



ARAB AUSTRIAN WOMEN  
رابطة المرأة العربية النمساوية

## Arab Austrian Women's Association

Activities (September to December 2016)

**“Syrian Culture Days” – Film screening followed by**

**”Nai” Music and Vocal Group**

### Ciné Club

1) 8 September 2016

**Lovers' Notebooks – Syrian – Canada –**

Aliaa Khachouk, Eyad Aljarod



2) 13 October 2016

**Haunted // Maskoon (Orig.)**

Liwaa Yazigi



3) 10 November 2016

**The Shadow of Absence – Palestine –**

Nasreddine (Nasri) Hajjaj



4) 8 December 2016

**Home Syria, Lebanon – 2015 –**

Rafat Alzakout





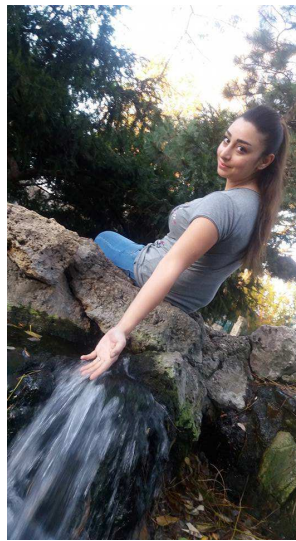
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## “Nai” Music and Vocal Group

*Director, Prof. Orwa Alshofi*



*Vocal: Anita Arkalian*



*Vocal: Christina Eshak*



*Vocal: Salman Radwan*

*8 September, 13 October, 10 November, 8 December 2016 8 pm*

Our music and vocal group is a multicultural Arab-Austrian-European group formed to promote Arabic heritage, art, music and culture. Members of our Arabic-Austrian-European group meet regularly to sing and socialize. They include male and female Austrians of Arabic origin, in addition to Austrians and Europeans of other ethnic backgrounds. The songs are in Arabic, Assyrian, Chaldea, German, English, French and other languages.



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## **Courses - Arabic Language –**



*Teachers: Ms. Maha Oueiss, Lena Kriaki and Marie Therese Kiriaky*

*Assistants: Mai Aleid and Dema Al Eid*

*12 September 2016 to 11 June 2017*

8 levels, each 2 groups

## **Courses - German Language –**

*Austrian Teachers*

*12 September 2016 to 11 June 2017*

2 levels, A1 and A2



## **Lovers' Notebooks**

**Directors:** Aliaa Khachouk, Eyad Aljarod

**Production country & year:** Syria, Canada – 2015

**Length:** 55 min

**Language:** Arabic with English Subtitle

**Trailer:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W8x6LF8o0aw>

### **Film Director:**

Aliaa KHACHOUK (1969, Syria) studied theatre and French in Damascus and screenwriting and communication at university in Montreal. She makes feature films, short films and documentaries. Her work has been screened on a variety of Arab TV channels and her films are screened at festivals around the globe.

### **Lovers' Notebooks**

**Lovers' Notebooks takes you on the night-time adventures of the men who write on the walls in the Syrian village of Saraqeb. Their slogans and other texts are used to document the revolution for three years, both its euphoria and failure.**

The walls are the book. The population of Saraqeb in Syria expresses the ongoing misery in their country and the changes after the revolution through graffiti. The walls are the basis for their existence, providing protection from outside violence. They also bear the names of martyrs, common expressions, poetry, revolutionary slogans and other graffiti. The documentary **Lovers' Notebooks** was shot over three years and is the first film by Saraqeb inhabitant and media activist Eyad Aljarod who directed it with Canadian-Syrian Aliaa Khachouk. The film reveals the constant tension between the revolt-sparked energy and a sense of despair, between leaving a place and the decision to return, between the euphoria about the beauty of an image and the fear of war. During the film and during the night, the walls of Saraqeb are filled with text like a lover's notebook.



