

**“TEN WAYS TO KNOW US”**  
**(a cooperation with 34 Dutch Theatre Companies)**  
**Gaza 2015**

“Ten Ways to Know Us” was a project conceived in final days of the 2014 attack on Gaza during the summer months of Ramadan. In the Netherlands, the theatrical friends of TDP and other youth theatre groups and companies, asked us “What can we do? There must be a way.” A meeting was organized in the theatre of Huis aan de Amstel where artistic director and long time friend Liesbeth Colhof brought together representatives of 34 theatre organisations.

The result of this was to be a mentoring of directors (adopt of Palestinian director) and make 10 plays based on the idea created by TDP’s Jackie Lubeck and Jan Willems. In “Ten Ways to Know Us” we would find a way to “introduce” the world to Gaza.

These 9 plays were shown in a special event over 3 days in our theatre in Gaza. The 10<sup>th</sup> play was “After the Hurt” and was the first post-2014 war play made for touring in the schools. You can read about this play at <http://www.theatreday.org/activities/plays/youth-plays/> and select it under 2015

**THE PLAYS** – These were the plays made with children on stage together with TDP adult players; the directors and assistants were all working with their Dutch mentors, some in person and some online.

**“THE LOST SOUNDS”**

Directing: Hanna Ammar  
Assistant Director: Mohammed Khader  
Dutch Coach - Monique Corvers

Cast of Kids - Hind Msalha , SamahMsalha , Rawan Abu Sa'alik, Najla'a Abu Shghieba, Islam Hassan, Nahed Al Ra'ei, Nesma Louz, Sahar Louz, Saja Abu Sayed, Shaima Ahmed (Shadi), & Mohammed Khader (Blind Man - adult)

Every one of us has an important voice. The children in the play lost the all sounds of life... the sounds have disappeared. A group of kids living next to blind man discover that this man has cared for and collected the sounds of Gaza. The kids turn to him for help and find that he has a copy of every sound ever made in Gaza. And slowly, he gives them back to the kids.

**“FLY BIRDS FLY”**

Directing: Hana Al Ghouf  
Assistant Director: Khitam Abu Kwaik  
Dutch Coach - Anne Beth Schuurmans

Cast of Kids as Birds - ZienabMadi, Areej Al Tanna, RawanAbdAlnabi, Hanan Al Taloli, Fatma Al Taloli, Aya Al Madhoun, Fatma Al Jojo, & Khitam Abu Kwaik (Old Woman – adult)

An old and lonely has made a family of the birds. She has forgotten that one day birds must fly. The day is here and the birds gather. Every bird, but one, begins a new life. One who stays behind is the one born in the cage.

### **“AHMAD AND AHMAD”**

Directing: Ashraf Al Afifi  
Assistant Directors: Ahmad Al Banna & Mohammed Al Afifi  
Dutch Coach – Caspar Nieuwenhuis

Cast of Kids - Mohammed Al Haddad, Mahmoud Al Hindi, HamoudaTafish, Ahmad Banat, & Ahmed Al Banna (Father - adult), Mohammed Al Afifi (Mother - adult)

Ahmad is a dreaming boy. His father uses the dreams in the daily newspaper. Doesn't like this especially as his dreams start happening in reality. He decides to stop to telling his dreams, to stop talking all together. But there is another Ahmad in the mirror who turns things around.

### **“ONE THOUSAND QUESTIONS”**

Director: Mahmoud Abu Zbiedeh  
Assistant Director: Hassan Al Akhras  
Dutch Coach - Rosa Fontein

Cast of Kids - Samer Abu Zbieda, Mustaf Al Assar, Iad Al Zayyan, Kamel Al Taweel, Mahmoud Abu Yousef, & Mahmoud Abu Zbiedeh (Father – adult), Hassan Al Akhras (Mother – adult)

The brothers have questions about everything. They want the all answered. The parents have some answers... but not all. Repeating and repeating, the questions are asked. Everyone waits for answers.

