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The Arab-Israeli Cookbook

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TAYLOR UNIVERSITY'S

Mitchell Theatre

PRESENTS

TAYLOR UNIVERSITY THEATRE PRESENTS
THE JASON FRANCIS SCHOLARSHIP SHOW

THE ARAB-ISRAELI COOKBOOK

BY
ROBIN SOANS



THE DIRECTOR



In 1995 a young British actor, Robin Soans, was cast in a play at the Royal Court Theatre in London. The play was called *Waiting Room, Germany* and represented a new approach to play writing. The author, Klaus Pohl, had interviewed people from East and West Germany five years after the Berlin Wall had been demolished in order to learn how their lives had changed. He then used their own words to construct a series of monologues. He called the genre a Verbatim Play.

Soans wrote in the introduction to *The Arab Israeli Cookbook* that he was skeptical about this genre fearing that the performance might not be interesting enough to hold an audience's attention. However, his fears were dispelled when the audience "was moved by the immediacy and truthfulness of the material." In fact, he was so impressed by the "power of this new form" he decided to try his own hand at writing a verbatim script. After his initial success, he continued to interview real people and write in this genre.

The Arab-Israeli Cookbook is based on interviews conducted in Israel in 2003. The play opened at the Gate Theatre in London June, 2004. It introduced the audience to a diverse spectrum of Israelis and Arabs, all of them living in an impossible situation striving to cope. Each of the people you will meet tonight has their own story of what it means to live in a small country divided by walls and checkpoints, under the constant threat of violence posed by rockets and suicide bombers. Soans' play gives voice to the voiceless-- to those who have little or no political power but who everyday must choose to go to the supermarket, get on a city bus, eat in a restaurant, go to the mosque, the synagogue, or the church even though they know that markets, buses, restaurants, mosques, synagogues and churches are not really safe places.

But why a cookbook? Soans knew that the people who live in the Mediterranean world are passionate about their cuisine. He said food became the "way into the centre of Arab and Israeli lives." When he set up his interviews he requested that people "cook something" for him so they could eat together when they met. The results were amazing. Some people cooked whole meals. Others cooked favorite dishes. All were eager to include him in the ritual of breaking bread.

We live in a world that appears less and less ready to "beat swords

into plowshares". We turn our attention to the news expecting to hear stories of nations torn by civil war, of mass murders of innocent people whose ethnicity or religion makes them the targets of hatred and vengeance. We are horrified by the image of a little boy's body washed up on a faraway shore and the stories of thousands of ordinary people like ourselves driven from home and country, forced into detention centers, kept from moving to a better place because we fear them. In the play Nadia echoes our emotions after she describes the horrors of the Easter siege when Israeli soldiers kept at least eighty people locked in the church of the Nativity without food or water for more than forty days: "Where was the peace now? Where was the reverence in this?"

Where indeed is peace in this twice promised sliver of land? I was heartened to read the article "Voices Across a Mideast Divide" in the current Christian Science Monitor Weekly. Christa Bryant, the author, profiles twelve voices representing a cross section of this troubled land. She describes how ordinary citizens, Israeli and Arab are "striving to carve out a future for themselves without waiting for their leaders or a peace deal." They are doing this by developing interpersonal relationships across the divide.

In the context of the play Rena, an Israeli, stresses the power of friendships and she goes to a Palestinian restaurant owned by a friend who cooks for her. Another character, Fadi, A Greek Orthodox Arab, says "I'm setting out to make it my obligation to get them to stop hating me...if they end up liking this one Arab guy named Fadi, I will have achieved a lot." Nadia tells us she grows pomegranates, apples, pears, figs, lemons, and herbs...tending them every day...watering and pruning...following the seasons through them." Those who build friendships, plant and tend the garden are the ones who walk in hope and faith. They are the ones who may make a difference.

Jessica Rousselow-Winquist

THE DESIGNER



TERRANCE VOLDEN - TECHNICAL DIRECTOR AND SCENIC DESIGNER

Terrance is in his fourth year as Taylor Theatre's Technical Director. He graduated from Sterling College in Kansas in 2008 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication and Theatre Arts. After graduation, he spent almost three years as a missionary outside of Chiclayo, Peru working for Latin American Children's Fund as a teacher, pastor, and translator. In 2012, he obtained his education licenses in both Theatre and Vocal

Music, also from Sterling. His theatre credits include three years as Scene Shop Supervisor at Sterling College and freelance scene design and construction across Kansas and Oklahoma. His past work at Taylor includes scene designs for *Waiting for Godot*, *Freud's Last Session*, *The Cherry Orchard*, and *Wit*, along with directing *The Servant of Two Masters*.

