

1001 Nights

A Celebration Of Multi-Cultural Aleppo



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What is 1001 Nights?

1001 Nights is a unique cultural event that weaves together ancient and modern expressions of Middle Eastern stories, food, music and wisdom traditions to celebrate our rich pluralistic culture.

The Problem

In the global imagination, the Middle East is often a place associated with violence, war, subjugated women and now natural disaster. Over a century of nationalism and colonialism has traumatised a land still rich in culture and indigenous wisdom.

Solution

Drawing on the cornerstone of Middle Eastern literature--*1001 Nights* and its brave, brilliant storyteller Scherazad--we respond to division and destruction with creation, reframing the Middle East as an epicenter of music, art and wisdom. We move beyond artificial borders, and religious divisions to celebrate a region of the world that can offer so much to her brothers and sisters.

The Pillars of the experience



Azad



**Tastes &
Aromas of
Aleppo**



**Unspoken Tales of
1001 Nights:
A Musical Experience**

Azad



Azad is a multimedia theatrical experience featuring ancient Karagöz shadow puppets, indigenous Middle Eastern folk music, oral storytelling, projection, and movement.

Following *1001 Nights* as a universal map for healing trauma, *Azad* also highlights the transformative friendship between Armenian artist Sona Tatoyan and jailed Turkish humanitarian Osman Kavala.

A visceral, multi-generational journey through Aleppo, *Azad* takes us from the Armenian Genocide to the Syrian War, offering the power of creation as a remedy for hate and destruction.
LEARN MORE

Tastes & Aromas of Aleppo



Antonio Tahhan guides the audience on a journey through the layered flavors and intoxicating aromas of Aleppo's culinary heritage.

With a carefully curated series of dishes, Tahhan touches upon the myriad tiles that compose Aleppo's enticing culinary mosaic.

Through these tantalizing flavors, guests are transported to the Aleppo that served as crossroads for the bustling trade along the Silk Road.

Unspoken Tales of 1001 Nights: A Musical Experience



An enchanting musical experience of joy and sorrow that flows from the music of our distant past, reviving melodies and longings buried deep within us. The masterful weave of music and spoken word unravels ancient tales and mystical tropes, flowing freely from the instruments and the masters who play them.

As the dialogues between instruments, masters, and audience build, and as the darbuka beat surges forward, we are transported once again to Aleppo, to its teeming, bustling soul. We celebrate, together, all these things that make us one.

History

01

1001 Nights: May 23, 2021

First 1001 Nights event infused ethnic instruments, electronic sounds, with powerful 1001 Nights stories and reframing trauma along with healing modalities to create cohesion and healing.

[LEARN MORE](#)

02

1001 Nights: Aug 08, 2021

Night 2 of 1001 Nights built upon the experience. Azad was performed for an audience for the 1st time, followed by aA meditative musical journey . Concluded by a musical journey infusing Ethnic Middle Eastern instruments and electronic sounds for an uplifting celebration.

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Upcoming



1001 Nights: A Celebration of Multi-Cultural Aleppo, September 28, 2023

Pergamon Museum invitation to perform Azad and 1001 Nights Experience in Berlin celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Syrian Heritage Archive Project, as a model project for documenting cultural heritage in crises.

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1001 Nights: A Celebration of Multi-Cultural Aleppo, October 27, 2023

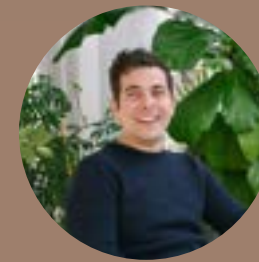
1001 Nights will be the closing event of Human Rights and the Global Assault on Democracy Summit at the Dodd Center for Human Rights at The University of Connecticut.

