**Incubator for Creative Youths**

**The Bernard Van Leer Foundation – The Jerusalem Cinematheque – “Look to the Future” Nonprofit Organization**

The incubator will provide Jewish and Arab youths with the opportunity to practice and develop

**storytelling tools.**

The program lasts for one month and will culminate in a three-day seminar at the Jerusalem Cinematheque, to be held at the end of August 2022.

Participants will include 16 young adults, accompanied by two bilingual instructors from the fields of film and education. The joint process will provide a safe space for the participants to explore, seek, and develop their personal artistic points of view, while focusing on the following three tools:

* Self-perception
* Perception of the other
* Perception of phenomena

The program is intended for eight Palestinian 11th-grade students from the Al Ibdaa High School for the Arts in Sheikh Jarrah and eight Jewish students from various high schools in West Jerusalem. Among the participants are: writers, musicians, illustrators, photographers, and actors–all of whom share the desire to tell a story.

Part 1 – Introduction (Mid-July)

The group will meet at the Jerusalem Cinematheque, giving the participants a chance to get to know one another, as well as the instructors, and explore the premises.

The instructors will present the program and timetable and give the group a tour of the Cinematheque.

During this meeting, a WhatsApp group will be created, offering its members another platform for self-expression and discussion.

Part 2 – The Jerusalem Film Festival Experience (July 21–31, 2022)

The group will arrive at the festival for a meaningful two-day social and cinematic experience, launching the next stages of the project.

Upon arrival at the festival, group members enjoy the highest level of hospitality. Participants receive access tags to see film, pouches, and, of course, vouchers for pizza and soft drinks. After watching a film, participants have the opportunity to sit together with the instructors in a quiet and pleasant area and share their experience of the film. Participants also enjoy many other festival events, including meet-ups with directors, music concerts, outdoor screenings, and more. The group will stay at the YMCA Three Arches Hotel in Jerusalem.

Part 3 – Three Pre-Semester Meetings

Three weeks before the semester begins, the group will meet once a week at the Jerusalem Cinematheque.

A film will be screened at each meeting, followed by a discussion led by a well-known filmmaker, such as Tawfik Abu Wael or Ihab Jadallah. Each film will touch on the seminar’s themes:

* Self-perception
* Perception of the other
* Perception of phenomena

The aim of these gatherings is to continue strengthening the relationship between participants, and provide the optimal conditions for a discussion to develop about the topics addressed by the professional seminar.

Part 4 – The Seminar

The program will culminate in a three-day seminar.

Each day will include two intense and meaningful workshops, taught by leading bilingual professionals in the field of art, ending with a more lighthearted activity.

The group will spend the night at the YMCA hotel.

**Day 1:** Self-perception

Explanation of key points in developing the ability to tell a personal story, taught through music and writing workshops.

**Part 1:**

A music workshop designed to build comradery and set the tone for the program.

During the workshop, participants share their thoughts and feelings intuitively, ending the process with a song that they write and compose.

**Part 2:**

Telling a personal story by performing a text without musical accompaniment (e.g., standup/prose).

This part focuses on teaching participants how to deliver a text in a way that sounds natural; how to edit a text; how to distinguish between important and unimportant details, and how to take an intuitive creation and turn it into a story. Essentially: **what is a story?**

**Day 2:** Perception of the Other

**Part 1:**

Developing the ability to tell the other’s story. This will be achieved through an acting, writing, and drama workshop in which participants create and play characters based on the emotions of another person.

At the end of the workshop, participants experience playing a character in various scenarios to continue developing the character and its story.

**Part 2:**

Creating a character based on a person the participants know well, and developing a drama based on this character. Participants are encouraged to approach the task with an attitude of curiosity toward the character. This may be a person they were once afraid of or used to mock, yet was someone who had always intrigued them. Participants now try to understand this individual and tell their story.

**Day 3:** Perception of Phenomena

Integrating the first two days – the internal and the external.

This day focuses on how to direct narratives and documentaries.

**Part 1:**

Directing – building a scene based on previous work, and through implementation of the material and insights gained from the “what is a story?” lesson. The goal is to take a step “back” in order to gain a new perspective and explore what the scene is about, along with its components. Participants learn what distinguishes a personal story from a universally dramatic scene. The directing portion may be taught by a director using a small studio that will be set up in the classroom.

**Part 2:**

An interview – searching for an interesting story based upon personal experience or the experience of another person.

This represents a thematic transition back to the workshop’s starting point. Participants return to a personal story shared by one of the group members. However, the focus is now on how this translates to the camera, as well as on gaining an understanding of the documentary genre. This section of the program is more intimate. Participants interview each other as they learn how to conduct an interview, which questions to ask, and how they affect the person being interviewed.

The footage created as part of this activity will be edited into a reel that will include all the participants’ interviews.

Thus, the final part of this program will effectively become a chain of stories, amalgamated into one documentary, reflecting a unified discourse.