### **“WATER”**

Directing: Manal Barakat  
Assistant Director: Randa Abu Maghasib  
Dutch Coach - Casper Vandeputte

Cast of Kids - Rana Shabat, Najah Al Shibari, Amal Al Othmani, Ghada Abu Harbiet, Sawsan Abu Ouda, Halima Abu Harbiet, Bisan Al Masri, Nour Abu Harbiet, Dalal Nsier, & Randa Abu Maghasib (The Water – adult)

Water is life for everyone and everything. But it is rare and when it comes it is generous. But everyone takes from it, and

### **“NO STOPPING”**

Directing: Mohammed Oweida

Assistant Director: Said Al Khawalda

& actor: Said Al Khawalda (Father, Mother, Grandfather, Grandmother)

Dutch Coaches – José Montagna & Jouman Fattal

Cast of Kids - Ali Salem, Nour Tayeh, Mustafa Abd Rabbu, & Said Al Khawalda (Father, Mother, Grandpa, Grandpa – adult)

Three brothers in the school yard are bored to death and can't sit still. Throughout the day, they are visited by family members who offer suggestions but still the boys can't sit still. A play of running and sliding.

### **“BETWEEN THE DESERT AND THE SEA”**

Directing: Ismail Dahalan

Assistant Directors: Fadi Abu Yasin & Imad Al Khawalda

Dutch Coach - Matthijs Rümke

Cast of Kids - Saed Thaher, Ahmed Al Majdob, Saeb Al Ajez, Fadi Al Shrafi, Ahmed Nassar, Qusai Abu Rokba, Asem Abu Ghazal, Kareem Al Afifi, & Fadi Abu Yasin and Imad Al Khawalda (puppeteers)

A Bedouin and his son decide to visit the sea. A fisherman and his daughter (disguised as a boy) decide to visit the desert. Meeting in city where all travelers rest, the two meet and exchange information. But the fisherman in the desert longs for home and the Bedouin at the sea longs for home.

### **“THE WOMAN IN THE TREE”**

Directing: Ola Salem

Assistant Directors: Khadra Arafat & Hassan Al Najjar

Dutch Coach – José Hussaarts

Cast of Kids - Muhanned Al Ashram, Yasin Abu Samra, Yazan Khalifa, Shadi Abu Mandeel, Iyad Al Sous, Zakariya Al Aidy, & Khadra Afafa (Mother – adult), Hassan Al Najjar (Father – adult)

Five sons and their father are waiting for their mother and wife to come down from the tree where she has been living since sadness overwhelmed her. Trying all tactics, the father finally finds the way to get her down. Dressed as a woman, the two “mothers” reveal their hearts to each other.

### **“WAITING FOR SNOW”**

Directing: Wisam Al Diwari

Assistant Director: Muhanned Abu Khadra

Dutch Coach – Muriel Besemer

Cast of Kids - Nour Al Saqqa, Dana Hadeel, ali Obaid, Shahd Awaja, Marah Zaqout, Maha Zaqout, Abdallah Abu Hani, Mahmoud Abu Hani, & Muhanned Abu Khadra (Uncle – adult)

For 7 months, Isam sits on the rubble of his destroyed house praying that his parents will rest in peace following the bombardment of their town. He hopes that snow will come from sky and light the darkness that he lives in.

### **SUPERVISORS AND STAFF**

#### **Dutch Supervision**

Liesbeth Coltof, Caspar Nieuwenhuis, & Carly Everaert

#### **TDP Staff**

**Artistic Supervision:** Jan Willems, Rafat Al Aydi, Mohammed Al Hessi, Jackie Lubeck **Administration:** Rami Hijjo, Doaa Abu Abdo, Maryam Enaia, Rania Al Shawa, Tania Mourtaja, Henriette Araman, Francis Tams, Anan Tehri **Technical:** Riyad Al Akhras, Ahmed Qadada, Ashraf Sarhan, Muhsen Abu Al Khair, Yasir Al Kurd, Mohammed Ammar, Hazem Salem