

## **PALFEST IRELAND 8-11 July**

Press Release:

Irish artists create arts festival 8-11 July in Dublin and nationwide to mark first anniversary of Israeli attacks on Gaza.

PalFest Ireland is an arts festival organised by Irish artists in solidarity with the people of Palestine. It will mark the first anniversary of the Israeli bombardment of Gaza that left over 2100 Palestinians dead, including more than 500 children. PalFest Ireland is a lively, diverse, positive and culturally rich arts festival involving artists across a broad range of artforms. The festival includes music, theatre, film, dance, poetry, spoken word and visual arts events in many venues in Dublin and nationwide to promote a cultural connection between Ireland and Palestine.

PalFest Ireland will open on the morning of **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July** with an **art installation** on Sandymount Strand comprising 556 infant vests on uprights, representing the number of children killed by the Israeli bombardment of Gaza a year ago. On the morning of **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July**, the last day of PalFest Ireland, there will be a fun **family football match** in the same place with well-known Irish sport stars, changing the beach from a place of death and lament to what it should be - a place of life and play.

### **Headline events of PalFest Ireland include:**

Talk by **Dr. Mads Gilbert**, the Norwegian surgeon who worked in Al Shifa Hospital during the bombardment of Gaza last summer. 7pm O'Reilly Theatre, Fri 10<sup>th</sup> July.

Performance of '**Seven Jewish Children**' by **Caryl Churchill** in the Abbey Theatre 9.45pm Fri 10<sup>th</sup> July, followed by Dr. Mads Gilbert giving The Noble Call from the Abbey stage.

**Photographic exhibition** in FilmBase 7th-9th July including Palestinian photographer Fatin al-Tamimi, photographer Ann Paq and an exhibition of photographs by children of Gaza created by Algerian photographer Asmaa Seba.

**Talk by journalist David Sheen**, former editor of Israel newspaper Haaretz, on the racism inherent in the Israeli system of governance. O'Reilly Theatre 8pm, Wed 8th July.

**Liberty4Palestine** by Kila, Ruba Shamshoum, Tig Linn, Honor Heffernan & Trevor Knight and Cormac Breathnach, Liberty Hall 8pm Sat 11<sup>th</sup> July.

**Film screening** in the Ireland Institute Pearse Street 4pm Fri 10th July of the Oscar nominated Palestinian documentary '**Five Broken Cameras**'.

**Film screening** of the highly-acclaimed international hit **Open Bethlehem**, with writer/director Leila Sansour in attendance, in The O'Reilly Theatre, 4pm Sat 11th July.

New theatre piece **'We Are Rachel Corrie'**, based on the US human rights defender killed by an Israeli army bulldozer while defending a Palestinian house from demolition in 2005.

Cast includes **Mary Murray (Love/Hate)**, **Sorcha Furlong (Fair City)**, Rachael Dowling, Maeve Fitzgerald with original music by Ellen Cranitch.

Doublebill with Jimmy Murphy's **'What's Left of the Flag'**, directed by Joe O'Byrne, designed by Robert Ballagh, performers David Herlihy, Rex Ryan and Kate Gilmore. 7.30pm O'Reilly Theatre, Thurs 9th July.

Play **'Bitterenders'** by London-based Irish-Palestinian playwright Hannah Khalid, directed by Jeda De Bri, cast includes **Áine Ní Mhuirí (Ballykissangel)** and **Michael Bates (Fair City)**. 1pm The New Theatre, Thurs 9th July, with playwright in attendance.

**Blues for Palestine**, with Karan Casey, and screening of film by 16-year-old Anraí Carroll, **'Small Hands In Handcuffs'**, Counihans Cork, 9pm Fri 10th July.

**'Foot'**, a play by Palestinian playwright Ismail Khalidi which deals with the killing of Palestinian midfielder Tariq Al Quto in 2006. In association with SARI, **Dalymount Park** Members' Lounge, directed by Michael James Ford 2pm Sat 11th July.

There will also be plays, dance events, music gigs, film screenings, poetry events, storytelling nights, and children's art workshops at many venues in Dublin and throughout Ireland.

The festival will take place from Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 11th July 2015.

Information: <http://www.palfestireland.net>

PalFest Ireland is created by members of Irish Artists in support of Palestine and the Irish Palestine Solidarity Committee, as well as hundreds of people nationwide.

**For more information, please contact:**

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