Selected previous projects:

2010 / 2011  |  Puppet tour to Palestinian refugee camps in Jordan funded by A.M. Qattan Foundation

*And ... When she slept on the tree*

**Brief about the performance:**

A musical shadow theatre performance
Inspired by children’s musical CD
“Jouz wa Toot wa Toot Ahmar”
Lyrics: Fatima Sharafeddine
Music: Hani Shibli
Singer: Jessy Jbeliassy
Performing and manipulating puppets: Haneen Tawalbeh, Zeena Aljaaja, Nicole Shaheen
Puppets design: Karim Abu Ya’la
Adaptation and Direction: Husein Abed
CD Production: Kalemat Publishing House, UAE
Time: 25 minutes
And ... when she slept over the tree is a musical shadow theatre performance talks about a girl who moved with her family to the city, full of noise and pollution, where it lacks playgrounds and parks. She dreams to have friends and she finds her own universe in her dreams.

Inspired by children’s musical CD (Jooz wa Toot wa Teen Ahmar)

Venues:
A puppet tour to Palestinian refugee camps in Jordan funded by Qattan Foundation, 2011.
Reviews:
"Husam was inspiring. He represented a ray of creativity and hopeful enthusiasm and it was contagious. Whether it is in a refugee camp, a private school or at the coffee shop where we sat, Abed immediately transports his listener to a world of tales and rich folklore."
Social expose, Jordan Business magazine, Dana Shekem, July 2011.


http://www.jordantimes.com/?news=35194
Jordan Times, Muath Freij, 9 March 2011.

http://www.alghad.com/?news=564066
Jordan Times, Fawzi Bakeer, 7 March, 2011.

Selected images from Puppet Tour with Qattan Foundation, 2011.
The Puppeteer

Puppeteering has never been part of local Jordanian culture. Dana Shekem talks to Hussam Abed, a Jordanian puppeteer who likes to put a smile on children’s faces, about how he plans to go about changing the low profile of this art.

Hussam Abed, Jordan’s first puppet show for children.

The inspiration: Hussam Abed pulled out one puppet after another, each with a new look, name, a different manner and a hidden message. He represented a ray of creativity and hope for Jordanian children. It was contagious. Whether it is in a refugee camp, a private school or at the coffee shop where we met, Abed immediately transports his listener to a world of tales rich and folktale.

His rising star is the one-eyed puppet Nas Noun, which, despite all its deformities, shows the evil monster and the thing—it’s flexible, whose face was made of an empty plastic container.

Fairy tale Beginnings: The forward-looking puppeteer began his career and passion as a volunteer at the Amman Care Center in the Banjarah Refugee Camp in 2007, at the age of 27.

After winning the international award for the orphanage, Abed decided to open the children’s creativity with a puppet show. In an inspirational, innovative fashion, he found solutions and overcome limitations by using what was available in the market and modifying it to bring joy to the first script named Happiness. His first puppet came to life when his own dream of coffee to form its facial features.

He returned to this as Limitations Art and was proud of its realistic nature, as compared to “obscure and superficial” characters in Mickey Mouse and The Muppet Show. His was a tangible art, prepared from material brought from the sources—it was authentic and real, telling tales of folklore to the beat of the drums.

After two years of performing his show at the orphanage, Abed created Dafa Theatre. Dafa, the Arabic word for warmth, was opposed to the coldness of being in a foreign land, alienated from home and lacking the bare necessities. It aimed to show the children the concept of resistance as a daily action, through play and imagination.

Launching Up: Dafa started to establish small groups presenting puppet theatre to children in poor areas. In February 2010, it established the first puppet theatre group in the Zaraq camp as it developed puppet show projects there and in other underprivileged areas. The goal is to emphasize the importance of dreaming and motivating children to strive for a better reality.

It came as a reaction to the poverty of the camps and deprived neighborhoods, of the yards and gardens where children play, the unhealthy environment and cramped houses, the difficult living conditions, the bad economic situation and the inability of families to buy toys for their children.

Dafa is an independent entity, Abed remained true to his art by preferring to stay independent rather than registering Dafa as an NGO in Jordan and being caught up in bureaucracy. He did not need to get the funding granted to NGOs, as he obtained revenue from just shows and working with private schools.

