

ORIENT & DANCE THEATER



2017 REPORT

The year 2017 was the year of restructuring on the level of the activities and the institutional structure, more focus has been put into developing the vision and mission of ODT, building the structure and curriculum of the ballet school. The Ballet teacher Nina Reewa who came as a volunteer teaching ballet and contemporary dance joined ODT team for an open work contract, here goal is to build structured ballet school that follow structured ballet curriculum.

Vision

Encouraging expression of identity through art.

Mission

To motivate individuals to search inspiration from their surrounding environment and encourage them to focus their energy towards expressing themselves through the art of movement.

Objectives

1. Continually advancing center for artistic movement, providing a safe and non-judgmental space.
2. Educating Palestinians in the field of contemporary dance.
3. Enrich Palestinian society with contemporary dancers and teachers.
4. Introduce Palestinian culture to the world through professional contemporary dance performances.
5. Networking and cooperating with international contemporary dance scene.
6. Develop Performing Arts School and its programs to expose learners to different arts.
7. Empowering art integration into the community.

Organizational Values.

- 1-Creativity
- 2- Accountability/Trust
- 3- Professionalism
- 4- Accessibility
- 5-Personal approach

BIG THANKS to our supporter and partner (Sillam music - Belgium, MTU Ethical links – Estonia and krinal | mansour - Palestine).



ODT activities for the year 2017

1. Performing art school trainings.
2. Recycling activities and teaching
3. International Visits, workshops and shows

1. Performing art school trainings

In 2017, ODT have trained around 60 children and adults between 5 and 14 years old from Ramallah, Al Bireh, Bethlehem area and the surrounding of ODT. The performing art school was divided into the following categories:

Ballet classes in which weekly classes (ballet and pre-ballet) given to 47 children according to the age and level. The groups were divided as follows: 5-7 years old, 8-10 years old, 11-12 years old, and 13+ years old. The classes' duration was 2 hours of practicing each for age group. In the year 2017 the students and their parents were more committed to the classes and we could clearly see more self-discipline from the students and motivation from parents' side. This showed deep interest (in ballet art & ballet education) from the children & their parents.

Beside the ballet weekly classes, ODT invited around 20 girls from Al Jalazoun refugee camp to attend introductory Ballet classes at ODT space.

In the year 2017, the main teacher Nina Reewa carried the trainings with the help of Marie Morgenthaler who joined as a volunteering ballet teacher for a short period.



Ballet performances

As part of ODT vision of developing the student's artistic skills and their self-confidence, the Ballet school students performed the end of year ballet performance at the stage of the Palestinian medical relief society in Al Bireh in May, 2017

In October, 2017 as part of our mission of introducing the ballet art to the public, the Students performed 10-15 minute ballet pieces in outdoor and public spaces in Ramallah and Al Bireh within the activities of the street stage project implemented by krinal | mansour.



Contemporary dance classes/Workshops. (Empowering art integration into the community)

ODT believe that each disability is combined with many abilities that we should look at. In the year 2017, ODT worked with children with different disabilities, giving Creative dance workshops in Biet Fajjar (near Bethlehem) through Women's Association of Beit fajjar, 14 children joined the workshop ages between 6 and 12 years old.

ODT works to build a stronger educational artistic program that aim to integrate and empower people with disabilities in the society through art.



Summer camp: in which around 25 children got intensive contemporary art lessons and trainings (Contemporary and creative dance, recycling, basic ballet, theatre, music education). 3 local dance trainers, 1 international ballet teacher, 1 theatre teacher and 1 music teacher have worked 20 day with children. in this summer camp we combined ODT students with children from different refugees camps and rural areas around Ramallah and Al Bireh.



2. Recycling club

Since the beginning of Orient & Dance Theatre most of the furniture in the office and the space was built through recycling wood, metal, plastic and papers, through the work of Orient many artistic pieces made by recycling, since September 2014, ODT start building a recycling educational program that is focusing on the recycling process and results. The aim of the project is to raise awareness about the environment, cleaning, recycling and motivate productive thinking. And build trust with the local communities through which contemporary art can be promoted to these communities.

Orient Trainers have held recycling workshops in deferent Palestinian villages with cooperation with local governments and councils and around 120 people (10 to 45 years old) have participated in those workshops.

The project will develop in the coming years.



3. International Visits, workshops and shows.

2017 was another year of travelling, networking, and performing out of Palestine. The choreographer/ dancer Maher Shawamre (founder of ODT) participated in different festival and workshops in Belgium France and Egypt with the goal of introducing Palestinian art abroad and building networks of dancers, organizations and cultural activists for future potential cooperations.

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