

**GOLDEN
THREAD**
PRODUCTIONS

A SEASON FOR

فلسطين

PALESTINE



**WHAT DO
THE WOMEN
SAY?** A Celebration of
International
Women's Day
Expressions of Joy

Friday, March 8, 2024
8 PM - 10 PM [PST]
Brava Theater Center
San Francisco & Online

Co-presented with
BRAVA! FOR WOMEN IN ARTS

Sponsored by
WOMEN ARTS

PRE-SHOW ACTIVITIES

Join us in the lobby at 6:30PM for a special pre-show gathering and experience the rich flavors of traditional Palestinian cuisine by chef **Eman Al Farra** and a showcase of the art of *tatreez*; traditional Palestinian embroidery from **Threads of Belonging**.

THREADS OF BELONGING

Cutting-edge clothing designs showcasing innovative motifs, compositions, and novel color combinations. Each meticulously crafted piece bears the unique signature of its embroiderer, concealing within its every stitch a longing for a home that will never die. Collection curated by **Souad Amine**.

EMAN AL FARRA: POP-UP KITCHEN

A sharing of Gazan culinary heritage through the catering of traditional foods that tell the stories of Eman's homeland Palestine. Menu offerings include: Zaatar or Cheese pies; Falafel wraps; Vegan, Chicken, or Meat combination plates; Tabouleh; Lebanese nights dessert with walnuts and rice pudding.

*Read more about our vendors in the **Biographies** section*

WELCOME

Sahar Assaf, Executive Artistic Director

AN HOMAGE TO NABILA MANGO

Bisan Shehadeh (Executive Director of Zawaya)
and Sahar Assaf

ASWAT ENSEMBLE SINGS PALESTINIAN MELODIES

Clarissa Bitar (Oud and Guitar), Basma Edrees
(Violin), Amina Goodyear (Rik), Amira Kotb
(Vocalist), Rana Mroue (Vocalist) and Susu
Pampanin (Percussion)

WHERE CAN I FIND SOMEONE LIKE YOU, ALI?

An autobiographical one-woman play by Raeda
Taha, excerpt read by Denmo Ibrahim

AL-JUTHOOR ENSEMBLE

A Palestinian Dabke Dance performed by Zaynah Hindi, Yasmeeen Odeh, Christina Harb, Leila Mire, Basma, Wassim Hage, Linda Zaro, Monica McCown

MORNINGS IN JENIN MUSICAL

Written, composed and directed by Amal Bisharat based on the novel by Susan Abulhawa

Arrangement and Sound Design by Bahar Royae

Cast: Sophia Alawi, Yasaman Asgari, Zaya Kolia, Maya Nazzal, Lena Sibony, Jamiel St. Rose

CONVERSATION

Amal Bisharat, Bisan Shehadeh, Zaynah Hindi, Leila Mire, Souad Amin, Susan Abulhawa with Sahar Assaf

BIOGRAPHIES *(in order of appearance)*



Souad Faisal Amin is a Palestinian activist, artist, and fashion designer based in Beirut, Lebanon. In 1985, she earned her Master's degree in Food Technology and Nutrition from the American University of Beirut but her passion for the arts led her to pursue a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the Lebanese American University in 2000, followed by Fashion Design classes at Esmod between 2005 and 2007. Between 2002 and 2012, Souad dedicated her time and skills volunteering in Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon with different non-governmental organizations. She also served on the Board of Directors of LOYAC, a Kuwaiti NGO working in Lebanon to empower youth through various projects and initiatives. In 2012, Souad took a significant step in her advocacy journey by founding "Threads of Belonging," an initiative aimed at celebrating Palestinian cultural identity and promoting women's empowerment within the refugee communities. So far, "Threads for Belonging" has employed 80 women, who produced hundreds of handmade pieces reflecting the rich Palestinian cultural heritage through thousands of stitches that tell stories of resilience and tradition.