The puppet initiative has met with great acceptance and received funding from the Women’s Projects Division of UNRWA, in addition to an agreement committee, which funded the Zaraq Refugee Camp workshop. One of his latest projects took place at a public school sponsored by television giant Omnia under the umbrella of the Madarat initiative.

Investing in Future Generations: Highly versatile, energetic and ambitious, Abed studied chemistry at the University of Damascus and currently teaches science at a public school in Basra. His role as a teacher has expanded to include his new passion for puppet storytelling, in addition to an咬it development committee, which funded the Zaraq Refugee Camp workshop. One of his latest projects is to teach young children aged 14 and older.

His true commitment, however, remains to the children of refugee camps. They are encouraged to interact in the puppet shows through the ‘Drak Zahab’ program. The title of this project is Arabic for children’s talk as it was established to keep and recount the experiences of the children in stories told by the puppeteer. The show features a boy and a girl puppet who divide in one another, relaying the children’s stories. Through this method of play, they tackle issues such as aggression, sexual harassment in the streets and the community in addition to violence in schools.

Raw talent for storytelling and an imaginative way of making puppets, combined with a passion for teaching did not suit Abed. As with any profession, he used his disciplined academic teaching to hone his skills further. The puppeteering art form in Arabic countries was not well developed. Amongst the few available teachers, those from the Arab world who contributed to Abed's artistic journey were Fadi Shiekht, a lecturer at the University of Jordan as well as a trainer at the American Theater Association, who gave lectures on shadow theater.

Abed is also a member of Lebanon’s Arab Puppet Theater, where he spent three weeks exploring different types of puppets and learning how to develop puppeteering as a profession. It enabled me to network with similar artists, and there was only one puppeteer from Lebanon and two from Jordan.
Whether it is in a refugee camp, a private school or at the coffee shop where we met... [Abed] immediately transports his listener to a world of tales and rich folklore.

**The Sky Is The Limit**

A serious commitment to continuous improvement led Abed to seek training in other worldwide organizations that promoted this art form, such as the Stuttgart Institute in Berlin. Ambition drove him to access the top university for puppet art in the world, the DAMU University in Prague, where his dream is to obtain a Master’s degree in Alternative Performance Art and Puppet Theater. The Summer Theater School in Prague has accepted him to participate in a seminar entitled “Enlivening the Performer”, where he will be among an elite group of performers, as only 12 Arabs have ever been a part of this course that teaches how to work with marionettes and glove puppets.

There are few programs in the world pertaining to puppetry. One such program is Peter Schumann’s the Bread and Puppet Theatre in Vermont, US, named for its combination of puppetry shows with free, freshly-baked bread, generally served with a dipping sauce. The company is known for its anarchic, non-commercial, participatory and politically-charged approach to art. Another international program is a specialized puppet and shadow theatre “think tank” at a farm in Italy, where an exclusive group of accomplished artists from all over the world meet up for one or two weeks at a time to network and generate new ideas and forms of expression. Abed has been contacting them and is actively pursuing joining these exclusive groups.

During the interview, Abed took out his drum and started singing in the midst of a bustling street in Amman’s Swefich district. I caught a glimpse of his artist’s persona as he allowed me a hint of his performances. Each play begins with “Good evening boy, good evening girl” no matter how old his viewers are, in order to provoke their inner child and awaken their sense of wonder – a sense that “life is continuously enriching”, he said. The puppeteer brings life to his puppets much as people are puppets in life, he told Jordan Business, as he links his beliefs to the philosophies of Sufism and Arab philosophies such as Kindi’s “everything is a number and a musical tune”. He plans to teach his philosophies as well as his art one day, as he awaits his time on life’s stage. For now, he is dedicated to bringing hope to children, one puppet show at a time.
2011 / 2012: **Puppet Theatre in Villages and Palestinian Refugee Camps in Jordan**

**funded by Danish Center for Gender, Equality and Diversity, KVINFO Denmark**

Presenting puppet shows & workshops on story collecting from the elderly and performing them through Puppet Theater and Shadow Theater / Touring Puppet Theater

**Project manager:** Husam Abed | **Project Coordinator:** Junifaa Za'taraa
Brief about the performance: 
Happening in this day is a story of a man who dreams of immigrating away from his family. His journey towards his dream reveals the complexity of his relation with his wife and reflects a male community. The performance lacks the visualization of female characters and the voice was appearing only to emphasize on the absence of the woman role in a male community. In one-hour shadow theatre and a glove puppet performance, the audience attends a satire that tackles social problems, gender and equality issues in politics and the complicated aspects of immigration with a biting humor that cuts through the preconceived notions, norms and prejudices the audience has.

