



Arab American
National Museum
presents

diwan

A Forum for the Arts
March 29 - April 1, 2007

DIWAN: A Forum for the Arts unites Arab-American artists, scholars and performers representing myriad academic fields and artistic genres. Activities include presentation of new research into Arab-American arts; poetry and prose readings; film screenings, and musical performances. This three-day dialogue reinforces AANM's commitment to providing a place for community members and artists to meet, exchange ideas and exhibit their work. It also encourages audiences to explore the boundaries of art in addressing social and cultural issues related to Arab Americans and to the community at large. All sessions are open to the public.

THURSDAY 3.29.07

7:30-9:30PM COMERICA FORD GLOBAL THURSDAY

Living in the Hyphen-Nation: A One-Woman Show

Laila Farah, Ph.D. presents this compelling performance piece examining institutional racism in terms of secret evidence, racial profiling, new legislation and creation of “the other” as it relates to Arab Americans. The play works to tear down stereotypes using personal accounts, poetry and prose.

FRIDAY 3.30.07

9:30 - 10:15AM · BREAKFAST

10:15 - 10:45AM · OPENING SESSION

Anan Ameri, Ph.D. Director, Arab American National Museum (AANM)

Jack G. Shaheen, Ph.D. AANM Board Member, Author and Media Critic, Professor Emeritus of Mass Communications at Southern Illinois University

11:00AM -1:00PM · CONCURRENT SESSIONS

(a) ARTS AS CATALYST FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

Mary Ann Peters Visual Artist, Seattle, WA Reconstructing Community’s History through the Arts

Nadia Ayari MFA Candidate in Painting, Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI Arts as Conduit for Change

Alma Khasawnih MFA Candidate in Community Arts Education, R.I.S.D., Providence, RI Arab American Artist Collectives

Dena Al-Adeeb Diasporic Iraqi Artist, Photographer, Activist and Organizer, Cairo, Egypt Sacred Spaces: Reconstructing Ashura and the Cityscape of Karbala

Moderator Evelyn AlSultany Assistant Professor, American Culture, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

(b) WHY ARTS MATTER (Arab American Arts Organizations)

Hazami Sayed President, Al-Bustan Seeds of Culture, Philadelphia, PA Inspiring Young Minds With Culture

Ahmed Issawi Director, Alwan for the Arts, New York, NY The Dichotomous Functions of Arab Arts Organizations

Sally Al-Daher, M.D. Executive Director, Arab Cultural and Community Center, San Francisco, CA Promoting Arab-American Artists

Moderator Wadad Abed Arts Activist and Co-founder, Bustan al-Funun Foundation, Ann Arbor, MI

FRIDAY 3.30.07

1:00 - 2:00PM · LUNCH

2:00 - 4:00PM · CONCURRENT SESSIONS

(a) THE POWER OF THE WORD

Andrea Shalal-Esa Journalist, Westminster, MD The Politics of Getting Published

Greg Orfalea Director, Center for Writing and Assistant Professor of Creative Writing, Pitzer College, Claremont, CA Why Write?

Ashley Makar Writing Professor, Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY Grandmother Presence in Arab-American Writers

Moderator Deborah Alkama Tenured Faculty Member, English Department, Henry Ford Community College, Dearborn, MI

(b) ARAB AND JEWISH INTERSECTIONS DURING THE TIME OF WAR, SIEGE AND BOYCOTT

Doris Bittar Visual Artist and Activist, Lecturer, University of California, San Diego, San Diego, CA Activism and Art

Joyce Dallal Visual Artist and Professor, El Camino College, Los Angeles, CA The Benefit of Inclusion

John Halaka Visual Artist and Activist, Professor, University of San Diego, San Diego, CA From Dialogue to Action

Moderator Thomas Abowd Assistant Professor, Anthropology, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI

4:15 - 5:15PM · MEET THE ARTISTS

(a) Joan Mandell Director, Olive Branch Productions, Royal Oak, MI Making of *Arab American Road Movie*

Living in America exhibit, Second Floor

(b) Connections & Contrasts Gallery talk and tour with artists Ilham Mahfouz, Mohamad Bazzi, Lila Kadaj and Nadia Abou-Karr,

Lower Level Gallery

(c) *Juxtaposed!* Gallery talk and tour with artist Adnan Charara, *Main Floor Gallery*

7:00 - 8:00PM · DINNER

8:15 - 9:45PM · AN EVENING WITH...