THREADS OF BELONGING originated in 2011 when it started as an order for traditionally embroidered tablecloths for a Palestinian wedding. Over time, it evolved into an empowerment initiative inspiring women in Southern Lebanon's Palestinian refugee camps to express their talent and creativity through the timeless art of Palestinian embroidery. What initially served as a means to support refugee families with extra income transformed into a creative endeavor, bringing joy and pride to the participants in the project through a celebration of this ancient Palestinian art and heritage. Thus, the brand "Threads of Belonging" was born. Threads of Belonging **(continued)**

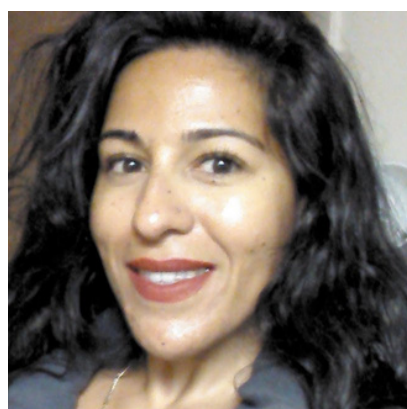
introduces innovative motifs, compositions, and novel color combinations in cutting-edge clothing designs. Each meticulously crafted piece bears the unique signature of its embroiderer, concealing within its every stitch a longing for a home that will never die.



Eman Al Farra was born in Gaza and moved to the Bay Area during the ceasefire in Gaza in November 2023. She raised five children between Gaza, Cairo and Riyadh. Her dedication to her family saw her children earn scholarships to study abroad, a testament to her belief in education for a better future. Beyond her family, she dedicated her time to women's empowerment in Gaza, providing resources for crafts like embroidery, helping women build independent lives through their artistry. In the United States, she continues to inspire by sharing her culinary heritage, catering traditional foods that tell stories of her homeland. Her journey embodies the spirit of resilience and empowerment, making her a beacon of hope and inspiration on this Women's Day.



Sahar Assaf (Executive Artistic Director of Golden Thread Productions)(she/her) is a Lebanese theatre-maker with an eclectic directing portfolio. Sahar explores diverse theatrical styles, cultural influences, and social themes. Recent projects for Golden Thread include directing *Drowning in Cairo* by Adam Ashraf Elsayigh and *Stamp Me* by Yussef El Guindi. As part of the Theater Initiative at the American University of Beirut, she has directed works by Garcia-Lorca, Shakespeare, Wannous, Mahfouz, and others, spanning site-specific, immersive, and documentary plays addressing societal and political issues. She is a recipient of the Fulbright scholarship, has presented works globally, and authored academic articles on theater-making. She proudly balances (or tries to!) her theater work with her role as a mother to Zad.



Bisan Shehadeh (Executive Director of Zawaya)

Since she was an infant, Bisan's upbringing was full of accompanying her politically and culturally activist parents at protests and Arab cultural events; her parents instilling in her a dedicated pursuit of social justice and a deep pride in being an Indigenous Palestinian. The outcome has been that music, arts, story, writing, social justice, and community organizing fuel her and are integral to her fulfillment.

From event production and stage-managing campus concerts while graduating with a B.A. in History of Ideas from Pitzer College; to, as a John Irvine Diversity Fellow at the California Center for Cultural and Social Issues, teaching about the Prison Industrial Complex to college students and facilitating their teaching internships in high school level self-expression programming for incarcerated youth that she developed; to being the Director of Marketing and Fundraising at the record label she established with fellow students from her Music Business Certificate program at UCLA; to, while completing her Juris Doctorate at the University of La Verne College of Law, being the Public Relations Officer of the Sports and Entertainment Law Society and Vice-President of the Pride Law Alliance; and, for a decade practicing transactional and intellectual property law, social justice and the Arts have been woven throughout her personal, educational, and professional journey.

In November 2023, Nabila Mango, Bisan's mother, Bay Area Arab community pillar and founder of Zawaya and Aswat Ensemble, passed away leaving a legacy important to Bisan to continue as she thoroughly believes in the potent community offerings that Zawaya and Aswat Ensemble have been providing the Bay Area for the past twenty-four years. Nabila and Bisan share a love of being Arab, a love of Arab culture, and **(continued)**

the desire to educate on, preserve, and promote Arab culture, particularly through the Arts and social justice efforts. Bisan is looking forward to allowing Nabila's vision, mission, and dedicated community efforts to continue under her leadership as Zawaya's current Executive Director.