Capacity: 
We conducted 52 performances and we reached more than 5200 spectators.

Cast: 
The songs were recorded at Jacob Abu Ghosh studio

Selected images from (Happening in This day) at Royal Cultural Center, Amman, Jordan 2012

Shadow Scene from (Happening in This Day) back screen (L)  Shadow Puppets from (Happening in this day) back screen (R)
**2012 / 2014:** Puppet Theatre in Villages and Palestinian Refugee Camps in Jordan funded by Netherlands Embassy

Presenting puppet shows & workshops on story collecting from the elderly and performing them through Puppet Theater and Shadow Theater / Touring Puppet Theater

**Successful experience:**
After the puppet tour in 2012 funded by KVINFO - Denmark, we thought of widening the scope to reach more audiences. The result was a puppet tour to refugees’ camps and villages lasted for 2 years.

**Capacity:**
Performances: Over 5200 spectators attended.

**Project Coordinator:** Fadi Adel | **Project manager:** Husam Abed

**Cast:** Ahmad Srour | Mohamad Saadi | Mohamad Zoabe | Mohamad Absse

**Reviews:**

"In his work, Husam Abed deliberately takes advantage of the generation gap to create something positive. He accentuates the difference between how young and older women themselves believe society views them as women, and he believes that the younger women need the stories of the older women in order for them to reflect and contemplate. Consequently, the theatre group has collected personal recounts from women of all ages at workshops. Here, the participants have told their stories to each other, after which these stories have been turned into plays".
Gitte Young, KVINFO.org, 2012.

https://twitter.com/jomagazine/status/214646161859022848
18/6/2012 @JOMagazine With Dafa Puppet Theatre, Husam Abed teaches to children in camps and performs socially conscious plays for adults.

https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.394138973966761.85376.173365636044097&type=3
"Through this spring, the theatre had performed almost everywhere in town, including five performances at the Royal Cultural Center in February."

Puppet Resistance, Jo magazine story on June 2012. Words by: John Lillywhite. Photography by: Cury Eldridge

"I traveled there twice to collaborate with one of my international puppet friends, Husam Abed from Dafa Puppet Theater. He commissioned two puppets with me the year before, when we met here in Prague, where he visited Prague Summer Theater School at DAMU. We were introduced to each other by a mutual friend and decided to work together. The puppet show I created the two main characters for was a political satire written for adults and became a huge success in Jordan. In that context, we also started providing workshops together. He has a huge experience with puppetry workshops in refugee camps, at schools and with young adults with special needs and opened the doors for me to gather my teaching experiences there as well".


http://www.alghad.com/articles/616299-%D9%8A%D8%AD%D8%AF%D8%AB-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D9%85%D8%AB%D9%84-%D9%87%D8%B0%D8%A7-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%8A%D9%88%D9%85-%D8%AD%D8%AF%D9%8A%D8%AB-%D8%B3%D8%A7%D8%AE%D8%B1-%D8%B9%D9%86-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%88%D8%B6%D8%B9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%8A%D8%A7%D8%B3%D9%8A-%D9%88%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%AC%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%A7%D8%B9%D9%8A?s=0eaf5853e1dc8c125f09ec37ae4fc1d1
Al Ghad newspaper, Sawsan Moukhal, 11 May 2012.

http://alghad.com/articles/622847-%D9%8A%D8%AD%D8%AF%D8%AB-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D9%85%D8%AB%D9%84-%D9%87%D8%B0%D8%A7-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%8A%D9%88%D9%85-%D8%B9%D8%B1-%D8%B6-%D8%AF%D9%85%D9%89-%D8%AE%D8%A7%D8%B5-%D8%A8%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%83%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%B1
Al Ghad newspaper, Ghaida Hamoudeh, 18 Feb. 2012.