Malek Akkad Film and TV Producer, Los Angeles, CA From Damascus to Hollywood

Ray Hanania Comedian, Syndicated Columnist and Author, Chicago, IL Politics and Humor

Moderator Kim Silarski Communications, AANM

SATURDAY 3.31.07

9:15 - 9:45AM · BREAKFAST

10:00AM - 12:00PM · CONCURRENT SESSIONS

(a) BETWEEN IMAGE AND REALITY

Layya Tawil Choreographer and Artistic Director, Dance Elixir, Oakland, CA Shall We Dance?

Emna Zghal Visual Artist, New York, NY I Talk With My Brush

Kathreen Toukhy Visual Artist and Educator, Boston MA Orientalist Images of Arab Women

Moderator Nadine Naber Assistant Professor, Arab American Studies and Gender Studies, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

(b) BROOKLYN BEATS TO BEIRUT STREETS

Nizar Watad MC and Screenwriter, Los Angeles, CA Alternative Voice

Omar A. Chakaki MC and Architect, Los Angeles, CA Urban Youth

Mark Gonzales Poet, Playwright and Journalist, Masters of Education Fellowship, University of California, Los Angeles, CA

The Underground is Alive and Well

Joe Namy Musician and Visual Artist, Detroit, MI Digital Arab Music

Moderator Kim D. Hunter Poet and Activist, Detroit, MI

SATURDAY 3.31.07

12:00 - 12:45PM · LUNCH

1:00 - 3:00PM · CONCURRENT SESSIONS

(a) BREAK A BEAT

Sami Asmar Musician, Writer and Reviewer on Arab music, Los Angeles, CA Development of Original Compositions
Hassan Sassi Engineer, Professor and Expert on traditional Arab music, Los Angeles, CA History of Tango
Moderator Warren David President and CEO David Communications, Detroit, MI

(b) ART IS NOT ALWAYS BEAUTIFUL

Wafaa Bilal New Media Artist, Chicago, IL Aesthetic Pleasure vs. Aesthetic Pain
Mary Hariri Aboutaam Printmaker, Curator, Organizer, Sunnyvale, CA Reinterpreting the Middle East
John Halaka Activist Artist, Professor of Art, University of San Diego, San Diego, CA Outsiders on the Inside
Moderator Holly Arida Instructor, Department of History and Social Science, Cranbrook Kingswood Upper School, Bloomfield Hills, MI

3:00 - 3:30PM · COFFEE BREAK

3:30 - 6:00PM · JOINT SESSION

ARAB IMAGES AND HOLLYWOOD

Asaad Kelada Director and Producer, Hollywood, CA The Road to Hollywood
Jack G. Shaheen, Ph.D. Author and Critic, Professor Emeritus of Mass Communications, Southern Illinois University
Reel Bad Arab film screening and discussion
Moderator Anan Ameri, Ph.D. Director, AANM

7:00 - 8:00PM · DINNER

8:00 - 9:30PM · OPEN MIC NIGHT

Show us what you've got! All DIWAN participants are invited to share their performing-arts talents, so bring your instrument, memorize that poem, or rehearse that dance move to share with a very enthusiastic, appreciative audience of your peers. *Lower Level Auditorium*

SUNDAY 4.1.07

10:00 - 10:45AM · BREAKFAST

11:00AM -12:30PM · JOINT SESSION

KABOBart: DIGITAL ARTS IN THE BLOGOSPHERE

Nadeem Muaddi Blogger, KABOBfest.com and former Boy Scout, Washington, D.C.
Fayyad Sbaihat Blogger, KABOBfest.com and anti-spell checker activist, Chicago, IL
Moderator Devon Akmon Curator of Research, AANM

12:30 - 1:30PM · CLOSING REMARKS, NETWORKING

Anan Ameri, Ph.D. Director, AANM
Bring your business cards and brochures.

