

STORIES FROM THE WALLED-OFF HOTEL

A play by Theresa Wolfwood

The play had its premiere reading on Feb. 22, 2019 in Victoria, BC and viewers were given these background notes to help understand the context of the play.

Background notes: Stories from the Walled-off Hotel

The play is set in a hotel recently conceived by the British artist, Banksy in order to encourage tourism in Bethlehem. It is in a dangerous area of Bethlehem, close to the Israeli-constructed wall, near the gate and check point of entry to an Israeli military presence. It is near several refugee camps that have been there since 1948 as a result of the 'Nakba'. Israeli soldiers often come through the gate and enter these camps, spraying tear gas and harassing and detaining residents.



All the characters portrayed in the play are fictitious. The events and background stories are based on reality; people were buried alive in Nablus; homes and whole villages are continually being bulldozed and destroyed; residents are driven out by force. More than 1.5 million trees have been destroyed by the Israeli occupiers; replanting olive trees and harvesting from orchards are dangerous activities; people including children are killed during these times; others are detained, jailed or injured.

People are killed by the Israeli military during peaceful demonstrations. Israel often takes the bodies of their victims if they can. Roads and checkpoints are closed at the whim of the occupier.

Yes, some Israelis call Palestinians 'cockroaches'.

This play conveys the strong resistance that Palestinians integrate into their daily life, as they have for more than seventy years. Palestinians believe that living a full, normal and culturally rich life is an essential part of their resistance.

The **One Democratic State** movement is gaining support among Israelis and Palestinians. They call for a one secular, democratic state with an equal vote for all and with the right of return for the seven million Palestinians living in exile around the world.

At this time almost two million Palestinians live as 2nd class citizens within Israel and more than 700,000 Israelis live in illegal settlements with special services and access within the West Bank of Palestine.

The play is dedicated to all those thousands of Palestinians who have died in the struggle for freedom and independence of their country. The four people named are; **Nizin Jamjoun**, a fourteen year old girl, shot while standing on the balcony of her family home in Hebron; **Ziad Abu Ain** a senior, minister in the Palestine Authority government; **Aisha al-Rawbi**, a woman who was stoned to death by settlers while a passenger in a car driven by her husband; **Hassan Iyad Shalaby**, a teen-aged boy killed by an Israeli sniper in Gaza.

The play presents Palestinians as human beings with personalities, stories, lives and loves. Palestinians are *sumud*, steadfast, in their struggle for their rights.

We can support them by telling our government to respect the rights of Palestinians and to stop profiting from the Israeli occupation/ war on Palestinians. We can raise awareness among friends and take part in public events as well as respecting the call for boycott, divestment and sanctions of Israel.


The video of the play can be accessed on YouTube by putting: "Stories from the Walled-off Hotel by Theresa Wolfwood" into its search function.

you are invited to: *Cafe simpatico*
Friday Feb. 22: 1923 Fernwood Road
A reading of a new play


STORIES FROM THE WALLED-OFF HOTEL

Based in present day
Bethlehem, Palestine

Doors open: 7:15 pm
Music 7:30 pm
Presentation: 8pm
Refreshments
Admission by donation



The Victoria Central America Support Committee
www.facebook.com/vcasc www.victoriacasc.org/



Background and Resources for PALESTINE

Websites:

Arab Group for the Protection of Nature <http://www.apnature.org/en>
www.apnature.org/sites/default/files/occupiedwb-palest-bk-3-web.pdf

Palestine Farmers' Union www.pafu.ps/en

Palestine Museum of Natural History <https://www.palestinenature.org/>

Addameer www.addameer.org/ ADDAMEER (Arabic for conscience) Prisoner Support & H.R. Association works for child prisoners

. Also: <http://nwtac.dci-palestine.org/>

Press for Conversion: 2 special magazine issues:

<http://coat.ncf.ca/P4C/66/66.htm> <http://coat.ncf.ca/P4C/67/67.htm>

The Promise -a 4 part compelling drama made by UK Channel 4 available on YouTube

Canadian BDS Coalition: <https://bdscoalition.ca/>

BDS Movement <https://bdsmovement.net/>

BDS In Jordan <https://bdsmovement.net/countries/jordan>

<https://electronicintifada.net/> E magazine current issues in Palestine

BOYCOTT Hewlett-Packard electronics and Hyundai vehicles: both used by Israeli government to enforce occupation, detention, demolition. See: <https://bdscoalition.ca/>

Preserving culture: TIRAZ museum: <http://tirazcentre.org/en/widad-kawar>

Ways to support Palestine and its people: <https://buildpalestine.com/>

Books:

The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine: <http://bookreviews.bbcf.ca/2012/10/pappe-ilan-the-ethnic-cleansing-of-palestine-2007-oneworld-oxford-uk/>

Popular Resistance in Palestine <http://bookreviews.bbcf.ca/2012/10/gumsiyeh-mazin-b-popular-resistance-in-palestine-a-history-of-hope-and-empowerment-2010-pluto-press-uk-usa/>

Married to another man <http://bookreviews.bbcf.ca/2013/11/karmi-ghada-married-to-another-man-israels-dilemma-in-palestine-pluto-press-london-uk-isbn-978-0-7453-2065-6/>

Canada and Israel: Building apartheid <http://bookreviews.bbcf.ca/2012/09/engler-yves-canada-and-israel-building-apartheid-2010-red-publishing-b-c-and-fernwood-publishing-n-s-canada/>

The Battle for Justice in Palestine <http://bookreviews.bbcf.ca/2014/05/abunimah-ali-the-battle-or-justice-in-palestine-2014-haymarket-book-chicago-usa-isbn-978-1-60846-324-4/>

The Last Earth (and other books) by Ramzy Baroud. Pluto Books

POETRY

Here We Shall Stay by Tawfiq Zayyad <https://www.poemhunter.com/tawfiq-zayyad/>

It's also Fine by Mourid Barghouti from: Midnight and other poems www.bookreviews.bbcf.ca/?s=mourid

Hearts: by Theresa Wolfwood from: Love and Resistance. www.bookreviews.bbcf.ca/?s=love+and+Resistance

News sources:

www.Palestinrchronicle.com www.electronicintifadw.com

<https://mondoweiss.net/> <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com>
