

TALKING PALESTINE PROGRAMME

SATURDAY 1ST NOVEMBER

VOICES OF
PALESTINE
FESTIVAL

Talking Palestine, part of the *Voices of Palestine Festival*, showcases leading Palestinian artists, writers, filmmakers, musicians, and scholars exploring culture, memory, and resilience. The series features panels, performances, screenings, and discussions that highlight identity, exile, and heritage. Art exhibits and personal storytelling through music and film offer rich insights. Audiences are invited to engage in dialogue on art as a medium for liberation, healing, and peace, making this a powerful platform for cultural expression and understanding.

Battlebridge Room - Talking Palestine Series

12.30 – 13.30

The Art of Palestine: Telling the Palestinian Story through the Arts

Moderator Bisan Abu Eiseh

The Palestine Museum, Scotland & the US: Faisal Saleh

Narrative Threads: Palestinian Embroidery in Contemporary Art: Joanna Barakat

Visual Testimonies: Palestinian Heritage in Paint and Thread: Beesan Arafat

Hudur al-Gha'ibin – Presence of the Absent: Mary Evers - Stitch Their Names Together project

Q&A

This panel celebrates Palestinian heritage and contemporary creativity through art, embroidery, and storytelling. Featuring artists Joanna Barakat, Beesan Arafat, Mary Evers and Faisal Saleh, it explores how visual and material culture preserve memory, reimagine identity, and communicate resilience across generations and borders.

14.00 – 15.00

Music & Stories - the Role that Music Plays in Palestine

Moderator John Harte

Edward Said National Conservatory of Music: Eleni Mustaklem

Stories of a Gazzawi Musician: Reem Anbar

Palestinian Music & Resistance: Dr. Louis Brehony

A Method Called Love: Wissam Boustany

Q&A

An afternoon of musical insight with Eleni Mustaklem, Reem Anbar, Dr. Louis Brehony & Wissam Boustany, exploring the roles that music plays in shaping and expressing identity in Palestine today. Supporting the work of the Edward Said National Conservatory of Music, PalMusic UK celebrates its 10th Anniversary.

15.30–16.30

Palestinian Voices in Literature: Writing Memory, Mapping Exile – Stories of Displacement, Resistance and Belonging

Moderator Ahmed Najar

Storytelling in a Time of Erasure: Elias Matar

Outsider Writings: Selma Dabbagh

Palestine through the Looking Glass of its Poetry: Dr. Atef Alshaer

Q&A

A powerful panel featuring four acclaimed Palestinian voices - Ahmed Najar, Elias Matar, Selma Dabbagh, and Dr. Atef Alshaer, whose work spans fiction, theatre, poetry, and political thought, as they explore storytelling as resistance, remembrance, and reimagining of home.

Ground Floor & Foyer (G)

Traditional Palestinian Cuisine from 12pm (Café & Restaurant)

Cafe with a delicious spread of Palestinian options open from 12 and full a la carte Palestinian-inspired dinner menu from 4pm.

Mezzanine (Floor -1)

Traditional Souk 12-7pm

A bustling souk of Palestinian artisanal crafts, ceramics, jewellery, art, fashion, books ranging all genres, traditional tatreez embroidery & Palestinian thobes. A perfect place to pick up this year's Christmas gifts and support Palestinian artists and artisans at the same time.

Exhibitions

Hosted by **The Palestine Museum, Scotland & the US**, this exhibition brings together artists whose work embodies the enduring spirit of Palestinian creativity.

The Via Dolorosa Palestinese, curated by Faisal Saleh, powerfully traces Palestinian history through immersive art, groundbreaking floor installations printed on durable, walkable material that span over 30 metres, embroidered works from the Palestine History Tapestry, maps, and digital works by Gazan artist Mohammed Alhaj (Foyer, Mezzanine and Battlebridge Rooms).

St Pancras Room (Floor -2)

Hudur al-Gha'ibin - Presence of the Absent. A monumental textile installation comprising 275 hand-stitched panels created by approximately 360 artists. Through the meticulous embroidery of 50,000 individual names, the work serves as a memorial to Palestinian lives lost in Gaza, transforming personal grief into collective witness. Led by Mary Evers, *Stitch Their Names Together* is a collective of women addressing inequalities in human rights application in Palestine.

PERFORMANCE PROGRAMME

TICKETED EVENTS - INCLUDES GENERAL
FESTIVAL ACCESS | 12.00 – 22.00

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Hall Two

12.00 – 13.30

Palestinian Theatre: Welcome to Gaza by Hands Up Theatre Project

Welcome to Gaza brings Palestinian children's stories of life under siege and occupation to UK stages, in a powerful play compiled and directed by award-winning playwright Peter Oswald. Produced by the Hands Up Project and written pre-October 7th, 2023, these nineteen plays by children from Gaza and the West Bank, are woven into a continuous 90-minute play portraying real life in Gaza before and after the watershed of October 7th 2023.

Talking Palestine Series

14.30 – 16.00

Film & Resistance: Cinema, Storytelling & Liberation

Moderator Zaydun Khalaf

Jerusalem International Film Festival & Gaza International Festival for Women's Cinema: Mohammad Sahli & Dr. Ezzaldeen Shalh

Juman Quneis (Street Art in Palestine)

Ashira Darwish (Where Olive Trees Weep)

Annemarie Jacir (Palestine 36)

Sawsan Qaoud (Gaza Grad)

Q&A

Join us for a powerful conversation with leading voices in Palestinian cinema and film as they explore the role of film in documenting truth, resisting occupation, and highlighting Palestinian narratives. Through lived experience, academic insight, and creative storytelling, this panel offers a unique lens into the power of film as both art and activism.

17.45 – 18.30

Manjal by NABAD Troupe (Dabke)

Tarweede Collective and Nabad Troupe present Manjal, a moving blend of Dabke, poetry, and storytelling. Through choreography by Ameena Adileh and music by El-Funoun Dance Troupe, it captures love, loss, longing, and resistance—inviting audiences into moments of shared humanity, joy, and cultural endurance through powerful movement and lyrical narration.

Music from the Heart of Palestine - Hall One

16.00 – 16.45

GazelleBand

Gazelleband - featuring Reem Anbar, known as Gaza's first female oud player & Dr. Louis Brehony, buzuq player, writer, and filmmaker - weave stories of exile, identity, and resilience through Palestinian and Irish soundscapes, following their world tour across eight countries.

19.00 – 21.30

Banat al-Quds/Daughters of Jerusalem

Banat al-Quds is a 35-piece all-female choir and Arabic music ensemble, from the Edward Said National Conservatory, Jerusalem, founded in 2013 and conducted by Suhail Khoury.

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