BIOGRAPHIES

WADAD ABED IS DIRECTOR OF MARKETING AT CIMDATA IN ANN ARBOR, MI, AND A UNIVERSITY MUSICAL SOCIETY BOARD MEMBER. SHE HAS LONG BEEN INVOLVED IN GLOBAL PEACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE ISSUES WITH A FOCUS ON THE MIDDLE EAST. ABED CO-FOUNDED THE BUSTAN AL-FUNUN FOUNDATION, WHOSE MISSION IS TO PROMOTE UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN AMERICA AND THE ARAB WORLD THROUGH THE ARTS.

MAY HARIRI ABOUTAAM WAS BORN IN BEIRUT, LEBANON AND RAISED DURING 16 YEARS OF CIVIL WAR. A RESIDENT OF SUNNYDALE, CA, SHE RECEIVED HER MFA IN PAINTING & DRAWING FROM BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY. HER ARTWORK QUESTIONS THE POWER OF REPRESENTATION AND COUNTER-REPRESENTATION IN THE STEREOTYPING OF EAST AND WEST. HER PRINTS HAVE BEEN EXHIBITED AND ADDED TO COLLECTIONS IN THE U.S., JORDAN, U.A.E., GERMANY AND BETHLEHEM.

THOMAS ABOWD HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN A NUMBER OF SCHOLARLY AND ACTIVIST PROJECTS RELATED TO THE PALESTINE-ISRAEL CONFLICT OVER THE LAST 15 YEARS. HIS LATEST RESEARCH PROJECT RELATES TO THE CLASS AND RACIAL ENCOUNTERS BETWEEN ARABS AND AFRICAN-AMERICANS IN CONTEMPORARY DETROIT. THE PROJECT IS FUNDED BY THE HUMANITIES CENTER AT WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY, WHERE ABOWD IS ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ANTHROPOLOGY.

MALEK AKKAD IS A SUCCESSFUL FILM PRODUCER AND DIRECTOR. HE IS BEST KNOWN AS THE EXECUTIVE PRODUCER OF THE BOX-OFFICE SMASH *HALLOWEEN* HORROR FILM SERIES. SON OF THE LATE FILM PRODUCER MOUSTAPHA AKKAD, MALEK HAS WORKED IN THE FAMILY BUSINESS, TRANCAS INTERNATIONAL, SINCE HE WAS 16 YEARS OLD.

DEVON AKMON IS CURATOR OF RESEARCH AT THE ARAB AMERICAN NATIONAL MUSEUM, RESPONSIBLE FOR RESEARCHING, PLANNING, AND IMPLEMENTING HUMANITIES PROGRAMMING; PROVIDING CONTENT EXPERTISE FOR EXHIBITIONS; AND MAINTAINING A HIGH LEVEL OF SCHOLARSHIP IN ARAB AND ARAB AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE. AKMON HOLDS AN MS IN HISTORIC PRESERVATION FROM EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY.

DENA AL-ADEEB IS AN ARTIST, PHOTOGRAPHER AND ACTIVIST LIVING IN CAIRO, EGYPT AND SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA. DEPORTED FROM IRAQ IN 1980, SHE ESCAPED TO KUWAIT, THEN RELOCATED TO THE U.S. DURING THE GULF WAR. HER IRAQ PHOTOGRAPHY HAS BEEN SHOWN IN THE U.S. AND INTERNATIONALLY. HER ORGANIZING WORK INCLUDES THE WOMEN OF COLOR RESOURCE CENTER, GENDER ANALYSIS WORKING GROUP, AND RACIAL JUSTICE 911. SHE IS COMPLETING HER DEGREE IN SOCIOLOGY-ANTHROPOLOGY AT THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF CAIRO.

SALLY AL-DAHER, M.D. IS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE ARAB CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY CENTER IN SAN FRANCISCO, CA. SINCE 1975, THIS NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION HAS PROMOTED ARAB ART AND CULTURE, AND ENRICHED THE LIVES OF THE ARAB-AMERICAN COMMUNITY BY PROVIDING CULTURALLY FOCUSED SOCIAL SERVICES AND PROMOTING CROSS-CULTURAL EVENTS TO ALL RESIDENTS OF THE BAY AREA AND BEYOND.

