



### **SAWSAN DARWAZA:**

Is a theater and film director who usually works on collective projects in an attempt to explore new zones in the field of art. She started her career as a filmmaker, when she introduced the audiovisual medium of film and video in her theater pieces. The intermingling between film and theater makes her projects carry a special orientation.

**Sawsan Darwaza** is now a director and managing partner in a production company in Amman Jordan, PIONEERS PRODUCTION COMPANY and the creative director in Mir at Media production house.

Born in Syria, she has spent her life in Beirut and Damascus until 1984, where she studied theater and French literature.

In 1985 she moved to Amman and started as an independent producer and director. Where she produced, written & directed more that ten plays.

When she started to work on a major television series of documentaries about **theater artist in the Arab world**, she entered into a new world of encountering the realm of different artists. She achieved **52 one-hour films** of a range of Arab artists and intellectuals under the umbrella of the ongoing series entitled "**An Artist with a View**" or Haoula'a Alakharoun, (1996 – 2003). Transmitted in most of the Arab satellite stations. The most important video films that she has directed and produced

"**Love is Harder,,, war is easier**" in 1991 - 2001 at the Hussein Palestinian camps in Jordan. A comparison between the lives of the refugees and how their views were altered as we interviewed them in 1991 then met them again 10 years later.

"**A Hundred Artists speak out**" in 2002, which is a message in the bottle to the globe in objection of what is happening today in the world vis a vis the Palestinian – Israeli conflict.

"**The Square**" 2003 the film is the impressions of the director & her friends on how the war on Iraq had brought new realizations to their world.

"**Identities / Borderlands**" 2006 – 2007: Profiles of 6 Arab-European Artists performing in Denmark "Images of the Middle East" 2006 stating their views and opinions regarding Identity in the process of Change in relation to their artistic project and in relation to globalization and it's impact on their emotional and their layered identity.

"**At Night**" 2008: A 26 min. film about prostitution in Jordan and its effect on the nucleuse relation between man and woman. It includes live interviews with sex workers in their work places VS interviews with affected individuals from the society.

## Plays and Theatre Projects:

1. A play "**Five Fingers Exercise**": written by Peter Shaffer, directed and produced by Sawsan Darwaza, Beirut - Lebanon 1982.
2. A play "**The Elephant o'king of Time**": written by Wannous Sadalla, directed and produced by Sawsan Darwaza. Beirut - Lebanon 1984.
3. A play "**A City With No Love**": written by Liv Estionv, co-directed by Sawsan Darwaza, RCC (Royal Cultural Center) 1986 Amman - Jordan.
4. A play "**Aria Da Capo**": written by Edna St. Vincent Milley, directed and produced by Sawsan Darwaza at the RCC 1987.
5. A play "**Shades of Eve**": co-written by Sawsan Darwaza and Haya Hussein, directed and produced by Sawsan Darwaza at the RCC 1989 - 1990.
6. A play "**Zakharef Al Kholkhal**": writings and adaptations through a collective workshop, directed and produced by Sawsan Darwaza at the RCC in 1990 - 1991.
7. A play "**Waiting for Godot**": translated and adapted by Sawsan Darwaza and Nasser Omar, directed and produced by Sawsan Darwaza, at the Ministry of Culture Theatre 1992, at the RCC 1992, at the Arab Authors conference 1993, at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Jordan Theatre Festival 1993.
8. A play "**The Lights of Jericho**": written by Haya Hussein for the radio. Winner of the prix Italia Award 1994, adapted and directed by Sawsan Darwaza for the theatre at Darat Al Funoun 1994 (The House of Arts, Shuman Foundation / Amman - Jordan).
9. A play "**The Trash Collector**": (**Al Zabal**), A mono drama, written by Mamduh Al Eduan, adapted and acted by Nasser Omar, directed by Sawsan Darwaza, and Hatem Sayed at Jerusalem Arabic Theatre Festival - May 1997, at Darat Al Funoun - June 1997 – Rawaq Al-Balka'a – September 1997.
10. A play "**Memory of Three Boxes**": written by Sawsan Darwaza & Haya Al Hussein, directed by Sawsan Darwaza. Amman Festival in March 1998, at the International Theatre Day, participated in Cairo Festival for experimental theatre / September 98, and in Carthage Theatre days / Tunisia, October 99.
11. A play "**Of Soil and Crimson**": Sep 2000. Under the umbrella of "*Festivities of Bethlehem 2000*". A joint co-production of Ahstar theatre / Palestine, Mira't Media Production / Jordan, El Teatro theatre / Tunisia. The play toured in Palestine and the Arab world. Winner of best Theater Techniques award at the Carthage Festival Oct. 2001.  
Scenic Writing by Sawsan Darwaza & Raja'a Ben Ammar Dramaturgy by Nasser Omar & Tawfiq Al-Jebali. Directed By Sawsan Darwaza.

12. A music installation "**Shazaya, Shrapnels**": concept and vision by Sawsan Darwaza, May 2002. Music by Sabreen Group "Kamelia Jubran" – Palestine & Washem Group "Najeeb Sharadi" – Morocco, Holland, Video Art projections by Sawsan Darwaza.
  
13. A play "**Struck by Lucidity**" 2004 – 2005 – 2006 – 2008 (produced in Arabic and in French / ongoing project). Theater play, A woman's revelation Dualism and schizophrenia Inside and all around. The camera...a character and a mirror, the friend and the enemy. Self-Projection through film, Self-confrontation through drama that leads to lucidity, performed in both Arabic and French. Written & Directed by Sawsan Darwaza, Music & Songs by Kamilya Jubran, Produced by Mira'at Media / Jordan, Shlauthous Theatre / Bern, Go-Production / Zurich.
  
14. A play "**Un-Sequenced or The Daily Bread**" 2007 – 2008 (produced in Arabic)  
It is a 3 short act play revolving around the theme of "the couple". In this project we try to dig into the dynamics of the couple relationships when found under different situations. Three short acts in where couples find themselves as lovers then as strangers then as a married couple. One of the acts is based upon the German play "The Daily Bread", by Gezina Dank Farte.  
Written By: Sawsan Darwaza, Khalil Darwish, Najeeb Nseir, Directed by: Sawsan Darwaza.  
Produced by: Mira'at Media Production (Amman – Jordan)  
In Coo-production with: Goethe Institute – Amman, French Cultural Center – Amman, Mira'at Media Production – Amman, Ministry of Culture – Jordan, and Amman Municipality – Amman, Damascus 2008 / Arab Capital of Cultural – Syria.