THE STAGE MANAGER



Tamara is a junior Theatre Arts major with a minor in Professional Writing. She plans to be a playwright after graduating from Taylor. Kendallville, Indiana is home to Tamara. At Taylor she has appeared in *Crimes of the Heart*, *The Curious Savage*, *We Will Not Be Silent*, *Though the Earth Give Way*, *Tartuffe*, and various student directed shows.

TAYLOR THEATRE 2015-2016

The Marriage of Figaro

November 13-15, 20-22

Rabbit Hole

February 19-21, 26-28

A Midsummer Night's Dream

April 29-May 1, 6-8

**Tickets available at
boxoffice@taylor.edu, 765-998-5289,
the Rupp Communication ticket office or online at the
Taylor Theatre Schedule page at www.taylor.edu**

THE JASON FRANCIS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP



In 2010 Taylor University and the Theatre department lost one of its most beloved and talented graduates, Jason Francis. In his honor a scholarship fund has been initiated which will be awarded to an incoming student majoring in theatre. Currently, there are no theatre scholarships available to new majors.

The Communication Department faculty joined with Jason's friends to fund a scholarship to be awarded to an incoming student majoring in Theatre. We rejoice that we have been able to award this scholarship for the first time this year.

Our next goal is to raise an additional \$10,000 to ensure that the principal is large enough to sustain the grants for years to come. Will you consider partnering with us in growing the scholarship? If you would like to be a part of this process you can make a tax deductible contribution in any amount. Simply make your check payable to Taylor University and note "Jason Francis Memorial Scholarship" on the memo line. Thank you!

A NOTE FROM LINDA FRANCIS, JASON'S WIFE

This past summer I had the privilege of visiting Taylor University campus after 22 years. My former professor and friend, Dr. Al Harrison, kindly took my daughter (Michaela, 13) and me around campus to see all the new buildings and renovations, as well as familiar places. When we walked into Mitchell Theatre, Dr. Harrison started talking about the various shows and all the additions to the theatre program. I couldn't help but get emotional when I heard him talk about how it 'rained on stage' during the *Miracle Worker* and saw the photos of the awesome set designs mounted on the walls. I also learned that Taylor will begin offering a BFA degree in Musical Theatre effective Fall 2016. The program is a collaboration between theatre, music, and dance.

I cannot adequately express how proud Jason would be to see how far the Taylor Theatre program has developed. The announcement of the BFA degree would make him ecstatic! After working on Seattle stages for four years, he often asserted that musical theatre was by far his favorite dramatic genre. For him, musical theatre was the 'ultimate' culmination of all the arts—music (both vocal and instrumental) theatrical storytelling and visual arts (expressed via the sets and costumes) all rolled into a single production.

Before Jason died, he was working toward his Master of Fine Arts in Acting and Directing at the Johnny Carson School of Theatre at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln. His dream was to have theatre students of his own. Taylor University was definitely on his list as an option for future employment. One day I asked him why he wanted to go back to Taylor--, didn't he want to be part of a bigger environment in a larger city? His answer was, "At Taylor I would get to direct and teach university level students AND be able to openly share what Christ has done in my life? Yeah! Throw me to that briar patch!" Even though Jason was unable to fulfill his dream of teaching theatre at Taylor, his spirit will live on for years to come in the lives of students who receive this scholarship.