ASWAT ENSEMBLE



Clarissa Bitar is an award winning Palestinian oud musician and composer born, raised, and based in Los Angeles, California. They graduated from UC Santa Barbara with a degree in Music and an emphasis in Ethnomusicology. To further their studies, Clarissa sought out and learned from prominent Arab oudists including Simon Shaheen, Charbel Rouhana, and Bassam Saba. Clarissa has had the privilege of performing around the country and internationally. They have incorporated oud with a multitude of genres ranging from R&B to Pop to Hip Hop and Rap.

Their latest album, 'Hassan Sabi' is out now on all streaming platforms. Clarissa's music has been featured on Netflix, radio, film, and exhibits around the world. They released a joint poetry-oud EP with Palestinian poet Mohammed El-Kurd in January of 2019 titled Bellydancing on Wounds as well as their solo EP Bayati.

Clarissa has a passion for teaching and sharing knowledge on Arab music and Palestinian culture, as well as performing and hopes to continue to carve out spaces for oud share this tradition with others.



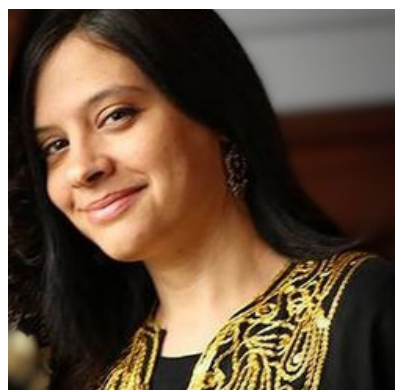
Basma Edrees is an Egyptian violinist, performer, and educator based in the SF Bay Area. She is the founder of Music in-Takht; the Bay Area's Egyptian heritage ensemble. Passionate about introducing the world to the rich musical heritage of the Arab world, Edrees has given Arabic music workshops at UC Berkeley and Stanford. She also taught Arabic music and European counterpoint at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and is currently a violin instructor at Santa Clara University. A graduate of The Juilliard School and Mannes School of Music, Edrees also specializes in European classical music and Tango music.



Amina Goodyear, active since the mid 1960's is best known as an Egyptian dancer and dance teacher turned percussionist. Since the 1980's she founded many musical groups such as the Cairo Cats, a percussion ensemble led by her daughter Susu Pampanin. She also co-founded The Arabian Knights Band and Caravan Band, and was founding member of Pasha Band. Today she is a founding member of Aswat Arab Music Ensemble and AWE, Aswat Women's Ensemble, Dulabina, Beit el Tarab and SF Sahra Band. She is also a member of and travels throughout the U.S with the Georges Lammam Ensemble.



Amira Kotb is an Egyptian American singer that specializes in Arab and spiritual music. She writes and performs sacred songs in Arabic but sings in several other languages including Turkish, Persian, English, French and Greek. In addition to being a vocalists with Aswat and Huyam Ensemble, Amira is a student of Qanun, a mother of two and a non-profit executive.



Rana Mroue is a scientist by training and profession. It took Rana a move to the Bay Area from her native Lebanon to finally indulge in her lifelong passion for Arabic music. Joining Aswat Ensemble in 2007, Rana found a way to connect her love of music with community service, and quickly started, under the tutelage of Nabila Mango, supporting Aswat with administrative tasks from programming to grant writing. Rana continues to be an active member in Aswat as a singer and vocal trainer, and is currently overseeing the execution of team-building activities that aim to expand DEI values in the organization.



Susu Pampanin is a world-renowned percussionist specializing in Middle-Eastern percussion. She has recorded and performed with women's world music fusion group, 'Wild Mango', percussion ensemble, Keith Terri and Crosspulse, and Stella Mara. In 1990, Susu and the Cairo Cats, Dancing Drums was released, and in 2000, released her solo album Susu Pampanin "Hands of Time", in 2013 she recorded 'Nostalgia' with Safaa Farid and his band in Cairo and in 2020 with Reda Henkesh of the world-famed Henkesh family - artists from Mohamed Ali.

WHERE CAN I FIND SOMEONE LIKE YOU, ALI?



