



مركز الفن الشعبي
Popular Art Centre

Freedom of Movement

Theme of the seventeenth

Palestine International Festival for Dance and Music 2016

As in every year, the **Palestine International Festival for Dance and Music 2016** focuses on a vital issue of concern to the Palestinian people. This year, the festival chose "*Freedom of Movement*" – in its broadest sense – as its main theme, placing special focus on limitations of mobility within Palestine that are caused by Israeli check points, the Apartheid Wall, travel restrictions for Palestinians, restrictions that deny family unification, the siege of Gaza, and last but not least the Israeli practice of denying entry of foreign nationals into Palestine. The festival hopes to attract international attention by artistically interpreting the concept "*Freedom of Movement*" in its various nightly cultural performances.

To the best of its capacity, the Popular Art Centre intends to challenge the policies of the occupation, and allow maximum Palestinian participation, by performing in different cities and towns throughout Palestine. To this purpose, PAC will arrange busses to transport the audience between the governorates that are hosting the respective cultural events. Thus, as an embodiment of geographical and political unity and in order to complete the artistic and cultural scene, the Popular Art Centre insists that the festival will also reach the Gaza Strip and will challenge the blockade and oppression imposed by the occupation authorities on Palestinians in general and on our people in the Gaza Strip in particular.

The Palestine International Festival for Dance and Music 2016 will host a number of renowned local, regional, and international artists and bands that include Soul 47 (Britain), Tarabband (Sweden), Ghalia Ben Ali (Tunisia), Iskandarella (Egypt) in addition to the following bands and troupes that are from Palestine: El-Funoun Palestinian Popular Dance Troupe, Revolution Chorus, Dawaween Band, Al-Anqa' Band, Shams Al-Karama Band, and Naqsh Popular Art Troupe.

Since its inception in 1993, the Palestine International Festival for Dance and Music 2016 has constituted a creative means to communicate with the different cultures of the world, breaking the cultural blockade imposed on our people by the occupation and adding cultural and artistic value to the lives of Palestinians residing in Palestine.



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