

# NOUR

*festival of*

نور

# ARTS

21 OCTOBER — 6 NOVEMBER 2016

*Shining light on contemporary arts and  
culture from the Middle East and North Africa*



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF  
KENSINGTON  
AND CHELSEA

ScanD

The Nour Festival of Arts 2016 at The Ismaili Centre, London

## The Writing of Art



The Ismaili Centre, London  
1-7 Cromwell Gardens, Kensington, London, SW7 2SL

21 October - 5 November 2016

Monday - Saturday

11:00 to 17:00

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**THE WRITING OF ART** offers a glimpse into the many contemporary art approaches influenced by Persian and Arabic calligraphy, bringing together the work of Khaled Ben Slimane, Graham Day, Hanieh Delecroix, Parastou Forouhar, Farnaz Jahanbin and Katayoun Rouhi. Providing a window into the infinitely variable interpretations and articulations of the word as art, the exhibition highlights the plasticity between word, idea and image, traditionally juxtaposed as discrete systems of the visual and the discursive.

On view together for the first time in the contemplative halls of the Ismaili Centre, these works create a moving poetic dialogue that implicitly weaves culture and history with the ineffable and the sublime.

Presented by the Ismaili Centre and the Nour Festival with special thanks to Rose Issa Projects for generous loans and support.

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**The Nour Festival of Arts 2016 at The Ismaili Centre, London**

**MUSIC@ONE**



World Music Series 2016 presents free lunchtime musical interludes, with musicians from Europe, Middle East and North Africa, presenting contemporary sounds and compositions on both traditional and contemporary musical instruments.

**Monday 24th October - Friday 4th November**  
(closed Sundays)

13:00 to 13:45 | Doors open at 12.45

For more details visit

[www.rbkc.gov.uk/nour/events/musicone](http://www.rbkc.gov.uk/nour/events/musicone)

**The Daughter of the Pomegranate Tree**

Merit Ariane



Reinventing and weaving together traditional and original songs, poems and stories, German/Egyptian singer Merit Ariane is joined by Greek/Australian storyteller Anna Conomos, Iranian qanun player Nilufar Habibian and British multi-instrumentalist Jon Bank.

**Saturday 29 October**

20:30 to 22:00 | Doors open at 20:00

Booking Required

£15 | £10 (Under 12s only)

**My Sweet Home | Amir Nizar Zuabi**  
Silk Road Rising Theatre Company



A Syrian woman prepares kibbeh in her kitchen, while recounting tales of her vanished lover. Her stories bring to life an ancient land torn apart by a cruel war.

**Wednesday 2 November**

Doors 20:00 | Starts 20:30

Booking Required

£15 | £10 (Under 12s only)

**Thursday 3 November**

Performance accompanied by a special set meal

Doors 19:30 | Starts 20:30

Booking Required

£45

Brought to London by The Aga Khan Museum, Toronto and The Ismaili Centre, London

[www.agakhanmuseum.org](http://www.agakhanmuseum.org)

**Joseph Tawadros**



Joseph Tawadros has a gift for infusing beauty with sadness, and vice-versa. He writes fragile melodies in which notes hang in the air, enough to ache as well as beguile.

**Saturday 5 November**

20:15 to 22:00 | Doors open at 19:45

Booking Required

£15 | £10 (Under 12s only)

The Ismaili Centre, London

1-7 Cromwell Gardens, Kensington, London, SW7 2SL

For bookings please visit [www.thelittleboxoffice.com/nour](http://www.thelittleboxoffice.com/nour)



AGA KHAN MUSEUM



THE ISMAILI CENTRE  
LONDON

# 'Oh My Sweet Home'

Written by Amir Nizar Zuabi  
Conceived by Corrine Jaber

Directed by Anna C. Bahow  
Performed by Susaan Jamshidi

Silk Road Rising  
Jamil Khoury, Founding Artistic Director  
Malik Gillani, Founding Executive Director

**Production staff**

Founding Artistic Director Jamil Khoury  
Founding Executive Director Malik Gillani  
Playwright Amir Nizar Zuabi  
Director Anna C. Bahow  
Actor Susaan Jamshidi  
Production Manager & Stage Manager Corey Pond