DEBORAH ALKAMANO IS A TENURED FACULTY MEMBER OF THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT AT HENRY FORD COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN DEARBORN, MI. HER SHORT STORIES APPEAR IN *ARTEAST* (ONLINE), *INDIANA REVIEW*, *MICHIGAN QUARTERLY REVIEW*, AND *FORKROADS*. ALKAMANO IS SECRETARY FOR RAWI, RADIUS OF ARAB AMERICAN WRITERS, AND AN ORGANIZER OF ITS SECOND BI-ANNUAL CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN MAY 2007 AT THE AANM.

EVELYN ALSULTANY AN ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF AMERICAN CULTURE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, ANN ARBOR. HER RESEARCH FOCUSES ON REPRESENTATIONS OF ARAB AND MUSLIM AMERICANS IN MAINSTREAM U.S. MEDIA; SHE IS CURRENTLY WORKING ON A BOOK ON THE SUBJECT, AS WELL AS TWO EDITED BOOK PROJECTS: ONE ON ARAB-AMERICAN FEMINISM, ANOTHER ON CULTURAL REPRESENTATIONS OF THE MIDDLE EAST IN THE AMERICAS.

ANAN AMERI PH.D. IS THE FOUNDING DIRECTOR OF THE ARAB AMERICAN NATIONAL MUSEUM IN DEARBORN, MI, THE ONLY MUSEUM IN THE U.S. DEDICATED TO TELLING THE STORY OF ARAB IMMIGRANTS TO THE U.S. A PALESTINIAN AMERICAN WHO EMIGRATED FROM JORDAN, AMERI IS A WIDELY RESPECTED SOCIOLOGIST, SCHOLAR AND AUTHOR ON ARAB-AMERICAN ARTS AND HUMANITIES PROGRAMS. SHE HOLDS A PH.D. IN SOCIOLOGY FROM WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY, AND WAS A VISITING SCHOLAR AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY'S CENTER FOR MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES IN 1996.

HOLLY ARIDA IS CO-EDITOR OF *ETCHING OUR OWN IMAGE: VOICES FROM WITHIN THE ARAB AMERICAN ART MOVEMENT* (CAMBRIDGE SCHOLARS PUBLISHING, 2007) AND SERVES ON SEVERAL COMMITTEES AT THE AANM. SHE HAS DEVELOPED A NEW METHOD TO TEACH MIDDLE EAST STUDIES AND HER ARTICLE, "GETTING PERSPECTIVES: WHAT TEACHING THE MIDDLE EAST TAUGHT ME ABOUT GLOBAL EDUCATION," APPEARED IN *INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS* MAGAZINE.

SAMI ASMAR IS A PHYSICIST AT NASA'S JET PROPULSION LABORATORY AT THE CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (THE LEADING U.S. CENTER FOR ROBOTIC EXPLORATION OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM) AND AN EXPERT ON TRADITIONAL ARAB MUSIC. HE CO-FOUNDED A LARGE ORCHESTRA AND CURRENTLY PERFORMS WITH THE UCLA NEAR EAST ENSEMBLE. ASMAR WRITES ABOUT AND REVIEWS ARAB MUSIC IN VARIOUS PUBLICATIONS INCLUDING ENCYCLOPEDIAS.

NADIA AYARI WAS BORN AND RAISED IN TUNIS, TUNISIA, SHE EMPLOYS IMAGES OF AMPUTATED BODY PARTS, MYTHOLOGICAL FIGURES AND ARCHITECTURAL ICONS TO NARRATE STORIES OF ARAB-AMERICAN TURMOIL AND SURVIVAL. AN MFA CANDIDATE IN PAINTING AT THE RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL OF DESIGN, SHE'S ALREADY EARNED A BA IN ART HISTORY FROM BOSTON UNIVERSITY AND A FINE ARTS CERTIFICATE FROM BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY.

WAFAA BILAL IS A NEW MEDIA ARTIST BASED IN CHICAGO, IL. HE WAS BORN AND RAISED IN IRAQ UNDER SADDAM HUSSEIN, LIVED TWO YEARS IN A KUWAITI REFUGEE CAMP AND LATER CAME TO THE U.S., WHERE HE WAS FINALLY FREE TO PURSUE HIS ART. HE STUDIED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO AND THE SCHOOL OF THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO, WHERE HE IS NOW AN INSTRUCTOR. HE ALSO GIVES LECTURES AND INTERVIEWS ON SADDAM'S OPPRESSIVE REGIME.

