



OSSAMA HALAL: THEATRE DIRECTOR AND ACTOR

"I hope that there will be real peace between us, human beings."

Ossama developed a theatre programme that aims to develop creative skills among Syrian and Lebanese youth by establishing a laboratory for experimental theatre that targets independent artists from various cultural and ethnic backgrounds.



RAGHAD MAKHLOUF AND WISSAM AL-GHATI: ACTRESS AND PHOTOGRAPHER

"I want to make teenagers dream again." – Raghad

"One of the objectives of this project is gathering Lebanese and Syrian youth in one artistic and cultural space so they can listen to each other and get to know the other without any preconceived ideas." – Wissam

Through their theatre workshops, Raghad and Wissam created a safe space for Lebanese and Syrian teenagers to have fun, build their confidence, and help them think about the future in a positive way.



About International Alert

International Alert is a peacebuilding organisation that has been working for over 30 years with people directly affected by conflict to find peaceful solutions.

In Syria, we strengthen the knowledge and skills of Syrian civil society, including artists and young people within the country and those in exile in Lebanon and Turkey, to build trust, defuse tensions and support reconciliation. We also work to reduce the vulnerability of young Syrians to joining extremist groups. Find out more about our work in Syria at: www.international-alert.org/syria

Thank you

We would like to thank all the artists and cultural figures involved in Create Syria for sharing their stories with us and for their incredible work using arts to promote social cohesion and creativity in a time of crisis.

We would also like to thank our Create Syria partners, Ettijahat - Independent Culture and the British Council.

And finally a special thanks to Ying-Hsuan Tai for curating this exhibition and Hsiao-Yang Lee for doing the illustrations.

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using the hashtag [#CreateSyria](https://twitter.com/CreateSyria)



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Help strengthen dialogue and resilience among refugees and communities in Lebanon by donating today at intalert.org/donate or texting ARTS07 followed by the amount you wish to donate (e.g. ARTS07 £10) to 70070.

CREATE SYRIA

The future constellation

HANNIBAL SAAD • BARKEV TASLAKIAN • MOHAMED ALOOSH
OSSAMA HALAL • KARIM QABRAWI • ABED AL AZIZ AIDY • HUSSEIN TARAANI
RAGHAD MAKHLOUF AND WISSAM AL GHATI

Create Syria

The future constellation

We are all storytellers. Lying on our backs, listening to each other's whispers, we look up at the night sky. This is where stories begin, under the multitude of stars which gives us hope for the future.

International Alert is pleased to present Create Syria – a multimedia installation exploring how arts can help build a better future in the wake of the Syria crisis.

The five-year crisis in Syria and the resulting influx of over a million refugees has impacted social cohesion across Lebanon. The exhibition follows the inspiring stories of a few displaced Syrian artists living in Lebanon. They are playing an active role in building long-term resilience and recovery with Syrian refugees and their host communities through an arts project run by International Alert, Ettijahat - Independent Culture and the British Council.

Working in refugee camps and other communities they use diverse art forms – from theatre, film and painting, to choral singing and animation – to construct a vision of a more peaceful Syria, where creativity and collaboration prevail, in spite of the crisis.

Create Syria represents a 'constellation'. Each of the artists is a star connected by hope. Together they create a vision of a peaceful future in Syria. Imagining the constellation cannot change the stars, nor can it alter the black emptiness that surrounds them. What it changes is the way we read the sky.

Engaging with divided communities, these artists have inspired children and young people to dream again. For them there are many reasons to reach for the canvas, the brush, the guitar, the camera... instead of a gun.

talkingpeacefestival.org/create-syria

Meet the artists that make up Syria's future constellation.



ABED AL AZIZ AIDY: FILMMAKER

"Art is a process of dismantling society and putting it back together again."

Abed's video-making workshop, which teaches photography, sound, light, filming, editing and storyboarding skills, aims to develop and promote the skills of young people in order to improve their living conditions and allow space for self-expression, making their voices heard and documenting their oral memory.



BARKEV TASLAKIAN: MUSIC CONDUCTOR

"I always say, tackle any problem at its roots. When you are introducing arts to these children who have known nothing but war, you are paving the way for a better future."

Barkev's choir training project for young Syrians in Lebanon incorporates singing skills and choir leadership to enable them to further spread this form of art in refugee camps and migrant communities.



HANNIBAL SAAD: MUSICIAN AND MUSIC FESTIVAL DIRECTOR

"I want to create a positive perception of my country."

Hannibal's project aims to promote dialogue between Syrian and local communities in Lebanon, using music to improve young people's psychological wellbeing and encourage collaboration between these two groups.



HUSSEIN TARAANI: BUDDING FILMMAKER

"I want to speak about the untold stories of multiple displacements."

Hussein is one of the young participants in Abed al Aziz Aidy's video-making workshop. Since joining the workshop, he has gone on to produce his own short film based on his grandparents' untold stories of multiple displacements, from Palestine to Syria to Lebanon.



KARIM QABRAWI: ANIMATOR

"Art is a coping mechanism, a way of dealing with the toxic context and the politics which are so complicated."

The animation workshops led by Syrian animator Karim Qabrawi use moving images not only as a way of telling a story, but also to build cooperation and understanding between Syrian and Lebanese participants.



MOHAMED ALOOSHI: PAINTER

"I would lay out all my pain, fear, fatigue, happiness and excitement on the canvas and start throwing [in] all sorts of colours ... It is only by overcoming personal barriers that one can learn how to break any other cultural or social challenges."

By teaching young Syrian and Lebanese people how to draw and paint, Mohamed's workshops help them make new friends, unlock their creativity and express themselves.