http://www.alrai.com/article/24004.html
Al Rai Newspaper, Jamal Ayad, 16 Februray 2012.

http://khaberni.com/more-80021-1-%D8%AF%D9%85%D9%89%20%D8%AD%D8%B3%D8%A7%D9%85-%D9%81%D9%86%20%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%8A%D8%A7%D9%86%20%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AB%D9%88%D8%B1
Feedback:
"I’m planning to stand in the next local elections. I am well educated and qualified at every level; but I know that there will be resistance among those men who have a traditional view of things. How can I overcome these obstacles that I know I’ll run into?” asks a different women sitting in the audience. “You must stand – and without fear. We need to hold onto our rights”, she says.

“I’m against total equality,” says another woman, ”there’s a difference between men and women and each has their place”.

“It’s we women who take the children to school, go to work ourselves, do the shopping, collect the children again, help with homework, cook, and do all the other housework” comes an empowered comment, highlighting the typical tasks of Jordanian women.

“But it’s not only that. Clans and tribal relationships determine just as much who gets elected”, says another woman.

“I myself am one of them – one of those women who are well educated, but who afterwards are simply married off. Women are of course allowed do take an education, but at the same time they must attend to their duties, look after the home and be married”, comes another comment from the audience.
2011  Forum Puppet Theatre Tour to Governmental schools  
For Iraqi refugee children funded by UNHCR, UNICEF and Ministry of Education

Forum Puppet Theatre Tour is a project developed by Dafa Puppet Theatre in 2011 to tackle social issues face Iraqi refugees in Jordan. We build scenes about domestic violence, sexual harassment, children labor and racism.

Dafa believes children should live in a healthy and safe environment. Dafa focuses on holding workshops and performances in locations that lack playgrounds and other means of entertainment. Due to the bad economic conditions of the area, buying educational games is not a priority; Dafa ensures to create a positive space for children to play and through play learn how to be creative, reflective, and self-aware, engaged and most importantly, use drama and theatre to express themselves.

Mixing forum theatre with puppetry is rarely used genre. We tried in Dafa Puppet Theatre to adapt this method in our work with refugees; since we do believe that Forum Theatre is an effective method for civic engagement. Add to that after Dafa’s performances in the camps discussions with the audience revealed that they found puppet theatre to be new and amusing. Puppet theatre provides endless interesting suggestions and encourages Dafa’s team as artists to express various issues. It also gives the audience the opportunity to imagine, since fiction immerses puppet.
**History:** Dafa has conducted a workshop on puppetry in Lebanon in cooperation with Book House Association – Beirut at Summer Camp for children from South of Lebanon. Children worked with Kids' writer Fatima Sharaf Adeen on Creative Writing Workshop. Their stories where talking about Violence at school, and we worked at that time on adapting these stories to be performed by using puppets. Throughout the past years, Dafa conducted various puppetry workshops and performances in cooperation with various partners such as the United Nations Relief and Works Agency UNRWA, UNICEF, UNHCR and ActionAid. In 2011, we had the chance to collaborate with UNICEF, UNHCR and Ministry of Education and we did a tour of performances to governmental schools. We aimed in Iraqi children in these performances. Performance tackled social issues: violence at school and home, sexual harassment and refugees rights. The performance was designed to fit the needs and took the shape of forum theatre.

**Capacity:** 400 students attended the performances. The tour aimed in eight governmental schools.
**2012**

**Forum Puppet Theatre Tour to Zaatare camp**

*For Syrian refugee adults funded by UNHCR and UNFPA*

**Cast: Stage designer:** Reka Deak  |  **Performers:** Ahmad Srour, Mohamad Ali, Husam Abed  |  **Director:**

Husam Abed  |  Production by Dafa Puppet Theatre.

