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Freesheet

Salam & Holohan in association with Palestine Comedy Club
and Park Theatre presents

Palestine: Peace de Resistance

By **Sami Abu Wardeh**
Directed by **Sam Beale**

Cast & Creative Team

Biographies



Sami Abu Wardeh

Performer and Writer

Sami Abu Wardeh – ‘Full of charm’ Chortle – is a Palestinian-British performer blending clowning, comedy, and political storytelling to explore identity and resistance. His work is layered, intelligent, and thought-provoking while also being approachable and, typically, very, very silly. He is a leading voice of the Palestinian diaspora in the arts and comedy.

As an artist, his shows are a blend of comedy, theatre, and clown. His hit live show, *BEDU*, received critical acclaim and was one of The Guardian’s Top 10 Shows of 2022. He went on to create and star in the Channel 4 series *The Sheikh*. He is a playwright who’s work has been staged at the Arcola Theatre as part of Cutting the Tightrope and he has written and featured on BBC Radio 4, inc Damned Andrew and The Jaffa Cherry Orchard, and he’s regularly featured for The Guardian’s Long Read podcast.

Cast & Creative Team

Biographies

Sam Beale

Director

Sam is a Doctor of Comedy, Founder of Funny Side Collective, and a Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Authority (SFHEA). She is co-founder and artistic director of Palestine Comedy Club (PalCom) and author of *Beyond A Joke: comedy and social change in the UK* (2026).

Celine Effendi

Lighting Programmer and Tech Operator

Celine is a freelance theatre technician and skilled lighting programmer. She has previously venue-managed for The Pleasance Theatre and produced ensemble shows for the Bloomsbury Theatre. Specialising in technical production management for fringe theatre, she gravitates towards shows which highlight unique cultural narratives.

Qasim Salam & Laoise Holohan

Producers

Salam & Holohan Productions brings together award-winning producers Qasim Salam and Laoise Holohan, who share a passion for original and diverse performance. Formed in 2025, they develop and tour distinctive voices across comedy, theatre and storytelling - delivering each project with creativity, efficiency and care.

With specials thanks to Palestine Comedy Club, Counterpoint Arts, Amos Trust, Pal Art Collective, Vahid Hakimzadeh, Zoe Birkbeck, Jonny Woolley, Alaa Shehada & Storytelling PR.

About Park Theatre

An inviting and accessible venue, delivering work of exceptional calibre in the heart of Finsbury Park. We work with writers, directors and designers of the highest quality to present compelling, exciting and beautifully told stories across our two intimate spaces. Our programme encompasses a broad range of work from classics to revivals with a healthy dose of new writing, producing in-house as well as working in partnership with emerging and established producers. We strive to play our part within the UK's theatre ecology by offering mentoring, support and opportunities to artists and producers within a professional theatre-making environment. Our Creative Engagement strategy seeks to widen the number and range of people who participate in theatre, and provides opportunities for those of all ages with little or no prior contact with the arts. In everything we do we aim to be warm and inclusive; a safe, welcoming and wonderful space in which to work, create and visit. Park Theatre was recently accredited by the Mayor of London as a Dementia Friendly building.

As a registered charity [number 1137223] with no regular public subsidy, we rely on the kind support of our donors and volunteers. To find out how you can get involved visit parktheatre.co.uk

Jez Bond Artistic Director
Catherine McKinney Executive Director

With thanks to all of our supporters, donors and volunteers.

About Palestine Comedy Club

Palestine Comedy Club is a comedy production company established in the UK and Palestine, led by Alaa Shehada (*The Horse of Jenin*), Sam Beale, and film producer, Charlotte Knowles. It's working to establish a stand-up comedy circuit across the West Bank and provide space and funds for emerging talent in the region.

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*Telephone booking fee applies.