

THE WALKING BOY (Hebron original version 2001 & Gaza Version 2002)

How We Started

Theatre Day Productions began work on “The Walking Boy” in December 2000. The second Intifada had just begun. Children were being killed every day while other children looked on helplessly as the funeral processions passed by their homes and schools. We could not imagine the effect this was having on the young people in Palestine. We began to think about this... And it was then that we decided to make a play about a boy who was simply walking to school one day, when out of nowhere, he is shot. A simple boy from Hebron... a walking boy.

The Story of the Play

“The Walking Boy” is about how your imagination works. The story of 12 year old Omar is told to you as if it was coming from his dreams, his memories, and his fantasies. At the start of the play, Omar is shot. In his fever and in his shock, the details of his short life pass before him. We have a chance to meet him, his family, and to hear about his dreams for the future. We also meet Abu Sultan. Who is this strange man wearing a bizarre coat? Where does he come from and what is his role in Omar’s life? Omar is accompanied on his trip to the hospital and his trip through his imagination by his best friend Majed. Together with Abu Sultan, they shout, they laugh, they fight, they run, they discuss, they play, they fly.

Gaza & Hebron Versions

The improvisations that led to final script of “The Walking Boy” were done in Hebron where the play first opened. With the success of the play in the Hebron region, we remade it for the Gaza Strip with our actors there. Neither team has seen the production of the other since these two groups cannot meet in this time of political insanity. In Gaza, we made the play with 6 actors but both productions are the same. (In Hebron, one actor was playing the ambulance driver, the grandfather, the step-mother, and the father. The news was on tape. In Gaza, there is a newsman, an ambulance driver, and one actor playing the 3 family members.)

Directed by JAN WILLEMS

Written by JACKIE LUBECK

	HEBRON	GAZA
Omar	Mohammed Titi	Baha Eliazji
Majed	Ihab Zahdeh	Rafat Al Aydeh
Abu Sultan	Marwan Tartouri	Mohammed Shasha
Grandfather	Raed Shiukhi	Nahid Hanouna
Step-Mother	Raed Shiukhi	Nahid Hanouna
Father	Raed Shiukhi	Nahid Hanouna
Ambulance Driver	Raed Shiukhi	Rassem Shamiyya
Newsman	Voice of Amer Khalil	Mahmoud Oudeh
Assistant to the Director	Janan Shabaneh	Ziad Nasrallah
Abu Sultan’s Coat-Maker	Reem Asfour	Hiba Shalouf
Technicians	Hammam Amr	Ibrahim Masari
Management	Rasha Daibas	Mervat Hafez