# Biographies

**Anna C. Bahow (Director)** is committed to the development of new work and a diversity of voices. She is an Associate Artist with The International Voices Project and Chicago Dramatists. Bahow served as the 2011-2012 Michael Magglo Directing Fellow at Goodman Theatre. She has received an After Dark Award for direction and her productions have received JEFF Awards for New Work and Use of Multi-Media. Her directing work includes the following world premieres: *Comrades Mine* (City Lit), *Brewed* (Tympanic/Ruckus), *REWIND* and *The Rocks* (the side project), and JEFF Nominated *Odin's Horse* (Infamous Commonwealth). Other directorial work includes the Midwest premieres of *INVASION!* (TOP FIVE SHOWS of the year, Kerry Reid *Chicago Tribune*) with Silk Road Rising and *A Nice Indian Boy* (Rasaka Theatre at Victory Gardens). Hedy Weiss of the *Chicago Sun-Times* has written, "Anna C. Bahow is a director of immense skill and subtlety, with an impeccable eye for casting, and a gift for finding the action in a play about the mind and the heart."

**Susaan Jamshidi (Actor)** hails from Chicago and is thrilled to be part of *Oh My Sweet Land*. Upcoming: The world premier of *Faceless* at Northlight Theater. Other Chicago Credits: *Remy Bumpo*, *The Gift*, *16th Street*, *Victory Gardens*, *Chicago Dramatists*, *Theater Wit*, *Lookingglass* (The Arabian Nights directed by Mary Zimmerman), *Slideshow* (Jeff Award-Ensemble), *Lifeline*, *Collaboraction*, *Erasing the Distance*, *Stage Left*, *Oracle*, *The Inconvenience*, and *Theatre Mir*, with Workshops/readings at Goodman, Silk Road Rising, and Steppenwolf. Regional include *Arena Stage*, *Berkeley Rep*, *The Michigan Shakespeare Festival*, *Pittsburgh Public Theater's Young Company*; TV: *Sirens*, *Chicago PD*, webseries *Muslim In the City*. Select film: *Cicero in Winter* *The Wallet*, *A Cadaver Christmas*. Susaan received her MFA in acting from The Theatre School at DePaul University, has studied with the Second City, and is represented by Paonessa Talent Agency.

**Amir Nizar Zuabi (Playwright)** is a Palestinian theatre director and actor. Trained as an actor at the Nisan Nativ theatre studio in Israel, in 2009 Zuabi became one of five co-founders of the independent theatre company ShiberHur ('a bit of freedom') in Haifa. His productions there included *War Is More* and *I Am Yusuf and This Is My Brother*, an impossible love story set in the strife-torn Palestine of 1948. In 2011, he followed it up with a sequel, *In the Penal Colony*. Zuabi met Corinne Jaber through David Lan, artistic director of The Young Vic (where the play was produced). After Lan heard Jaber's plans for *Oh My Sweet Land*, he brought the two together in order for them to collaborate on giving form to the piece; drawing on many conversations with Syrian refugees, Zuabi wrote this penetrating monologue for Jaber and directed her acting.

**Silk Road Rising** is a non-profit theatre company based in Chicago, Illinois in the United States. We create live theatre and online videos that tell stories through primarily Asian American and Middle Eastern American lenses. In representing communities that intersect and overlap, we advance a polycultural worldview.

# WELCOME TO NOUR

This is the seventh annual Nour Festival of contemporary arts and culture from the Middle East and North Africa. Running for 17 days from Friday 21 October until Sunday 6 November in venues across the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, Nour celebrates the very best in contemporary film, music, literature, poetry, performance and visual art from the MENA region. Nour 2016 features 36 events and 84 individual performances, across 16 venues with 28 partners, with artists representing 15 countries in the region.

Nour reaches a diverse local, national and international audience, and each year looks forward to greeting old friends as well as extending a welcome to new audiences. Increasingly, the live audience is complemented by the festival's huge digital following, with features such as the Nour Blog becoming ever more popular.

The Festival has an outstanding record of presenting artists and their work to a UK audience for the first time. Among the many premieres this year are the first UK solo exhibition of the Algerian multi-media artist Katia Kameli; the first UK performances by the peerless Khoury Project, Amir ElSaffar and internationally renowned Moroccan singer Fatima-Zohra; the first UK performance by the Arab Puppet Theatre Foundation from Lebanon; new work from the ASHTAR Theatre of Palestine and far more besides.

Nour is honoured to be the official UK partner for Kuwait Capital of Islamic Culture 2016. Working in close collaboration with the Kuwait National Council for Culture, Art and Letters and the British Council in Kuwait, Nour is delighted to present a number of the country's leading artists, including musicians Q80Tone and visual artists f160 and Ali Al-Zaidi.

