# PC NEWSLETTER

**From January to June: Six Months of Dreams, Movement, and Growth**

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The Palestinian Circus

## Highlights of 2026

The first half of 2026 saw the continued implementation of the Palestinian Circus's educational and artistic programs, alongside community-based activities, reaching children and youth across different areas of Palestine through regular trainings, workshops, and capacity-building initiatives. Despite ongoing challenges, circus arts continued to serve as a space for learning, self-expression, and creativity, offering participants opportunities to develop physical and social skills, strengthen self-confidence, and build relationships grounded in cooperation and mutual respect.




Artistic Development Program, Masar 1 Graduation Event, February 6th 2026

### Governance & Leadership Update

#### PC's Annual General Assembly Meeting 2026

The Palestinian Circus held its Annual General Assembly Meeting, during which a new Board of Directors was elected for the **2026–2028** term. We warmly congratulate the newly elected Board and look forward to a new chapter of creativity and impact, while extending our sincere appreciation to the outgoing Board and all General Assembly members for their continued dedication and support.



#### Partnership with the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)

In partnership with the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), the Palestinian Circus has implemented community circus workshops and interactive performances in Arab Al-Rashaida, Hebron, Ya'bad, and Al-Nuway'imah. The activities engaged 264 children (154 girls and 110 boys) through 24 training sessions, while the interactive performances reached 590 children, creating spaces for learning, play, and psychosocial support through circus arts.

### Capacity Building Wokshops and ToT

#### Educational Department

**Ghiras ToT Program:** Successfully completed a 10-day Training of Trainers (ToT) program, graduating 17 participants. A new cohort is planned for August 2026.

**Clown Peace:** Two participants, **Shahd and Sana**, have joined the international training in Austria, exploring circus and clowning as tools for peace, creativity and social engagement.

#### Artistic Department

***Circus Transformation in Action (CTF 9) - Sept.2025–June 2026***:

**Ahmed Abu Taleb**, Artistic Development Coordinator, participates in **Caravan's** international four-module programme for circus educators and practitioners, **strengthening professional exchange, capacity building, and youth and social circus practices.**

***Movement Workshop: (31 January 2026):***

Led by aerial artist and trainer **Julie Kent**, this workshop encouraged participating artists to explore new approaches to dance and movement, **enriching artistic practice and personal development.**

***Aerials Workshop (Tissue & Trapeze)(2 April–25 May 2026):***

Facilitated by our trainers and artists **Mais Rafeedie and Layan Rafidi,** the workshop developed participants' technical skills, culminating in internal showcases of their progress

***Puppet-Making Workshop (7-18 June)***

Organized in partnership with the **French Institute in Jordan & Archibald Caramantran company**, the workshop expanded our trainer, Mohammed Taqatqa's creative tools through puppet-making & object manipulation.

# Educational Highlights

During the first half of 2026, the Educational Department at the Palestinian Circus continued implementing its diverse programs that combine learning and creativity through circus arts, reaching 2,408 beneficiaries across Palestine.

**Numbers in 6 months**

- **172** Children have benefited from the **Childhood Program in** Birzeit, Tulkarm, Jerusalem and Jenin.
- **82** beneficiaries from the **social program**, including girls through the "Inhale" program and persons with disabilities through "Passion" program.
- **17** Adults have completed the **Training of Trainers Program " Ghirass"**
- **412** children have benefited from the **Mobile Trainer Program**
- **1725** people benefited from psychosocial support programs in **Gaza**



## Open Days

During this period, two open days were organized to celebrate the achievements of children participating in different programs. The events included the graduation of the "Jusoor Club" children in partnership with Art to the Heart Foundation, as well as an Open Day for the "Passion" program, providing children with an opportunity to showcase their skills and share moments of joy with their families and communities.



# Artistic Highlights

Amid an increasingly unpredictable reality , our Artistic Department remained steadfast in its mission to create, train, and perform. Driven by collective resilience, we reached milestones; more than 8,430 audience members, presented 39 performances, and graduated 11 artists from the first cycle of the **Masar** Program, each with an original solo creation.

**Numbers in 6 months**

- **28** local shows reached **6,930** audience-members across Palestine
- **11** International shows reached **1,610** audience-members in **Croatia, Slovenia, Italy & Netherlands**
- **26** young artists advanced their professional circus journey through the **Masar 2 & Sun programs**
- **1,500** audience members reached through a **Giant Puppet Parade** in Al Istiqlal Park in partnership with Al Kamandjati, the French Institutes of Jerusalem and Jordan, and Archibald Caramantran

## Productions

### *SARAB*: European Tour | June 2026

This June, SARAB toured Croatia, Slovenia, Italy, and the Netherlands, delivering 10 performances to 2,970 audience members. Presented at renowned festivals and cultural venues—including ***CirkoBalkana, Fragments of Circus, Klovnbuf, Terminal, World Refugee Day, Amsterdam Roots Festival, and Bijlmerparktheater***; the circus-theatre production explored the harrowing journeys of refugees through poetic imagery and evocative storytelling. Warmly received throughout the tour, SARAB reaffirmed the power of circus arts to inspire empathy, foster dialogue, and build connections across borders.



*Photo by: Milan Sabic – SARAB at Amphitheatre, Split – June 2026*

### *Step & A Half*

A circus production blending traditional Dabke with contemporary circus, developed with Incandescence Circus Theatre Company and supported by Drosos Foundation, Showponies, and Theatre & Circus Fields. Following a participation in Glastonbury Festival 2025, a run at Al Kasabah Theatre in May 2026, the production continues with performances in Ramallah Performing Arts Festival with Sareyyet Ramallah, London, and Edinburgh in summer 2026.

# What's Next?

- *Summer Camps & Open Days*
- *Continuation of Training of Trainers program "Ghirass"*
- *Step and a Half at Ramallah Contemporary Arts Festival 9th of July 2026*
- *Step and a Half at Underbelly Edinburgh as part of the Edinburgh Fringe Festival -* ***Ticket info***
- *Step and a Half at Soho Theatre, London -* ***Ticket info***
- *Participation in the Cirkus in Beweging – CirkOOH! CirkAAH! Youth Exchange in Belgium*
- *Welcoming three new mobile circus tents, supported by the Flemish Ministry of Culture*
- *Continuing our mission to bring The Wonderland production to more audiences across Palestine as we work towards presenting the show 50 times by the end of 2026,* ***with your continued support***