DORIS BITTAR IS A VISUAL ARTIST AND ACTIVIST WHO LECTURES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO. SHE GREW UP IN BEIRUT, LEBANON AND NEW YORK, NY, FASCINATED BY ASIAN, FRENCH AND LEBANESE CULTURE. BITTAR HOLDS AN MFA FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO. HER WORK HAS BEEN EXHIBITED IN THE U.S. AND ABROAD, AND IS IN SEVERAL MUSEUM COLLECTIONS. SHE IS ALSO A PUBLISHED WRITER.

OMAR A. CHAKAKI IS A LOS ANGELES, CA-BASED ARCHITECT AND MC. HE HOLDS A BS IN ARCHITECTURE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA. HE IS PRESIDENT/CEO OF COSHER INK, A RECORD LABEL, PUBLISHER AND DESIGN STUDIO THAT IS HOME BASE FOR UNDERGROUND HIP-HOP GROUP THE N.O.M.A.D.S. (NOTORIOUSLY OFFENSIVE MALE ARABS DISCUSSING SH*T).

JOYCE DALLAL IS A PROFESSOR AT EL CAMINO COLLEGE IN TORRANCE, CA, AND A MULTIMEDIA VISUAL ARTIST WHO ADDRESSES THE EVOLUTION OF CONTEMPORARY CULTURAL IDENTITY. SHE HAS EXHIBITED IN THE U.S. AND ABROAD AND HAS EARNED NUMEROUS HONORS, INCLUDING A NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS REGIONAL FELLOWSHIP IN PHOTOGRAPHY. DALLAL EARNED HER MFA AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA.

WARREN DAVID HAS BEEN A LEADER AND ACTIVIST IN METRO DETROIT'S ARAB-AMERICAN COMMUNITY FOR MORE THAN 25 YEARS. HE IS CURRENTLY THE PRESIDENT OF ARAB DETROIT, AN ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO DISSEMINATING ACCURATE INFORMATION ABOUT THE ARAB-AMERICAN COMMUNITY, AND PRESIDENT AND CEO OF DAVID COMMUNICATIONS, A MULTICULTURAL FIRM SPECIALIZING IN THE ARAB-AMERICAN MARKET.

MARK GONZALES IS AN HBO DEF POET AND FOUNDER OF THE HUMAN WRITES PROJECT. HE UTILIZES HIP-HOP CULTURE AND SPOKEN WORD TO BUILD COMMUNITY AND CREATE CULTURALLY RELEVANT EDUCATIONAL CURRICULA THAT FOCUS ON INVENTION AND IMAGINATION. GONZALES IS TEACHING IN WATTS, CA WHILE PURSUING A MASTER'S DEGREE IN EDUCATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES.

JOHN HALAKA IS AN ACTIVIST-ARTIST, FOCUSING ON CULTURAL AND EMOTIONAL DISPLACEMENT AND USING METAPHORICAL IMAGES TO PROVOKE MEDITATION ON PRESSING SOCIETAL ISSUES. HE HOLDS DEGREES FROM CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AND THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON. HALAKA IS A PROFESSOR OF PAINTING AND DRAWING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO. BORN IN EGYPT OF PALESTINIAN DESCENT, HALAKA HAS EXHIBITED THROUGHOUT THE U.S.

RAY HANANIA IS AN AWARD-WINNING JOURNALIST WHO HAS IN RECENT YEARS CARVED OUT A SECOND, GROUNDBREAKING CAREER AS AN ARAB-AMERICAN STANDUP COMIC. NEW AMERICA MEDIA NAMED HANANIA BEST ETHNIC COLUMNIST FOR 2006-07. HE'S ALSO BEEN RECOGNIZED TWICE FOR HIS COLUMNS BY THE SOCIETY FOR PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS. BASED IN CHICAGO, IL, HANANIA HAS AUTHORED EIGHT BOOKS AND CO-FOUNDED THE NATIONAL ARAB AMERICAN JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION.