**Brief:**

*Forum Puppet Forum Theatre Tour* is a project developed by *Dafa Puppet Theatre* to tackle social issues face Syrian refugees in Jordan. The tour included presenting puppet interactive performances about refugees’ children and family protection by using forum theatre. Through the performance, we talked about issues that face refugees at the host country/Jordan: children labor, violence based on gender, abuse, early marriage, children-parents separation, disabled children and health awareness. It is a collage of scenes, where each scene ends on an inspiring note allowing the audience the chance to bring solutions and play roles to solve the conflict that we create in the performance. We allow the audience to reflect on how important it is for them to create positive change from a safe place where they believe in their ability to learn, play and share.

![](image)

A Syrian man (24 years old) from Zaatare camp is playing role in one of the scenes about Health awareness.

**Press Release:**

[http://www.pheladelphianews.com/print-10627.htm](http://www.pheladelphianews.com/print-10627.htm)

**Reflection:**

In the second experience, which was in 2012 funded by UNHCR and UNFPA for a period of one month, we conducted puppet theatre tour to Zaatare camp for Syrian refugees in themes related to family protection. It was rewarding to see the community at large participate in workshops and enjoy the performances by children and adults. Given the impact the puppet shows have left on the children who viewed it, Dafa aims to conduct more workshops for children and youth, to equip them with artistic tools that allow them to express themselves.

**Capacity:**

1680 spectators attended the performances in one-month tour.

**Reviews:**

Husam was inspiring. He represented a ray of creativity and hopeful enthusiasm and it was contagious. Whether it is in a refugee camp, a private school or at the coffee shop where we sat, Abed immediately transports his listener to a world of tales and rich folklore.

*Social expose – Jordan Business- July 2011*

We talked about violence against women. There are many women who were abused I am one of them. My husband divorced me because of violence. I liked the presentation so much and I love to come here to entertain. While I did not have experience with violence of my father on his children since our family consists of eight girls and a boy and my father treats us as friends.

*Budoor (24 years old), Syrian woman from Zaatare camp, 2012*

Every one seeks his or her freedom. Human being has the right of full freedom. However, without rushing to be violent. By understanding each other and being calm, the solutions we brought and suggested were effective and we get into a result.
Fatima (20 years old), Syrian woman from Zaatare camp, 2012
I feel convinced by the solutions that were brought by the audience for problems you showed in the presentation. Puppet theatre is interesting.

Noha (17 years old), Syrian young girl from Zaatare camp, 2012
The man should understand his wife. They must not fight and the wife should calm down her husband with good and nice speech. The man in return should not get angry for silly things and abuse his wife.

Elayan (28 years old), Syrian man from Zaatare camp, 2012

Selected images Zaatare camp:

An old woman (60 years old) from Zaatare camp is playing role in one of the scenes about Health awareness.

A girl from Zaatare camp is playing role in one of the scenes about domestic violence. (L)
Children enjoy the puppet show. (R)
Women from Zaatare camp during one the performances. (L)
Selected image from making puppets workshop from recycled materials. (R)
2014

**Storytelling & Wonder Box Making Workshop**

*For Palestinian children and youth between 12-15 years old at Community Development Committee, Zarqa camp, Jordan Funded by ActionAid Jordan*

**Trainers:** Husam Abed (JO), Reka Deak (RO), Zoran Petrovic (S)

**Brief:**

The wonder box or life box (a box with windows) was part of Arab storytelling culture in the late of 19th century and beginning of 20th century. Storytellers used it to show images from Arabic fairytales, combined with paper-cut.

In this one week workshop, we collected intimate personal stories from the refugee children's life that took place at home, street and school. The collected stories reflected violence at school and home, children labor and sexual harassment. The participants of the workshop draw their collected stories and made Life/Wonder box, which allow them to express their stories, share them with small audience in smooth way and in safe environment. Each child told his/her story for three spectators.

The workshop targets 24 participant. Each one made their own wonder box, thought of their story as images or scenes, draw the scenes on paper, learnt techniques of storytelling and shared their stories with three spectators. The ages of participants were between 12-15 years old both genders.