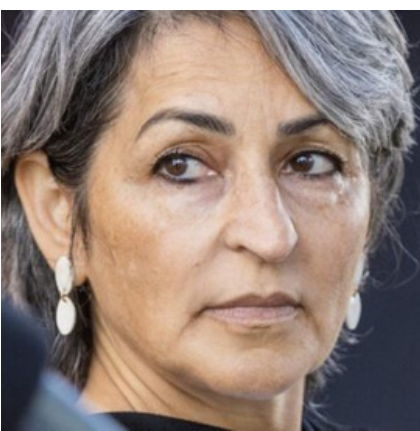
Denmo Ibrahim is an American actor and playwright of Egyptian descent. Her work has been produced and developed by Marin Theatre Company, New York Theatre Workshop, The Civilians R&D Series, Amphibian Stage, Alter Theatre, Shotgun Players, Golden Thread and Crowded Fire. Regional acting credits include Berkeley Repertory, The Old Globe, Seattle Repertory, American Conservatory of Theatre and CalShakes. Denmo is a two-time winner of the San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle and Theatre Bay Area awards and a finalist for SPACE at Ryder Farm, O'Neill National Playwrights Conference, Rainin Fellowship and Sundance Theatre Lab. Her children's book *Zaynab's Night of Destiny* (Fons Vitae, 2021) toured 25 public schools in Kentucky and was supported by the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Arts. Denmo holds an MFA in Lecoq-based Actor Created Physical Theater (Naropa University) and a BFA in Acting (Boston University). denmoibrahim.com



Raeda Taha is a Palestinian actor, storyteller, writer, and political activist. She authored and performed several one-woman plays inspired by her life story and her experience as a Palestinian in the diaspora. Most notably, her play *Where Can I Find Someone Like You, Ali?* directed by Lina Abyad received international acclaim and was performed in over 20 countries. The play is featured in Brill's *Critical Anthology on Modern and Contemporary Political Theater from the Levant*, edited by Robert Myers and Nada Saab. Her other one-woman plays include *36 Abbas Street/Haifa 2017*, *The Fig Tree*, and *The Gazelle of Akka*. As an actor, Raeda has played significant roles in plays across the Arab World, including *Returning to Haifa* (2011) by Ghassan Kanafani, *80 Degree* (2012) directed by Alia Al-Khaldi, *Petra Rocks* (2013-2014) directed by Lina Abyad, and *Ghalia's Miles* (2017) **(continued)**

by Zoukak Theatre Company. Raeda holds a BA in Media and Journalism from George Mason University. Her notable career includes serving as a media attaché for President Yasser Arafat (1987-1994) and later chairing the administrative committee at the Khalil al-Sakakini Cultural Center in Ramallah (2000-2008). Since 2010, Raeda has been a member of the Ghassan Kanafani Foundation in Beirut.

MORNINGS IN JENIN MUSICAL



Susan Abulhawa is a novelist, poet, essayist, scientist, mother, and activist. Her debut novel *Mornings in Jenin* (Bloomsbury, 2010), translated into 30 languages, was an international bestseller and is considered a classic in Palestinian literature. Its reach and sales has made Abulhawa the most widely read Palestinian author. Her second novel, *The Blue Between Sky and Water* (Bloomsbury, 2015), was likewise an international bestseller. *Against the Loveless World* was published in August 2020 by Simon & Schuster to much acclaim. She is also the author of a poetry collection, *My Voice Sought The Wind* (Just World Books, 2013), contributor to several anthologies, political commentator, and frequent speaker. Abulhawa is the founder of Playgrounds for Palestine, a children's organization dedicated to uplifting Palestinian children. She is also the Executive Director of Palestine Writes, the first North American Palestinian literature festival.