BIOGRAPHIES

KIM D. HUNTER IS A MEDIA CONSULTANT WHO HAS PRODUCED AND HOSTED PROGRAMS FOR DETROIT PUBLIC RADIO AND TV. HE IS ALSO A POET WHOSE WORK HAS APPEARED IN A VARIETY OF JOURNALS; PAST TENTS PRESS PUBLISHED HUNTER'S FIRST COLLECTION OF POEMS, *BORNE ON SLOW KNIVES*, IN 2001. HE IS CURRENTLY POET-IN-RESIDENCE AT TWO DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE INSIDEOUT LITERARY ARTS PROJECT.

AHMED ISSAWI IS CO-FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ALWAN FOR THE ARTS, A NEW YORK, NY NONPROFIT THAT, SINCE 1998, HAS PROMOTED AND ADVANCED ARAB ARTS AND CULTURE BY PRESENTING A WIDE RANGE OF PUBLIC PERFORMANCES AND EVENTS. ISSAWI EARNED A BA IN PHILOSOPHY AND COMPARATIVE LITERATURE AT NORTH-WESTERN UNIVERSITY IN EVANSTON, IL, AND AN MA IN PHILOSOPHY AT THE NEW SCHOOL IN NEW YORK, NY.

ASAAD KELADA IS A PROLIFIC, AWARD-WINNING TELEVISION DIRECTOR, PRODUCER AND WRITER. HE HAS BEEN DIRECTING SINCE THE 1970S AND CONTINUES TODAY. SOME OF HIS MOST MEMORABLE PRIME-TIME SERIES ARE *WHO'S THE BOSS?*, *THE FACTS OF LIFE*, *FAMILY TIES*, AND *WKRP IN CINCINNATI*. IN RECENT YEARS, HE HAS DIRECTED EPISODES OF *DHARMA AND GREG*, *TWO AND A HALF MEN*, *EVERYBODY LOVES RAYMOND* AND *COURTING ALEX*.

ALMA KHASAWNIH EARNED A BS IN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, ANN ARBOR, AND IS PRESENTLY AN MA CANDIDATE IN COMMUNITY ARTS EDUCATION AT THE RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL OF DESIGN. KHASAWNIH WAS BORN AND RAISED IN AMMAN, JORDAN AND IS OF PALESTINIAN DESCENT. SHE ENJOYS PRODUCING ANIMATION AND CREATING "SPACES OF FREEDOM" THROUGH THE ARTS.

ASHLEY MAKAR IS A WRITING PROFESSOR AT HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY IN HEMPSTEAD, NY. AUTHOR OF NUMEROUS ARTICLES AND EDITORIALS, SHE RECEIVED HER MA IN LITERARY JOURNALISM AND MIDDLE EAST STUDIES FROM NEW YORK UNIVERSITY AND AN INTERDISCIPLINARY BA FROM WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY. SHE COMPLETED A MONTH-LONG RESIDENCY IN CREATIVE NON-FICTION AT THE BLUE MOUNTAIN (NY) ARTS COLONY IN JUNE 2006.

JOAN MANDELL WAS A PROFESSOR AND EDITOR IN THE MIDDLE EAST BEFORE SELECTING FILM AS HER FAVORED MEDIUM. AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ROYAL OAK, MI-BASED OLIVE BRANCH PRODUCTIONS, SHE HAS MADE NUMEROUS FILMS THAT BRING A HUMANISTIC PERSPECTIVE TO LITTLE-KNOWN ISSUES. SHE CREATED *ARAB AMERICAN ROAD MOVIE*, THE FILM THAT SCREENS CONTINUOUSLY IN THE LIVING IN AMERICA EXHIBIT ON AANM'S SECOND FLOOR.

NADEEM MUADDI BEGAN HIS POLITICAL CAREER IN 1988 BY ENLISTING AS A TIGER CUB IN THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA, PACK 273. HAVING SURVIVED BOOT CAMP, HE WAS PROMOTED TO THE RANK OF CUB SCOUT AND LATER ROSE TO WOLF, BEAR, AND WEBLO STATUS. IN 1995, HE WAS DISHONORABLY DISCHARGED FOR ROASTING KABOBS AFTER CURFEW. HE SPENDS HIS DAYS OBSESSING OVER MID-EAST AFFAIRS IN THE FOOTHILLS OF VIRGINIA, WHERE HE IS BOTH SINGLE AND LACTOSE INTOLERANT.