**Reviews:**

About storytelling and wonder box workshop in Dec. 2014:

http://ecflabs.org/grants/projects/sb/storytelling-wonder-box-workshop

https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.803205636393424.1073741829.173365636044097&type=3

**Awards and Grants:**

We decided at Dafa Puppet Theatre to widen the scope of our projects to reach all refugees communities in Jordan. The next project is a 4 cycles projects that will last for two years start from August 2016 including Puppet Art Residencies for young people and adults. The project will include Training of Trainers and supporting initiatives of social workers, artists, teachers to lead a puppet workshop for children at their context. DPT Team will help the participants by showing how to design, plan and facilitate a puppetry workshop. Wonder Box Making and storytelling will be included. We are searching for the roots of puppetry in our culture and how to use them in self-expression nowadays.

Education Development and Therapy, UNIMA Grant to support a journey to Congress in Tolosa, Spain in May 2016.

**Letter from EDT commission, UNIMA:**

Dear The Dafa Puppet Theatre,

The EDT commission received keen reply since the release of the news. Till the deadline, we received 15 applications from 11 countries all over the world. It was pleasant to have received your applications and to know about you. Thanks again for it.
After some time of reviewing, voting, and careful examining, I am happy to inform you that your application for the grant was successful. The EDT Commission appreciates a lot your work and your contributions to local communities. It is our honour to present you a support and encouragement of your work. With the grant, we are pleased to sponsor you a journey to participate in our Congress in Tolosa in May 2016.

Besides, we wish to introduce you as a successful applicant of the grant during the Congress. It would be great if you could send us a brief introduction of yourself (in around 100 words), and of your project (around 200 words) and a photograph that we can use during the Congress. Information received will be used in printed publications for the congress.

Please contact my assistant Miss Demi Lau at demi@mingri.org.hk if you have any inquiries.

Best Regards,

Simon Wong,

Present,

Education Development and Therapy, UNIMA

Reviews and feedbacks of participants at Zarqa camp previous workshop:

"Husam was inspiring. He represented a ray of creativity and hopeful enthusiasm and it was contagious. Whether it is in a refugee camp, a private school or at the coffee shop where we sat, Abed immediately transports his listener to a world of tales and rich folklore”.

Social expose – Jordan Business- July 2011
I learned how to authoring the story.
Zakia (15 years)

I learned how to write a story and how to tell it.
Abdel-Fattah (14 years)

When we told several stories, it was very very very interesting.
Lara (14 years)

When we told our stories to each other, we were very happy.
Abdul Rahman (11 years)

I learned how to respect the opinion of others.
Rama (12 years)

I get used to take advantage of every moment. I remembered what we told about our problems I remembered how you reconsider what error.
Negatives: lack of focus, lack of compliance with laws and lack of mental growth.
Noor (14 years)

I like the formulation of roles and be committed to follow them.
Sojood (12 years)

I benefited from the games became in fitness and stirred our situation. I became a little focus. We know other children who were with us in the workshop. The workshop increased our morality a lot. I learned how to change the sound when I tell the story.
Murad (12 years)

I learned how to speak without fear and how to speak with confidence and how we respect the opinion of others.
Rama (12 years)
The workshop was great and I learned a lot of them, such as respect for the opinion, equality and justice among some.

Zakia (15 years)
Selected images from previous delivered workshop:
https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.803205636393424.1073741829.173365636044097&type=1

From previous delivered workshop at Community Development Committee, Zarqa Camp, Jordan, Dec. 2014.

Wonder of Life Box, Palestine, 1917-1935 (L) Children attends a storyteller using wonder box (R)
2014 | The Smooth Life

Stage Design: Réka Deák | Dramaturge: Marek Turošík | Performed and directed by: Husam Abed | Pedagogue: Jiří Havelka, Robert Smolík, Marek Bečka | Production @ DAMU – Czech Republic

Solo documentary, puppet and storytelling performance for 8 spectators. Stories and situations from family life of Palestinian man born and raised in refugee camp performed and directed according to his own history.

"I think it is kind of theatre occasion which is based on this kind of meeting at the table. From some point of view, it is eating ritual. Its intimacy was done not only by the space, but also according to the story. One’s personal experience with his culture, traditions different from western world, but the way of thinking is many times the same. I think it is kind of Lehrstücke - kind of his personal and artistic statement and lesson - one finds his/her own home after leaving it. At least this is kind of lesson for me".