Amal Bisharat (she/her) is a Palestinian American multidisciplinary artist: a theatre director, theatre maker, producer, actor, musician, and photographer. Bisharat holds a BA in Music and Theater from Minnesota State University-Moorhead and for 12 years worked as a director and music director in partnership with San Francisco Unified School District. **(continued)**

Currently Amal works with Golden Thread Productions, recently co-producing and directing for their signature program *ReOrient: Festival of Short Plays* (2023), and directing an online reading of *The Gaza Monologues* by Ashtar Theater (2023). Bisharat is also in the process of creating her first musical, *Morning in Jenin Musical*, a Palestinian refugee story adapted from the internationally best-selling novel by the same name by Susan Abulhawa. After many years hiatus from acting, Bisharat is thrilled to be returning to her roots this year to play the role of Safiyya in Golden Thread's upcoming production of *Returning to Haifa* by Ghassan Kanafani, adapted for the stage by Naomi Wallace and Ismail Khalidi. Bisharat is a grateful recipient of the Theater Bay Area Arts Leadership Residency Grant (2022-2023), Theater Bay Area CA\$H Creates Grant (2022), and San Francisco Arts Commission Artist Grant (2023). Bisharat is also a photographer with her own arts-focused photography company, capturing the magic of professional dance, theater, and music performances for groups like Yerba Buena Gardens Festival, Sarah Bush Dance Project, and Alonzo King Lines Ballet. Bisharat believes in the transformative power of art and storytelling whether on a stage, in a photograph, or in the stories we tell ourselves.



Sophia Alawi is a first generation Muslim Moroccan/Italian American actress, singer, songwriter & writer. She has a BFA in Musical Theater from Rider University. She also studied at T' Schreiber, Stella Adler Studio of Acting, and The Barrow Group in New York. She's so excited to be a part of this new musical that uplifts unrepresented Palestinian voices. She won the San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle award for Best Featured Actress – Musical in 2019 for *Groundhog Day The Musical* and was named one of "Five Standout Performances" in 2019 by the Houston Chronicle for the role of Wendla in *Spring Awakening*. Regional credits include **(continued)**

The Sound of Music (Hillbarn Theater) *She Loves Me*, *Merrily We Roll Along & Fun Home* (42nd St Moon), *As You Like It*, *Twelfth Night* and *Groundhog Day The Musical* (San Francisco Playhouse), *Spring Awakening* (Theater Under the Stars), and *In the Heights* (Playhouse on Park). New York credits include *Fat Kid Rules the World*, and *Emerson Loses Her Mind*. TV credits include *Law & Order SVU*.



Yasaman Asgari is a 27 year old multimedia artist currently based in San Francisco. She is thrilled to be part of the *Mornings In Jenin Musical* cast as Sarah. Yasaman recently worked on a local Berkeley production of *'Women Life Freedom'*, a devised drama centered on the recent Iranian uprisings. Yasaman was born in Tehran, Iran, and later immigrated to New York City with her family. She went on to receive her Masters in International Relations from the University of Manchester in the United Kingdom. Her work mainly focuses on culture and identity. She aims to bring marginalized voices to the forefront, dispute harmful stereotypes, and ultimately get people to care about each other.



Zaya Kolia is an Assyrian actor from the Bay Area. He received his Bachelor in Fine Arts in Acting from the Academy of Art University where his credits include Flan in *Six Degrees of Separation*, Joshua and Martin in *Cloud Nine*, Barnett in *Crimes of the Heart*, Aldolpho in *The Drowsy Chaperone* and Kevin Rosario in *In the Heights*. Other credits include Frank Jr. in *Saturday Night Fever* at Broadway by the Bay, *The Wizard of Oz* at Berkeley Playhouse, Khadim in *The North Pool* at Bread & Butter, The Captain in *Anything Goes* at Hillbarn Theatre, Ludovic and Augenti in *Passion*, Harry and Martin in *Cloud Nine* both at The Custom Made Theatre Company, Azad in *On the Periphery* with Golden Thread and Crowded Fire Theatre company, *Tiny Beautiful Things* at Los Altos Stage Company and most recently **(continued)**

Guys and Dolls at Peninsula Ballet Theater as Sky Materson. He now resides in LA where he just participated in the Hollywood Fringe Festival and a tour of *Romeo and Juliet*! He most recently originated the role of Danial in the world premiere of *The Language of Wild Berries* and Omid U/S in *English* at Berkeley Rep. Zaya just finished up his run playing Seth in the West Coast premiere of *Bald Sisters*.