NADINE NABER IS ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF AMERICAN CULTURE AND WOMEN'S STUDIES AND ADJUNCT PROFESSOR OF ANTHROPOLOGY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, ANN ARBOR. SHE RECEIVED HER PH.D. IN SOCIO-CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS. NABER HAS BEEN WIDELY PUBLISHED, AND IS CO-FOUNDER OF TWO NATIONAL ARAB WOMENS' ORGANIZATIONS.

JOE NAMY IS A DETROIT-BASED INTERDISCIPLINARY ARTIST WHOSE CREATIONS REFLECT AND CONNECT THE SOCIAL REALITIES DERIVED FROM THE COMMUNITY(S) HE IS A PART OF. HE CREATES ART WHICH SERVES NOT ONLY TO EDUCATE THOSE DENIED EXPOSURE TO A TRUE ARAB IMAGE, BUT ALSO TO CLARIFY HIS OWN IDENTITY. NAMY'S WORK HAS BEEN EXHIBITED IN GALLERIES, FACTORIES, MUSEUMS, GAS STATIONS, CLASSROOMS, BOOKSTORES AND PUBLIC RESTROOMS.

GREGORY ORFALEA IS THE DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER FOR WRITING AT PITZER COLLEGE IN CLAREMONT, CA, AND AN ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF CREATIVE WRITING. HE IS THE AUTHOR OF SEVERAL BOOKS, INCLUDING *THE ARAB AMERICANS: A HISTORY*. ORFALEA SERVED AS A JUDGE FOR THE PEN AMERICAN AWARD IN RESEARCH NONFICTION FOR 2006.

MARY ANN PETERS IS A SEATTLE, WA VISUAL ARTIST WHO HAS MADE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS WITH HER COMBINED STUDIO WORK, PUBLIC ART PROJECTS AND ARTS ACTIVISM. SHE IS PAST PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION, AND HAS WORKED WITH CREATIVITY FOR PEACE, AN ARTS PROGRAM THAT BRINGS PALESTINIAN AND ISRAELI TEENAGE GIRLS TO THE U.S. FOR CONCILIATORY DIALOGUE AND ART.

HASSAN SASSI IS A PROFESSOR AND STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING CONSULTANT IN LOS ANGELES, CA AND AN ACTIVE MUSICIAN AND SCHOLAR WITH TREMENDOUS EXPERTISE IN TRADITIONAL ARAB MUSIC. HE HAS VOLUNTEERED WITH THE KAN ZAMAN COMMUNITY ENSEMBLE OF ARCADIA, CA, AND PRESENTLY WORKS WITH MESTO (MULTI-ETHNIC STAR ORCHESTRA) OF LOS ANGELES, WHERE HE CO-FOUNDED THE FRIENDS OF MESTO, A SUPPORT GROUP.

HAZAMI SAYED, AN ARAB-AMERICAN AND GRADUATE OF COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY AND STANFORD UNIVERSITY, IS AN ARCHITECT AND HAS WORKED IN THE FIELDS OF ARCHITECTURE AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT IN PHILADELPHIA AND NEW YORK CITY. SHE FOUNDED THE NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION AL-BUSTAN SEEDS OF CULTURE FIVE YEARS AGO IN AN EFFORT TO EXPOSE CHILDREN AND YOUTH OF DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS TO THE ARABIC LANGUAGE AND CULTURAL AND TO PROMOTE CROSS-CULTURAL EXCHANGES THROUGH ARTS EDUCATION. AS THE PRESIDENT SHE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR DEVELOPING AND MANAGING THE VARIOUS INITIATIVES WHICH INCLUDE AL-BUSTAN CAMP, AL-BUSTAN PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE, AND WEEKEND AND AFTERSCHOOL ARTS PROGRAMS. .