13 October 2016

**Haunted // Maskoon (Orig.)**

<b>Directors:</b>	<b>Liwaa Yazigi</b>
<b>Production country &amp; year:</b>	<b>Syria – 2014 -</b>
<b>Length:</b>	<b>113 min</b>
<b>Language:</b>	<b>Arabic with English Subtitle</b>
<b>Trailer:</b>	<b><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FqBHUuI-1Z8">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FqBHUuI-1Z8</a></b>

**Film Director:**

In her feature documentary Syrian director Liwaa Yazji explores what it means to set off in a war. She meets friends and people previously unknown to her at their homes. Domiciles where they live now or where they yet live. Spaces that turned into a sought-after commodity.

When does one leave? What does one take? What aspects of life irretrievably end with the departure? How long can one sit tight? How do people call their departure? Are they refugees? Do they move? Do they leave? Do they see themselves as displaced people? Do they just move on? What does home mean? Which rights do they lose? From which loss can they protect themselves? What can they control? By means of her collected stories Yazji draws quasi en passant the trace of the endless refugee movements in the region of the last 70 years.

**Haunted // Maskoon**

When the bombs fell, the first thing we did was run away. It was not until later that we realized we had not locked back. We were not allowed to say goodbye to our home, our memories. We have become vacant like these spaces our hastily packed belongings and the forgotten things haunt us. An uncertain existence followed the escape and expulsion from Syria that tamale into a physic and mental nowhere, a non-space between yesterday and tomorrow. A Haunted of the loss of home and security, of the real and metaphoric meaning which a house, a home has in one life.



10 November 2016

### **The Shadow of Absence**

**Director:** Nasreddine (Nasri) Hajjaj  
**Production country & year:** Palestine  
**Length:** 84 min  
**Language:** Arabic with English Subtitle

#### **Film Director:**

Following a 20-year-career as a journalist, Nasri Hajjaj turned to film. His film THE SHADOW OF ABSENCE (2007/doc) won a Bronze Muhr at DIFF. His film AS THE POET SAID (2009) screened at DIFF and several international festivals.

He had his MA (Arts in Deviancy and Social Policy) Middlesex University, London, UK. And he wrote many books, and member of many film festivals

#### **The Shadow of Absence**

This film is an attempt to explore the anxiety that Palestinians are experiencing, especially those who have been uprooted from their land and have lived as exiles. This anxiety is about the site of burial, which lies at the heart of the legitimate dream and longing for homecoming and the struggle to find a unity to an identity that has been split and threatened.



8 December 2016

## **Home**

<b>Directors:</b>	<b>Rafat Alzakout</b>
<b>Production country &amp; year:</b>	<b>Syria, Lebanon – 2015 -</b>
<b>Length:</b>	<b>70 min</b>
<b>Language:</b>	<b>Arabic with English Subtitle</b>
<b>Trailer:</b>	<b><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FqBHUuI-1Z8">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FqBHUuI-1Z8</a></b>

### **Film Director:**

Born in 1977 in Syria, Rafat Alzakout graduated in 2003 from the Higher Institute of Dramatic Arts in Damascus in theatre acting and started his career as theatre actor and director.

In 2011 and with the outburst of the popular uprising in his home country, Rafat started to search for ways to interlace theatre with film and gained first experience in short filmmaking by directing around 30 satiric short films that use puppet theatre to lampoon the unfolding events in Syria.

As of 2012, his interest in documentary filmmaking led him to start working on his first feature documentary entitled “Home”, in which he in the midst of the Syrian turmoil, his passion for theatre leads Rafat, this film’s director, on a trip to North Syria where he encounters a group of friends around ballet dancer Ahmed, army deserter Mohammed and art teacher Taj.

They use the fragile peace and freedom to create a cultural space called “Home”, where they share their personal hopes and reveries for a better future. But in view of the shelling by regime aircrafts and the rise of the Islamic State, they find their dreams shattered.

### **HOME**

In the midst of Syria where he encounters a group of friends around ballet dancer Ahmed, army deserter Mohammed and art teacher Taj.

They use the fragile peace and freedom to create a cultural space called ‘Home’, where they share their personal hopes and reveries for a better future. But in view of the shelling by regime aircrafts and the rise of the Islamic State, they find their dreams shattered.



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**Address of all activities:**

**AAI, Türkenstrasse 3, 1090 Vienna**



**أوسترو عرب نيوز**

**www.AustroArab.at**