

## **Dear Friends and Colleagues and Children and Adults of All Ages,**

A brief little newsletters from TDP because we have been very bad about newsletters. We are working so very hard, doing so very much, that there is no time for PR. A pity and we could use some help.

### **So what's new in Theatre Day Productions.**

**The work in Gaza is going great.** We are in the middle of a 5-year phase out but we will stay with them after that time. There will be a TDP and a TDP/Gaza. We won't be able to register a new organization because Hamas is not too eager to have this, especially in the field of free expression and performing arts. Artistically, we can pull back from Gaza and look toward the future of the new TDP: consultants, teachers, innovators, writing up the TDP Method of Drama in High Risk areas (wherever in the world) and documenting everything we have done.

**We have also launched the new Pocket Theatre that Amer is leading.** Amer has left the TDP offices to set up his own TDP satellite under this name. You might recognize it from the play we made with him in 1997. Some of you have been with us for that long. This new satellite concentrates its work in East Jerusalem and the near-by West Bank. Along with our satellite in Hebron – Yes Theatre – by 2015 we will have achieved the aims we set up in 1995: to have drama and theatre companies in 4 parts of the country on a national level. It took longer than expected but we expected that.

TDP is working hard on getting drama into the **school curriculum**, at least in grades 1-3 but this is a long-term project that starts now and continues after the Gaza phase out. Involves travel and visits. So expect us.

We have loads of people working and training: **half of our staff is now women** compared to the one (me) in 1995. And there are plenty of women actresses. What a powerhouse and what an example in Gaza.

We had a load of **creative projects so far in 2012** in Gaza this year: 3 plays for youth 80 performances, 4 graduation projects of those who completed our 3-year curriculum. We had 30 video-animation workshops in free expression and 24 drama workshops with kids. And one of our Kids for Kids plays (kids acting) with 2 more to come. Four new plays for kids are being made in a set called "The Kings Series" and they are "The Weaver" (performing now), "The Electricians," performing now, "The Cooks," in rehearsal, and "The Money-Changers" in writing. Kids are all over the place and we are all over the kids through the Gaza Strip. We began going after parents and grandparents and teachers and educators and bystanders in our continuing campaigns to drama awareness. We are gaining ground.

At 18 years old, **TDP has raised a generation of kids on theatre and drama** and we are

convinced that we made changes. We have even measured it.

All these activities are known to most of you. The basic program hasn't changed because it works BUT we continued to refine and adjust it, always looking to make it better and better. It's alive.

We also have a **new website** – not so new anymore – but you can have a look. For me, the most important part can be found in the PAST under PLAYS and this is where all TDP's plays made can be found. They are many. This is our artistic contribution. [www.theatreday.org](http://www.theatreday.org)

For those of you who use **Facebook**, find us there. It's in both Arabic and English. Look for Theatre Day Productions. White and red logo.

TDP is members of several **networks** and finally people are working together. We hope this continues. Alas there is a lot of creative/innovative/educational work being done in Palestine.

#### **A few small announcements.**

This year Jan and I both turned 60. And we are married for 20 years. AND on September 20, I will be in this country for 40 years. We really need a vacation.

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For those of you in **New York**, going to **New York**, or thinking about **New York**, a new app is out there called NOT THE MET. A great app to have on your phone or iPad for all the NOT MET museums in the city. These little and bigger museums are everywhere, surprises around every corner. The app tells all you need to know.

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We have a small deficit. We are looking for new partners, international exchanges, and new friends.

#### **A big hello from TDP wherever we are!**

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