

# **STATION HOUSE OPERA**

## AT HOME IN GAZA AND LONDON



Created by Station House Opera  
Directed by Julian Maynard Smith and Taghrid Choucair-Vizoso  
Produced by Artsadmin

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**ARTS  
ADMIN.**

**At Home in Gaza and London** goes beyond the headlines, using modern technology to offer a voice to individual artists in Gaza and give reality to the ways of working and surviving under strained, damaging and threatening conditions.

The performance connects the two cities by creating a single space shared by artists and watched by audiences in both places, using live video streaming to merge the two together. The performers discuss, argue and celebrate aspects of their own personal lives and the possibilities generated through the opportunity to share actions, spaces and even bodies with others, two and a half thousand miles away.

The impossible situation now endured by the Gazan population is explored, and also escaped from through the creation of temporary freedom and a momentary lift of the Gazan siege. At the end, the two audiences are invited to join the performers on stage for a communal meal together, and the chance to talk with those on the other side.

On the way audiences journey through topics and locations such as marriage, protest, the Surrey hills, a rooftop in Gaza, deserted streets, children, the cinema, a pas de deux, the benefits of a massacre, where to be safe and two people becoming one.

**At Home in Gaza and London** asks questions such as ‘what are the ways of coping with existential threat and physical, political and moral oppression?’ and ‘what does it mean to attempt an equal artistic collaboration between such different cultures, hopes and expectations?’ The six artists in Gaza and five in London have worked together since January 2016, developing bonds and alliances which offer some answers to these questions.



## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

### QUOTES

“It takes a few moments to realise whether we are looking at England or Gaza and which of the characters are really there.”

– Middle East Monitor

“When you mix art, technology & heart it can be challenging, groundbreaking, raw & brilliant - Station House Opera / @artsadm produced At Home In Gaza and London @battersea\_arts tonight - got it so right! Political & daring theatre on the edges of performance. Excellent.”

– Andrew Ellerby, Arts Council England (via Twitter)

### PRESS LINKS

[Middle East Eye](#)

[The Guardian](#)

[The Stage](#)

### PREVIOUS TOUR DATES

June 2018 Battersea Arts Centre, London, El-Wedad Society for Community Rehabilitation in Gaza, Palestine

July 2018 Everyman Theatre, Liverpool Arab Arts Festival, El-Wedad Society for Community Rehabilitation in Gaza, Palestine

### DOCUMENTATION

[Watch a short edit of the show on Vimeo](#)

[Watch a video of the full performance on Vimeo](#) (password: aghljuly2018)

## **ABOUT STATION HOUSE OPERA**

With past projects ranging from spectacular site-specific works created with concrete blocks to simultaneous performances across continents using live internet streaming, Station House Opera is an internationally renowned performance company with a unique physical and visual style. Founded in 1980 it has produced over 30 productions of widely varying scale and focus, all rooted in an interest to make work that brings together theatre and the visual arts in a single unified vision.

Led by Artistic Director and Co-Founder Julian Maynard Smith, Station House Opera have created projects in a variety of locations all over the world, from New York's Brooklyn Bridge Anchorage to Dresden's historic Frauenkirche and Salisbury Cathedral, and have toured the world, from Azerbaijan to Kosovo, China to Brazil working with over 100 performers in various projects. Station House Opera have pioneered the use of telematics in performance with works such as **Life on Paradise** and **Play on Earth**. They link spaces and performances via live stream, and recently with **Dissolved** and **At Home in Gaza and London** merge together people and spaces, creating new encounters and exploring identity.

Station House Opera's site-specific installation, **Dominoes**, has been adapted for different cities and contexts across the globe, transforming the rhythm of the city for one special day. Hundreds of volunteers and audience members gather together to make this exceptional and unique event.

## **ABOUT TAGHRID CHOUCAIR-VIZOSO**

Taghrid Choucair-Vizoso is co-director of *At Home in Gaza and London*. Aside from directing, she is also a producer and facilitator with a practice in contemporary work in or about the Middle East. Since 2010, she has been developing intercultural and cross-cultural work with performance artists and playwrights in the UK, Lebanon, Syria, and Palestine. She creates and performs work within the context of cultural resistance and as an associate artist of Kazzum, leads programmes of workshops with young refugees and asylum seekers across the UK. She produced and programmed the 2018 AWAN - Arab Women Artists Now Festival in London. In July 2018, she joined the Shubbak team as the festival's Programme & Engagement Producer.

## **CREDITS**

Co-devised and performed by:

Ayah Abdelrahman, Abeer Ahmed, Tara Fatehi Irani, Ali Al-Hassany, Yoko Ishiguro, Mariam Nasser, Hamza Saftawi, Walid Tafesh and Owl Young.

Assistant Directors:

Ebaa Rezeq (London) and Amjad Shabat (Gaza)



PHOTO BY ROB HARRIS

## **TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION**

**At Home in Gaza and London** is performed and live streamed from two locations across the globe.

- Minimum stage area 8m x 8m
- Minimum grid height 4m
- A strong internet connection to the performance/rehearsal space (refer to the tech rider for details).
- Bars to rig LX/Projector Screen/black drapes along one side of stage (positions can be adapted to suit venue)
- 2 days get-in

To receive a detailed technical rider please email [ania@artsadmin.co.uk](mailto:ania@artsadmin.co.uk).