Maya Nazzal is a Palestinian-American actor, creative producer, and visual artist in the Bay Area. She received her BA in Theatre Arts from San Francisco State University and trained at the Stella Adler Studio of Acting in New York. She made her professional acting debut at Marin Theatre Company in *Noura* and will be part of *The Tutor* at New Conservatory Theatre Center showing in April.



Jamiel St. Rose is of Palestinian, Chamoru, and Filipino descent from Vallejo, CA. He is an arts facilitator at the Red Ladder Theatre, a nationally acclaimed, award-winning social justice theatre company. He holds a B.A. in Film and Electronic Arts from California State University, Long Beach and is a graduate from the Stella Adler Studio of Acting New York. He started his theatre training at Solano Community College and also trained at Studio A.C.T, Berkeley Repertory, and Academy of Art University. His stage performances include: *Our Lady of 121st Street* (Balthazar, Stella Adler Studio of Acting NY), *Misanthrope* (Acaste, Academy of Art University Theatre), *Medea* (Jason, California Repertory Company), and *Star Cross'd* (Lord Capulet, Hollywood Fringe Festival). Jamiel St. Rose is a multifarious artist that surrounds himself around culture, art, travel and sports. Jamiel is a storyteller that aims to honor the overall importance of theatre and film in our humanity, while creating stories that reflect the diversity of the world.



The acoustic and electro-acoustic music of Iranian composer/sound designer, **Bahar Royae** has been acclaimed as “succeed(ing) as a poetic incantation, brimming with ideas and colors” (Classical Voice North America) and “haunting” (Boston Arts Review). Working in NYC and Boston, Bahar has received the Fromm Music Foundation Commission (2022), as well as honors such as the Pnea, National Sawdust Hildegard, the Roger Session Memorial Composition and Korourian Electroacoustic Music Awards. Bahar writes music for various genres from opera, theater and film to chamber music. Her work has been performed by luminaries such as Claire Chase, Suzanne Farrin, International Contemporary Ensemble, Ensemble der gelbe Klang, Jack Quartet, Loadbang, Contemporary Insights of Leipzig, Guerrilla Opera, Longleash. Kimia Hesabi, and Splice Ensemble. Significant chamber music performances include Ultraschall Berlin with Muriel Razavi (2023), ICE Festival Germany with ensemble Tempus Konnex (2022), Berlin Prize for Young Artists with Adam Woodward (2023), Tehran Electroacoustic Music Festival (2022) and Time:Spans Festival (2020) with International Contemporary Ensemble and Suzanne Farrin. Royae is an adjunct lecturer at Baruch College and Artist-in-Residence at Longy School of Music. Her composition mentors have included Marti Epstein, Andrew List, Felipe Lara, Suzanne Farrin and Jason Eckardt.



Lena Sibony (She/Her) is so grateful to be performing in this beautiful work about Palestine. A Bay Area native, her previous shows include *Shoshana in December* (Custom Made Theatre) *Indecent* (SF Playhouse), *Anton in Show Business* (Contra Costa Civic Theatre) as well as work with 3Girls theatre, Town Hall Theatre and Crowded Fire. Love to Friends and Family.

PRODUCTION TEAM

Kevin Lo, Stream Technician

Alba Lluch, Brava Production Manager

Saoirse Weiver, Brava Technical Director

Ben Reese, Brava Lead Sound Engineer

Alaric Burns, Sound

Mar Mendoza, A2

Frankenstein Fregoso, Lighting Technician

Paige Weissenburger, Stage Manager

Mornings in Jenin Musical team

Maxwell Bowman, Lights and Projections

Marina Johnson, Dramaturgy

TC DeWitt, Script Editing

Sarah Bush, "Living in Limbo" Choreography



GOLDEN THREAD STAFF

Sahar Assaf, Executive Artistic Director

Sheila Devitt, Marketing and Engagement Manager

Soluna Espinosa Pieb, Development and Patron
Services Associate

Linda Maria Girón, Patron Services Manager and Graphic
Design Associate

Navid G. Maghami, Art Director

Michelle Mulholland, Managing Director

Wendy Reyes, Production Associate

GOLDEN THREAD BOARD OF TRUSTEES

May Allam, Treasurer

John Atwood

Nancy Chemaly

Nora el Samahy

Humaira Ghilzai

Rita Hovakimian

Murrey Nelson

Babak Sani, President



COMMUNITY PARTNERS



Al-Juthoor ("Roots" in Arabic) of the Arab Diaspora is a Dabkeh troupe that raises awareness about Arab and Palestinian struggle, culture, and art. We empower our community and youth to take pride in our heritage, our past, and our future by honoring our history and celebrating our resistance. Across the borders of our diaspora, we assert our community's connection to our deep roots in the land and the people throughout the Arab world, from Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, and Palestine.