Linda Beth Francis

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR DISCUSSION PARTICIPANTS

Dr. Larry Helyer

Professor Emeritus Biblical Studies

Dr. Faye Chechowich

Dean of Faculty Development &

Professor of Christian

Educational Ministries

Dr. Michael Hammond

Dean, School of Humanities, Arts and

Biblical Studies

Ms. Carie King

Visiting Instructor of English

Dr. Scott Moeschberger

Associate Professor of Psychology & Higher Education & Associate Dean of Honors Program

Dr. Stephen Hoffmann

Professor Emeritus Political Science

THE ARAB-ISRAELI COOKBOOK

Sean Sele Fadi

*Alexis Colon Nadia

*Morgan Turner Rena

Nathan Pavey Hossin, Abdullah, Arnon, David

*Carter Perry Mordechai, Abdul, Raoul, Mohamad

Ty Kinter Daniel, Assistant, Naji, Liron

Grace Foltz Old Woman, Rose, Neighbor

Rachel Erskine Ayman, Customer

Erin Gauthille Levana, Aharon, Mounther

Bekah Estes Elti, Shoshi, Amal

*Zach Cook Dinu, Alon, Giora, Yaakov

Abby Palmisano Hala, Kim, Aftab

*Leah Murphy Myra, Fatthiyah

*Jessica Schulte Vitya, Friend

Deb Barnett Rivkah, Nina

***Haze will be used in this
production.***

***Denotes Alpha Psi Omega Membership
National Theatre Honor Society**

THE CAST



Sean Sele

Portland, Oregon is home to Sean. He is a junior Theatre Arts major. While at Taylor he has appeared in *Kiss Me, Kate*, *The Servant of Two Masters*, *The Miracle Worker*, *Tartuffe* and *I Love A Piano*. Sean thanks his dad and mom.



Alexis Colón

Alexis Jade Colón is a junior from Lebanon, Ohio, studying theatre and writing. At Taylor, she has performed in *The Cherry Orchard*, *The Miracle Worker*, and *Tartuffe*, as well as several other shows. Alexis is also a member of Taylor Playback Theatre and a MESA cabinet member. She is honored to be a part of the Jason Francis Scholarship show, and would like to extend special thanks to her family and Deborah Barnett.



Morgan Turner

Morgan is a senior Theatre Arts major from Bunker Hill, Indiana. She has had roles in Taylor's Playback Theatre Company, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Godspell*, *Two Rooms*, *The Curious Savage*, *The Miracle Worker*, *Tartuffe*, and *A Piece of My Heart*. Special thanks go to "two roommates who have to live with a Theatre major."



Nathan Pavey

Nathan is a senior Chemistry major from Bloomington, Illinois. He appeared in *Two Rooms* and *A Servant of Two Masters*. Also, Nathan is a former Sound Technician for Taylor Theatre.



Carter Perry

Carter is a senior Theatre Arts major from La Porte, Indiana. Shows that Carter has been in include *I Love A Piano*, *A Piece of My Heart*, *Tally's Folly*, *Tartuffe*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Cherry Orchard*, *A Servant of Two Masters*, *Kiss Me, Kate*, *Getting Away With Murder*, and *Godspell*. "Thanks to everyone who selflessly contributed to this production, and the Francis Family." For this opportunity I am grateful and thankful, Lord.



Ty Kinter

Scottdale, Pennsylvania is home to Ty. He is a sophomore Vocal Performance major who plans to perform following his time at Taylor. Last year he performed in the Opera Scenes and was in *I Love A Piano*. Ty also performed in Monty Python's *Spamalot* at a local theatre near his home. He would like to thank Dr. Angell for introducing him to the world of theatre.



Grace Foltz

Theatre Arts major Grace Foltz is a sophomore from Charlotte, North Carolina. In her first year at Taylor she worked as an assistant with hair and makeup for two productions and as an assistant stage manager. Grace also appeared in the student directed show *'Night Mother*.



Rachel Erskine

Rachel is a junior English Literature major with a Theatre Arts minor. Her vocational plans include editorial publishing and teaching English in the peace Corps. She comes to Taylor from Bolingbrook, Illinois. Last season Rachel appeared in *A Piece of My Heart*.



Erin Guatille

Erin is a junior Theatre Arts major who plans to work in scenic design following graduation. Her hometown is Saint Charles, Illinois. This is her first appearance on the Taylor mainstage. In high school she had roles in *The Lesson* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* among other shows. Erin is currently the master carpenter for the Theatre program.



Bekah Estes

Bekah is junior Exercise Science major from Mount Morris, Michigan. This is her first full year on campus, having studied abroad in both Ireland and Ecuador. While at Taylor, she has served as asst. scenic artist for *The Miracle Worker*, and asst. hair and make-up designer for *I Love a Piano*. She is currently Taylor Theatre's co-designer of hair and makeup. Bekah feels incredibly privileged to work in community with the theatre department and she is excited to see how God will use what she has learned both in the sciences and the arts in the future.



