**8th Annual DC Palestinian Film and Arts Festival Gets Hands-On with Week of Films, Workshops, and Comedy in the District**

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WASHINGTON DC, Sept. 4, 2018 — This year, the DC Palestinian Film and Arts Festival (DCPFAF) grows to a week-long event and brings the audience into the art with hands-on workshops for the first time. The 8th annual run will take place from Oct. 2-7, 2018 at venues across the District and feature 13 films, including eight DC and one US premieres, artist panels, creative workshops, and stand-up comedy at the Kennedy Center.

This year’s festival, Threads of Resilience, celebrates Palestinian resilience in a tumultuous year: in light of the US embassy move to Jerusalem, the recent end of US aid to UNRWA - the UN agency for Palestinian refugees - developments in Syria, and more, DCPFAF will explore what it means to be part of a population that is consistently resilient in the face of crisis.

DCPFAF kicks off on Tuesday, Oct. 2 with the US premiere of Samar Salameh’s documentary, *194. Us, Children of the Camp*, which chronicles the director’s journey as he is forced to join the Palestinian Liberation Army in Syria only a month before the start of the uprising. Films continue throughout the week with a range of shorts, features, and documentaries on topics from women’s leadership during the 1987 Palestinian intifada in *Naila and the Uprising*, to a family-friendly short films bouquet, *Are the Kids Alright?*, with films exploring how children learn about and externalize the worlds around them.

Films will showcase the work of a generation of emerging Palestinian filmmakers and artists in conversation with more established films like *Wajib*, Palestine’s official selection for the 2017 Academy Awards. Acclaimed Palestinian actor, star of *Wajib*, and this year’s Spotlight Artist Saleh Bakri will join audience members for an exclusive talkback after the film’s screening on Oct. 4. *Variety Magazine* called *Wajib* “an intimate, well-played disquisition on what it means to be a Palestinian abroad versus a Palestinian at home.”

In a festival first, audience members step into the art and explore themes of cultural preservation and adaptation through three hands-on creative workshops. On Oct. 6, in partnership with Tatreez and Tea, festival goers will have the opportunity to learn the traditional embroidery techniques used by Palestinian women for centuries. On Oct. 7, a painting workshop in partnership Watan—a community space and arts studio focused on
exploring Palestinian intellectual, cultural, and historical heritage—will allow even the most inexperienced artists to unleash their inner Picasso.

On its closing night, Oct. 7, DCPFAF returns to the Kennedy Center’s Millennium Stage for an evening of stand-up comedy with international comedian Mona Aburmishan. Aburmishan, the first Arab and Muslim woman to perform stand-up at Carnegie Hall in NYC and the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, has performed, emceed, and produced comedy shows, competitions and events in major clubs, theaters and universities around the world. In addition to comedy, Mona is a sought-after speaker for her experience using stand-up comedy to bring joy and affinity in various socio-political topics in the United States and the Middle East.

To learn more about the DCPFAF and the 2018 program visit www.dcpfaf.org.

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**Background Information**
The DC Palestinian Film and Arts Festival is a 501c3 non-profit annual festival that champions the work of Palestinian artists and filmmakers in Palestine and in diaspora, showcasing the range and complexity of Palestinian identities and narratives. Founded in 2011, DCPFAF has drawn national and international attention for providing a unique platform in the District for Palestinian filmmakers and artists.

The 2018 DCPFAF was made possible by the generous support of our sponsors, who include: Dr. Nabil Qaddumi, the Violet Jabara Foundation, Jewish Voice for Peace-DC, Fred Hadeed, and Nabil Mufti.