Our culture and very existence has become inseparable from resistance to colonialism and state violence. Dabkeh is more than just a celebratory event – its every movement is an ode to our Martyrs, a salute to our resistance fighters and political prisoners, and an expression of our will toward our collective liberation. Al-Juthoor is the soul of the dispossessed awaiting their return to their homes, olive groves, villages, and to their land. With each stomp that shakes the earth, we seek to send tremors to those that oppress us. The art of dabkeh celebrates our resistance, asserts our rage against occupation, and demonstrates our commitment to liberation while reminding the world that we are resilient and steadfast. Our people and our land will be free. WE SHALL RETURN!

Names of performers: Zaynah Hindi, Yasmeeen Odeh, Christina Harb, Leila Mire, Basma, Wassim Hage, Linda Zaro, Monica McCown.



Zawayya's musical department, **Aswat Ensemble**, is the Bay Area's premier Arab Music Ensemble. True to Zawayya's commitment to pluralism and inclusion, Aswat is a multi-ethnic, multi-racial, multi-cultural music ensemble and volunteer choir that reaches out to the diverse Bay Area community with folkloric, classical, and contemporary Arabic music.

Zawayya's vision is to achieve intercultural solidarity, respect, and understanding through the universal languages of music and the arts. We seek to educate, preserve, produce, and promote Arab Arts in the Bay Area and as broad as our efforts can reach.

SPECIAL THANKS

Sahar Assaf extends her heartfelt thanks to **Karen Runk** for graciously stepping in to care for Zad during the event. **Martha Richards** for her unwavering and generous support. **Mona Masri** and **Jumana Muwafi** for their continuous support of our mission. Our Season for Palestine Community Council: **Amal Bisharat, Hamzeh Daoud, Deborah Eliezer, Hassan Fouda, Mama Ganuush, Denmo Ibrahim, Marina Johnson, Hannah Khalil, Maya Nazzal, and Arielle Tonkin. Lauren Gutiérrez. Kholoud Nasser. Keiko Carreiro, Maggie Whitaker, Yuko Fujishima** (Associate Director of the School of Fashion, Academy of Art University), and **Brooke Jennings** for providing us with dress forms. **Noor Adabachi, Diane Lopez, Marie Morley, Jeanette Sarmiento** and **Deb'e Taylor** for volunteering their time to supporting this event.

PRESENTERS



Founded in 1996, **Golden Thread Productions** is the first American theatre company devoted to the Middle East. Golden Thread produces passionate and provocative plays from and about the Middle East that celebrate the multiplicity of its perspectives and identities. Golden Thread is a developmental catalyst and vibrant artistic home to artists at various stages of their career. Golden Thread brings the Middle East to the American stage, creating treasured cultural experiences for audiences of all ages and backgrounds. Our headquarters are located on the ancestral home of the Ramaytush Ohlone. **www.goldenthread.org**



Brava! for Women in the Arts (co-presenter) celebrates over 30 years as a professional arts organization dedicated to cultivating the artistic expression of women, LGBTQIA, people of color, youth, & other underrepresented voices. **www.brava.org**

SPONSOR



WomenArts is dedicated to increasing the visibility of women artists in all art forms. SWAN Day (Support Women Artists Now) is an international holiday designed to showcase the power & diversity of women's creativity. **www.womenarts.org**



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Started in 1909 in the U.S., International Women's Day (March 8) is an occasion marked by women's groups around the world. This date is also commemorated at the United Nations and is designated in many countries as a national holiday. When women on all continents, often divided by national boundaries and by ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic and political differences, come together to celebrate their Day, they can look back to a tradition that represents at least over a century of struggle for equality, justice, peace and development.

#inspireinclusion is IWD 2024 theme