Finally, Nour's acclaimed Creative Learning Programme will once again connect people of all backgrounds and ages, through its programme of hands-on creative workshops and other practical activities; from fan design to kite-making, Arabic typography to Arabian Nights. The programme has been particularly supported by Westway Trust.

The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea is proud to present Nour Festival 2016. Join us for what promises to be seventeen unforgettable days of joyous celebration, thought-provoking innovation, and artistic exploration.

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***Councillor Timothy Coleridge | Cabinet Member  
for Planning Policy, Transport and Arts***

# OH MY SWEET HOME BY AMIR NIZAR ZUABI

WEDNESDAY 2–  
THURSDAY 3 NOVEMBER  
*The Ismaili Centre*

They came from Damascus, from Aleppo, from Baniyas; where the bombs fall day and night and the wounded children look like sleeping angels. Now they live in camps and abandoned buildings in Lebanon and Jordan, as Syria becomes a haunting memory. A Syrian woman prepares kibbeh in her kitchen, while recounting tales of her vanished lover. Her stories bring to life an ancient land torn apart by a cruel war.

Amir Nizar Zuabi, Playwright • Jamil Khoury, Artistic Director • Anna Bahow, Director • Susaan Jamshidi, Actor • Corey Pond, Stage Manager

Brought to London by The Aga Khan Museum, Toronto and The Ismaili Centre London.



Bullets by Tareq Razouk

## **Tickets:**

Wednesday performance: £15 • £10  
(Concessions)

Thursday performance accompanied by a  
dinner soiree: £45

## **Bookings and more information:**

[www.thelittleboxoffice.com/nour](http://www.thelittleboxoffice.com/nour)

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Wednesday 2 November: 20.30–21.40

Thursday 3 November: 19.40–22:00

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## **Silk Road Rising Theatre Company**

creates live theatre and online videos,  
through Middle Eastern lenses and  
advancing a polycultural worldview.

[www.silkroadrising.org](http://www.silkroadrising.org)

[www.agakhanmuseum.org](http://www.agakhanmuseum.org)

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# CALENDAR

## **NOUR Special**

### **WEDNESDAY 12 OCTOBER**

19.30 — Reem Kelani (p. 17)

## **20–23 October**

### **THURSDAY 20 OCTOBER**

All Day — Moving Identities (p. 9)

### **FRIDAY 21 OCTOBER**

All Day — Moving Identities (p. 9) • Katia Kameli (p. 8)

19.30 — When Nobody Returns (p. 31)

### **SATURDAY 22 OCTOBER**

All Day — Moving Identities (p. 9) • Katia Kameli (p. 8)

10.00 — Arabic Typography (p. 37)

16.00 — This Flesh is Mine (p. 31)

19.00 — Arab Puppet Theatre Foundation (p. 32)

19.30 — When Nobody Returns (p. 31)

21.45 — Amir ElSaffar (p. 19)

### **SUNDAY 23 OCTOBER**

All Day — Moving Identities (p. 9) • Katia Kameli (p. 8)

19.00 — Arab Puppet Theatre Foundation (p. 32)

19.30 — When Nobody Returns (p. 31)

## **24–30 October**

### **MONDAY 24 OCTOBER**

All Day — Moving Identities (p. 9) • Katia Kameli (p. 8)

13.00 — Music@One (p. 18)

14.00 — Shadow Puppetry Workshop (p. 38)

19.00 — Persian Music (p. 20)

### **TUESDAY 25 OCTOBER**

All Day — Moving Identities (p. 9) • Katia Kameli (p. 8)

13.00 — Music@One (p. 18)

14.00 — Kite Making (p. 39)

19.00 — Nour Short Film Night (p. 4)

19.30 — This Flesh is Mine (p. 31)

### **WEDNESDAY 26 OCTOBER**

All Day — Moving Identities (p. 9) • Katia Kameli (p. 8)

13.00 — Music@One (p. 18)

19.00 — Halal Love (and sex) (p. 6)

19.00 — Tahar Ben Jelloun (p. 12)

19.30 — Q80 Tone (p. 21)

19.30 — When Nobody Returns (p. 31)

### **THURSDAY 27 OCTOBER**

All Day — Moving Identities (p. 9) • Katia Kameli (p. 8)  
• f160 and Ali Al-Zaidi (p. 10)

13.00 — Music@One (p. 18)

19.30 — This Flesh is Mine (p. 31)

19.30 — The Khoury Project: Revelation (p. 23)

19.30 — Ellene Masri (p. 22)

