

Asked about the results when performing for Israelis, Abu Salem explained, «We may not have had exceptional results, but at least we didn't do any harm. The problem remains the same. The Israelis that come to watch our shows are the open-minded ones, those who have questions about the make-up of their society. We probably pushed some of those who are hesitant to take a more radical position. We encouraged others to understand and accept certain facts about our cause.»

Ironically, *Al Hakawati* is not allowed in the Arab countries, except for Tunisia where they performed once in 1980. However, Abu Salem confirmed that the group will travel to Egypt very soon, on an unofficial invitation. However, *Al Hakawati* has performed in many European cities and in several international festivals. Abu Salem discusses the purpose of performing abroad: «We come to Europe to present certain facts that don't agree with our image in Europe. Many in Europe don't know what Palestine is; many know a very little about it through the media. So the audience has a distorted image of the Palestinians because of misinformation campaigns.»

«Our audiences in Europe fall into two categories. First, there are those who sympathize with the Palestinian cause: Arabs, Europeans, and a huge number of progressive Jews who support our cause or are concerned with the Arab-Zionist conflict. Second, there are those who are curious; they come just because we are from far away... Today, in Europe, we are looking for a theater audience that is more objective. Our theater demands an audience with a minimum level of love for the theater itself, and taste for its language, different forms and nature. Otherwise, the show will be too heavy, because the audience will not understand the unfamiliar form of telling the story.»

«Our Palestinian identity is the essence of our works, but it has to come second to the character and style of our theater, in order to build a relation of respect between the audience and the Palestinian cause. This relation will contribute to our development as a theater group. At the same time, it will convey our art, and political and human ideas to the audience. I imagine that most of our audiences now are

Abu Salem also discussed the effects of the fact that the group is always on the move, travelling: «As a theater group, we are always living in conditions that are very similar to those of the Palestinian people, specifically the refugees... We move from one place to another. We don't have a specific place to stay. Of course, the refugee did not choose this life. It's a result of the difficult historical and political conditions they were put in. As a theater group, we don't choose when to travel, and this is because we are Palestinians. Some countries receive us, but many others refuse us. Many Arab and non-Arab countries have withdrawn their invitations at the last minute. Just like refu-

«I am not sure if travelling is better for us, but we got used to it. We enjoy it more, but surely it has negative aspects. This is still a point of discussion for us.»

«We did not plan to take *Al Nuzha* movie theater as a center for our group in the beginning. We just needed a meeting place for the group, to have rehearsals and store our costumes and archive. After taking the place and repairing it, we discovered that it is too big and expensive for us. A permanent center ties us down. Personally, I would rather stay free and travel, not only in Europe, but everywhere we have an audience that loves us and waits for our visit.»

A colorful illustration showing a man with a beard, wearing a purple hooded robe over a blue tunic, holding the hand of a small child in a white dress. They are walking on a yellow path towards a church with a tall bell tower. In the background, a green dragon is visible near some red buildings under a bright yellow sun.

クウェイト人にはクウェイトがある
Kuwaitis have Kuwait
الكويتون لهم الكويت

ケニア人にはケニアがある
Kenyans have Kenya
الكنييون لهم كينيا

ブラジル人にはブラジルがある
Brazilians have Brazil
البرازيليين لديهم البرازيل

フランス人にはフランスがある
French have France
الفرنسيون لهم فرنسا

ソ連人にはソ連がある
Soviets have the Soviet Union
السوفييتات لهم الاتحاد السوفياتي

アメリカ人にはアメリカがある
Americans have the United States
الأمريكيون هم أمريكا

パプア・ニューギニア人には
パプア・ニューギニアがある
Papua New Guineans have Papua New Guinea

日本人には日本がある
Japanese have Japan
اليابانيون لهم اليابان

A vibrant, child-like illustration of a castle with yellow walls and red-roofed towers. A large yellow sun is positioned behind the castle. In the foreground, three white sheep are grazing in a green field filled with various colorful flowers. Several birds are flying in the sky above the castle. The entire scene is enclosed within a simple black rectangular border.

パレスチナ人にはパレスチナがない
PALESTINIANS DON'T HAVE PALESTINE
الفلسطينيون محرومون من فلسطين

On the occasion of the UN International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People Nov. 29th
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مناسبة اليوم العالمي للتضامن مع الشعب الفلسطيني في الـ ٢٩ من نوفمبر
نشرته: المكتبة الفلسطينية في اليابان رسوم من: موني ي. تاماري (١٠ سنوات) تصميم: توشيرو ساتو

11月29日 国連パレスチナ・デー UN PALESTINE DAY
يوم فلسطين . الأمم المتحدة . ٢٩ تشرين ثاني