MgA. Eva Kyselova – pedagogue at DAMU - Prague

"Funny and altogether sad story a little bit about a family coming from different culture. A story that touches the audience".

MgA. Katerina Lešková-Dolenská - Senior Editor at LOUTKAR "Puppeteer" magazine

"Smooth Life is an interesting personal peep into somebody’s life – life so different from our European experience, yet full of love, hope and expectations. Husam creates an atmosphere for all senses; therefore his solo is so impressive you want to participate even more".

MgA. Marta Ljubkova – pedagogue at DAMU - Prague

"From the personal autobiographic story to the strong theatre statement by using traditional homemade storytelling visual elements as well as original puppet theatre elements and that all packed into family get-together with food and drink".

MgA. Brano Mazuch – pedagogue at DAMU - Prague

"What a powerful performance. I was impressed by the attention to details and choice of set design, the symbolisms used throughout the play (The rice to represent family members) the map, the circular approach, the natural material, found objects used in order to create the puppets. Husam tells his story in a very impactful way, while creating a very intimate, safe, and inviting experience for his audience.

I was moved by his personal story, his relationship with his father, its many different intertwined layers rooted and tied in with Historical facts. Again Which I thought was told with great perspective and respect for his audience. I felt totally transported. That sense of hope and resolved he gives despite such hardship transpires throughout his play. A very moving story, told in a beautiful way – rich in colors and flavors. A must experience".

Stephanie Filippi – Prologue to the Performing Arts – Toronto - Canada

"I want to mention my greatest experience – different from other events – I took at this year of Skupa’s Pilsen. It was just before the midnight on Thursday at the club of Alfa Theatre and it was the show of Palestinian refugee Husam Abed, currently a student of KALD at Academy of Performing Arts who lives in Prague now, sitting around a small table we watched him playing and narrating about his life and about the fate of his family. He gave us a strong personal witness about the sorrows and tragedies of people coming from areas of Israeli-Jordanian region. The performance was called Smooth Life and Abed told us (eight spectators seated around a wooden table) in Arabic and English about escape of his father and mother from Israel (Palestine) into Jordan, about life there, his emigration from there, the complicated relationship with his father and his death, which came before they could meet after years and - perhaps - reconcile. All this was accompanied by video projections and used photographs, maps, and especially raw "recycled" materials - tin
Husam Abed was born and raised at Palestinian refugee camp in Jordan. He is a Palestinian puppeteer, musician and social worker living between Amman and Prague. Master of Directing for Alternative and Puppet theatre at DAMU – Czech Republic. Founder of Dafa Puppet Theatre in Jordan and Czech Republic. He has been performing and leading puppetry and storytelling projects for children and youth in many countries especially refugee camps and underprivileged areas in Jordan. He directed puppet performances, collaborated with artists from many nations. He developed his way of performing by mixing storytelling with puppetry. A member founder of Flying Freedom Festival in Poland, a member founder of Amman Theatre Lab. and member of UNIMA – France.

**Where the performance toured before:** (118 performances)
- Process 6 festival, Academy of Performing Arts, Czech Republic, May 2014. (8 performances) [https://www.facebook.com/events/247669662088045/](https://www.facebook.com/events/247669662088045/)
- Zonglobalizace festival, Pilsen, 1 June 2014.
- Arabian Iranian Cultural Evening, Veseli Nad Moravou, Czech Republic, 4 June 2014. (2 performances) [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sUbJte18IXM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sUbJte18IXM)
- Open Air Festival, Hradec Karlove, Czech Republic, 26 June 2014. (2 performances).
- Art Residency "Talent for sale", Kudowa Zdroj, Poland, 18 Oct. 2014. (1 performance)
- Backstreet festival, Teatro Alexandria, Egypt, 22 Oct. 2014. (2 performances)
Premier 24 May 2014 @ KALD – DAMU

Coming performances:
International Festival of Puppetry and Animated Forms – FIMFA Lx, Portugal, 16-22 May 2016.
Theatre without borders, Ostrava, Czech Republic, 3-6 October 2016.
Animo Puppet Festival, Poland, October 2016.
The 10th international documentary film festival in Vilnius, Lithuania, 22 October 2016.
La Mama Puppet Series Festival, New York, USA, December 2017.
T.V. Reports:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sUjbJte18iXM

Awards and Distinctions:
The Jury Grant of distinction for original artistic concept of "The Smooth Life" by Dafa Puppet Theatre at 28th International Theatrical Festival Valise, Lomza, Poland, 10-13 June 2015

The Jury Grant of distinction for The Smooth Life at A puppet is a human too festival in Warsaw, Poland, October 2015.