### **FRIDAY 28 OCTOBER**

All Day — Moving Identities (p. 9) • Katia Kameli (p. 8)  
• f160 and Ali Al-Zaidi (p. 10) • London  
Iranian Film Festival (p. 7)

13.00 — Music@One (p. 18)

18.00 — Juliana Yazbeck (p. 24)

19.00 — Friday Late: Far Away and Long Ago (p. 11)

19.30 — When Nobody Returns (p. 31)

### **SATURDAY 29 OCTOBER**

All Day — Moving Identities (p. 9) • Katia Kameli (p. 8)  
• f160 and Ali Al-Zaidi (p. 10) • London  
Iranian Film Festival (p. 7)

14.00 — This Sea is Mine (p. 13)

14.00 — Arabian Nights (p. 40)

16.00 — This Flesh is Mine (p. 31)

19.30 — When Nobody Returns (p. 31)

20.30 — Pomegranate Tree (p. 25)

### **SUNDAY 30 OCTOBER**

All Day — Moving Identities (p. 9) • Katia Kameli (p. 8)  
• f160 and Ali Al-Zaidi (p. 10) • London  
Iranian Film Festival (p. 7)

16.00 — This Flesh is Mine (p. 31)

19.30 — When Nobody Returns (p. 31)

## 31 October–6 November

### MONDAY 31 OCTOBER

- All Day — Moving Identities (p. 9) • Katia Kameli (p. 8) • f160 and Ali Al-Zaidi (p. 10) • London Iranian Film Festival (p. 7)
- 13.00 — Music@One (p. 18)
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### TUESDAY 1 NOVEMBER

- All Day — Moving Identities (p. 9) • Katia Kameli (p. 8) • f160 and Ali Al-Zaidi (p. 10) • London Iranian Film Festival (p. 7)
- 13.00 — Music@One (p. 18)
- 19.00 — Contested Archives (p. 14)
- 19.30 — This Flesh is Mine (p. 31)
- 20.00 — GLITCH (p. 33)
- 20.00 — Nour at NHAC (p. 26)
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### WEDNESDAY 2 NOVEMBER

- All Day — Moving Identities (p. 9) • Katia Kameli (p. 8) • f160 and Ali Al-Zaidi (p. 10) • London Iranian Film Festival (p. 7)
- 13.00 — Music@One (p. 18)
- 19.30 — When Nobody Returns (p. 31)
- 20.30 — Oh My Sweet Home (p. 34)
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### THURSDAY 3 NOVEMBER

- All Day — Moving Identities (p. 9) • Katia Kameli (p. 8) • f160 and Ali Al-Zaidi (p. 10)
- 13.00 — Music@One (p. 18)
- 19.30 — This Flesh is Mine (p. 31)
- 19.30 — Sudanese Dining (p. 42)
- 20.05 — Oh My Sweet Home (p. 34)
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### FRIDAY 4 NOVEMBER

- All Day — Moving Identities (p. 9) • f160 and Ali Al-Zaidi (p. 10)
- 12.00 — Rihab Azar: The Breeze of East (p. 27)
- 13.00 — Music@One (p. 18)
- 19.30 — When Nobody Returns (p. 31)
- 20.30 — Arshid Azarine (p. 28)
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### SATURDAY 5 NOVEMBER

- All Day — Moving Identities (p. 9) • f160 and Ali Al-Zaidi (p. 10)
- 11.00 — Stories from the Middle East (p. 35)
- 11.30 — Poets in Exile (p. 15)
- 12.30 — Homeland (p. 36)
- 16.00 — This Flesh is Mine (p. 31)
- 19.30 — When Nobody Returns (p. 31)
- 20.15 — Joseph Tawadros (p. 29)
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### SUNDAY 6 NOVEMBER

- All Day — Moving Identities (p. 9)
- 10.30 — Digital Patterns (p. 41)
- 14.00 — Homeland (p. 36)
- 16.00 — This Flesh is Mine (p. 31)
- 19.30 — When Nobody Returns (p. 31)
- 21.45 — Spirit of Morocco (p. 30)
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# ***NOUR FESTIVAL***

**The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Arts Service  
Pembroke Road, London, W8 6PW  
0207 361 3618 • [nour@rbkc.gov.uk](mailto:nour@rbkc.gov.uk)**

## ***DESIGN***

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**Don't miss out. Check the latest information, last minute additions  
and ticket availability at [www.nourfestival.co.uk](http://www.nourfestival.co.uk)**

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