crossing (into Egypt). There was hope. We got our visas. We bought the plane tickets.

And we set Plan B in motion.

*“The Game – Plan B”* is a “copy” of the play with West Bank actors who can leave Palestine easier via Jordan.

And then we waited! As the planes were being filled with fuel and meals put into their trays, we got the final news that the Gaza actors would NOT get permits to leave the Gaza Strip because “they were dangerous.” The West Bank actors flew to Holland.

After each of the 20 performances in the Netherlands and Belgium, the film “The Game” (made by Tinus Kramer) was shown. The film follows the making of both plays and the final decision for the Gaza actors.

*“The Game – Plan A”* toured throughout the Gaza Strip during 2008 and 2009 and *“The Game – Plan B,”* after returning from Europe, continued to tour in the West Bank.

### **The Characters & The Actors**

	<b>“The Game – Plan A”</b>	<b>“The Game – Plan B”</b>
Friend 1	Ali Muhanna	Raeda Ghazaleh
Friend 2	Murad Mughari	Amer Khalil
Friend 3	Mohammed Al Hissi	Nicola Zreineh
Friend 4	Ahmad Sirhan	Mohammed Eid
Person 5	Baha Elyazji	Ghassan Soboh
Person 7	Ahmed Qadada	Jaber Rabee