Zach Cook

Zachary is a senior History major from Whitinsville, Massachusetts. Throughout his time at Taylor, Zach has immersed himself in the study of world history and politics, so doing a show about the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict was particularly appealing to him. After Taylor Zach hopes to go to law school. Zach has acted in previous Taylor shows including *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Servant of Two Masters*, and *Tartuffe*.



Abby Palmisano

Abby is a junior music Education major from Wheaton, Illinois. She plans to be an elementary school music teacher. Abby is a member of Chorale and has had roles in *The Chairs*, *Dido and Aeneas*, *A Servant of Two Masters*, and *Kiss Me, Kate*.



Leah Murphy

Senior Leah Murphy is a Theatre Arts major from Cincinnati, Ohio. She plans to direct and continue her passion in Playback Improv Theatre. She has had roles in *Kiss Me, Kate*, *The Cherry Orchard*, *The Servant of Two Masters*, and *A Piece of My Heart*. Leah has worked as Production Staff for *The Curious Savage*, *The Miracle Worker*, *Tartuffe* and *I Love A Piano*.



Jessica Schulte

Jessica is a junior Theatre Arts major from Anchorage, Alaska, now living near Nashville, Tennessee. Jessica is a member of Taylor University's Traveling Playback Troupe, and appeared last season in *A Piece of My Heart* and *I Love A Piano*. She asst. directed *Tartuffe* last fall, and is Co-Designer for Hair and Makeup this year. She is unspeakably grateful for all of the opportunities for exploration and growth at Taylor and for the unfaltering support of her friends, mentors, and family.



Deborah Barnett

Home for senior Biology major Deborah Barnett, is Peoria, Illinois. She last appeared in Taylor's production *A Piece of My Heart*. Other theatre credits include *The Gondoliers*, *Antigone*, *Pirates of Penzance*, *Les Miserables*, *The Mikado* and *Princess Ida*. Deborah was also a member of the Taylor Chorale for two years.

THE PRODUCTION STAFF

Artistic Director.....	Jessica Rousselow
Technical Director, Scenic Designer, Lighting Designer.....	*Terrance Volden
Stage Manager.....	*Tamara Peachy
Master Carpenter.....	Erin Gaultille
Charge Scenic Artist.....	Megan McKechnie Matt Anderson Bekah Estes
Properties Master.....	*Conner Reagan *Leah Murphy Bradley Jensen
Costume Designer.....	Rachel Erskine Natalie Smiley Bradley Jensen
Makeup/Hair.....	*Jessica Schulte Bekah Estes Emma Cowell
Sound Technician.....	Paul Burris Alija Ozers Josh Rauh Patrick Linehan
Master Electrician.....	Rachael Kayes Elizabeth Steckenrider
Marketing.....	*Andrew Davis
Box Office Assistant.....	Evan Koons
Head Usher.....	Chin Ai Oh Michaela Shake Laura Sells Joseph Mosse Matthew Parks Hannah Tolentino Ashley Burkett Abigail Lingenhoel Wenqing Fu Hope Bolinger Paige Kennedy Hope Bolinger Michaela Shake Lauren Haynes Kait Bedel Bradley Jensen An-drea Sanders Julia Oller Carly Wheeler Lauryn Chan Brianna Polina Chrysa Keenon

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National Theatre Honor Society

W elcome to Taylor University Theatre. If you are a regular supporter of our program we thank you for your encouraging participation over the years. If this is your first visit, we trust that you will enjoy our work enough to return - again and again and again. We have a distinct calling as a Christian liberal arts theatre program, reflected in our philosophical statement. We welcome your participation, your comments on our work, and any suggestions you might have to help us accomplish our mission.

Come Play with us. . .

T aylor University Theatre is a co-curricular educational program supporting the liberal arts mission of the University by providing a broad range of theatre experiences that span most theatrical periods, genres, and styles.

Plays that probe the human condition and reveal human action with integrity, authenticity, and a sense of “grace,” provide us the opportunity to understand better what is true about ourselves and others.

While individual plays may not necessarily reflect the ethos of the Taylor community, we believe that this theatrical pursuit of truth resides at the heart of a Christian Liberal Arts education.