Press Release:
Loutkar magazine, Czech Republic, June 2015

Cheb Monodrama Festival, Czech Republic, October 2015

Open Air festival, Czech Republic, June 2015

Porsgrunn Internation Theatre Festival, Norway, June 2015
https://www.porsgrunn.kommune.no/Dokumenter/Kommunens_Dokumenter/Kommunikasjon%5C3%A5diver/PIT_program2015_litenfil.pdf

Backstreet Festival, Alexandria, Egypt 2014
http://daily.rosaelyoussef.com/news/77696/%C2%AB%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AC%D8%B1%D8%A7%D9%8A%D8%A9%C2%BB-%D9%88%C2%AB%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D9%87%D8%B1%D8%AC%C2%BB-

Jordan Times Magazine, Jordan, July 2015

http://www.raialyoum.com/?p=280978%20%D8%A8%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A5%D8%B3%D9%83%D9%86%D8%AF%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%A9

Romania, Feb. 2015
http://heyevent.com/event/mbvvy6zqw7oesa/the-smooth-life

ISM Czech, Czech Republic, 17 October 2014

Porsgrunn International Theatre Festival, Norway
28th International Theatrical Festival Valise, Lomza, Poland
2015 | The War Maker

Collective work: Stage Design: Réka Deák | Dramaturge: Marek Turošík | Performed by: Husam Abed
| Consultants: Jiří Havelka, Robert Smolík | Production @ DAMU – Czech Republic

Brief:
A solo documentary puppet performance, based on real story of a Palestinian visual artist holds an Egyptian travel document. An absurd journey provokes questions of identity, where he faced brutal reality puts him on crossroad between chasing dream, love and family connection.
2016 | **Puppet Art Residency at Sharjah United Arab Emirates**

*Leading one month puppet art residency at Sharjah*

**Artistic Director:** Husam Abed | **Dramaturge and Director:** Marek Turosik | **Stage Designer:** Marianna Stranska | **Performers:** Husam Abed, Reka Deak, Macadi Nahass, Anna Gromanova, Marianna Stranska | **Movement:** Anna Gromanova

**Brief about the project:**
The puppet art residency at Sharja is a project developed by Dafa Puppet Theatre took place in the city Sharjah in January/February 2016. It is a space of encounter, skills development, knowledge sharing and entertainment for workshops’ participants (15+) and spectators from across United Arab Emirates. The residency concept is to equip participants with the craft of puppetry tools, they can use them in their contexts. Master puppeteers were invited from Europe and Arab world to lead the puppetry workshops including: Steve and Sally Tiplady from UK (Contemporary shadow theatre), Bruno Leone from Italy (Hand puppets), Reka Deak from Romania (Wonder box making), and Fairouz Nustas from Palestine (Giant Head). Parallel to the workshops, trainers were invited to perform in the evenings of the residency. The festival was open for participants and public to see and get inspire by the work of the invited artists. The performances were delivered for children and family in different venues including open air, public spaces and schools. The creative team produces a final performance adapted from Emirate fairytales showing their tradition and culture and was performed in the last day of the residency.
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2016

**Workshops and performances at Spring of Culture in Bahrain**

*Leading puppet workshops for teachers and students*

**Trainers:** Husam Abed & Reka Deka

**Brief about the project:**
Invited by Economic Development Board and in collaboration with Ministry of Education, Dafa Puppet Theatre leads a one-week shadow theatre and paper puppet workshops and deliver two musical shadow theatre performance and hand puppet performance. The participants were teachers of Ministry of Education and students of Bahrain University. Many sessions were dedicated to discuss the possibilities of adapting puppetry to be used in the class room.
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