FAYYAD SBAIHAT IS A GRADUATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN, WHERE HE MAJORED IN DIVESTMENT AND HEARTBREAK. HE WORKS FROM HOME, WHERE HE DOESN'T SHOWER FOR DAYS AND OFTEN READS NEWS ABOUT THE ARAB WORLD OVER A BOWL OF COOKIE CRISPS. HIS HOBBIES INCLUDE SHAVING HIS CHEST, PLAYING TARNEEB, AND DRINKING MOJITOS. HE IS AN OUTSPOKEN CRITIC OF THE ZIONIST ENTITY AND LAUNCHED CHICAGO'S FIRST EVER ANTI-SPELL CHECKING CAMPAIGN.

JACK G. SHAHEEN PH.D. IS PROFESSOR EMERITUS OF MASS COMMUNICATIONS AT SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY AND CREATOR OF *REEL BAD ARABS*, A GROUNDBREAKING BOOK AND FILM THAT EXAMINE STEREOTYPICAL PORTRAYALS OF ARABS IN HOLLYWOOD MOVIES AND OTHER MEDIA. A RESPECTED SCHOLAR, WRITER AND MEDIA CRITIC, SHAHEEN IS A FORMER MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS CONSULTANT FOR CBS NEWS AND A FOUNDING MEMBER OF AANM'S NATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD.

ANDREA SHALAL-ESA IS DEFENSE TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT FOR A MAJOR NEWS SERVICE IN WASHINGTON, D.C., COVERING THE PENTAGON, DEFENSE CONTRACTORS AND CONGRESS. SHE IS THE AUTHOR OF NUMEROUS ARTICLES AND CONTRIBUTED "MY JOURNEY," TO *MOTHER VOICES: REAL WOMEN WRITE ABOUT GROWING INTO MOTHERHOOD*, EDITED BY TRACI DYER.

KIM SILARSKI IS A RESPECTED COMMUNICATOR AND ARTS DEVOTEE. SHE WAS A JOURNALIST AT DETROIT'S NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO AFFILIATE AND WORKED IN COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE DETROIT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AND ARTSERVE MICHIGAN BEFORE JOINING AANM IN COMMUNICATIONS. HER REPORTING HAS APPEARED IN THE *DETROIT FREE PRESS* AND *USATODAY.COM*. SHE'S A CUM LAUDE JOURNALISM GRADUATE OF WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY.

LEYA TAWIL IS A CONTEMPORARY DANCE CHOREOGRAPHER, PERFORMER AND EDUCATOR WHO HAS WORKED IN PROFESSIONAL VENUES AND ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS NATION-WIDE. SHE IS ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF DANCE ELIXIR, AN OAKLAND, CA-BASED COMPANY DEDICATED TO COLLABORATIONS. TAWIL'S WORK, HAILED AS "ELEGANT AND INTENSE," MADE HER ONE OF THE *SAN FRANCISCO BAY GUARDIAN'S* TOP 10 CHOREOGRAPHERS TO WATCH IN 2006.

KATHREEN TOUKHY IS A VISUAL ARTIST AND EDUCATOR BASED IN BOSTON, MA. SHE WORKS PRIMARILY IN 2D, BUT ALSO INSTALLATION AND VIDEO, TO CREATE WORK THAT EXPLORES IDENTITY, FEMININITY, AND IS GROUNDED IN THE PHYSICALITY OF HER BODY. TOUKHY IS EXCITED ABOUT ART AS A FORM OF CULTURAL EXCHANGE AND A WAY TO BUILD COMMUNITY BOTH LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY.

NIZAR WATTAD IS AN MC AND SCREENWRITER FROM LOS ANGELES, CA. HE HOLDS A BA IN ENGLISH FROM THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY AND A MASTERS OF PROFESSIONAL WRITING FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES. HE WORKS IN FILM; WRITES WITH ACTRESS/COMEDIENNE MAYSOON ZAYID; AND MANAGES A BICOASTAL HIP-HOP GROUP, THE PHILISTINES.

EMNA ZGHAL IS A TUNISIAN-BORN, NEW YORK-BASED MIXED-MEDIA ARTIST. SHE HAS HAD MORE THAN ONE DOZEN SOLO EXHIBITIONS AND BEEN A PART OF NUMEROUS GROUP SHOWS. HER WORK IS INCLUDED IN MANY PRIVATE AND PUBLIC COLLECTIONS INCLUDING THOSE OF THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY AND YALE UNIVERSITY.

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