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Team



Sona Tatoyan (Creator of Azad and co-creator 1001 Nights)



Antonio Tahhan (Syrian Food Writer and Researcher)



Isaac Saboohi (Producer/co-creator of 1001 Nights)



Jivan Gasparyan, Jr. (Renowned Armenian Musician)



Ken Shulman (Narrator of 1001 Nights Musical Experience)



Danny Shamoun (Assyrian Multi-Instrumentalist & Producer)



Antoine Makdis (Aleppine Research and Development)



KÁRYYN (Composer and Vocalist)

Isaac Saboochi

(Producer/co-creator of 1001 Nights)



Isaac Saboochi is an Iranian Jew who immigrated to the US as a refugee. His passion for sound and technology, combined with his 20 years of experience, led him to develop several products and set him on a journey of healing through sound. He is the founder of BioTune, a wellness platform, and Spirit Journeys.

It was his desire for transformation and reconnecting with the wisdom of indigenous cultures that took him on a path to create meaningful wellness and cultural experiences. Through the exploration of his roots, and rediscovering the power of traditional instruments like Ney (a Persian reed instrument) he was inspired to create 1001 Nights through which Azad was formed. Isaac is a bridge between two worlds – honoring musicians, artists, and creating opportunities that will enrich future generations through art.

Sona Tatoyan

(Creator of Azad and co-creator 1001 Nights)



Sona is a first-generation Syrian-Armenian-American actor/writer/producer. As an actress, stage credits include world premieres at Yale Repertory Theatre, The Goodman Theatre, The American Conservatory Theatre and others. She starred in *The Journey*, the first American independent film shot in Armenia (winner, Audience Award Milan Film Festival, 2002).

As a writer, her first feature film script, *The First Full Moon*, was a 2011 Sundance/RAWI Screenwriters Lab participant and 2012 Dubai Film Connection/Festival Project.

Ms. Tatoyan is the co-founder of TV/Film production company Disruptive Narrative and the non-profit Hakawati alongside international human rights barrister Jennifer Robinson of Doughty Street Chambers. She is currently in development on her TV series about Aleppo through the twentieth century, *Three Apples fell from Heaven*.

Antonio Tahhan

(Syrian Food Writer and Researcher)



Antonio is a Syrian American writer and researcher interested in the intersection of food, culture, migration, and identity. Born in Venezuela to a Syrian family from Aleppo and growing up in Miami, Antonio draws inspiration from a variety of cultures. In 2010, Antonio was awarded a Fulbright research grant to study traditional food practices in Syria.

His most recent research includes the politics of sourdough fermentation during lockdown, clay pot yogurt as a vessel for communal practices, and molokhia as a lens for national identities. He has contributed to two edited volumes: *Making Levantine Cuisine* (UT Press, 2022) and *Resilient Kitchens* (Rutgers University Press, 2023). Antonio holds a master's degree from the Center for Contemporary Arab Studies at Georgetown University.

Ken Shulman

(Narrator of 1001 Nights Musical Experience)



Ken Shulman is a veteran print ad broadcast journalist whose work has appeared in The New York Times, Newsweek, The New Yorker, NPR, and PBS. Widely traveled—he has produced features in over 60 countries—Ken has worked extensively in the Middle East and visited Aleppo in 2009.

A graduate of Middlebury College and the Harvard Kennedy School, he is currently the host of “Away Games,” a multi-platform travel series that uses sport as a lens to view lives, conflicts, and cultures around the globe. Ken plays three instruments, speaks seven languages, and lives and works in Cambridge Massachusetts.

Antoine Makdis

(Aleppine Research and Development)



Antoine is a writer, civil society activist, photographer, and producer born and raised in Aleppo, Syria. He is the founder of Warsha Production House, the first independent cultural production house in Aleppo. Warsha creates a variety of artistic, educational, entertaining programs related to Syrian cultural heritage playing a key role in restoring the legacy of Aleppo.

Antoine represents Aleppo in the UNESCO conference to safeguard Syrian National Heritage. He created the Piano Program: a social and religious dialogue program for all Syrians to heal from the war and create a more coherent society. Mr. Makdis is a consultant for 1001 Nights and responsible for gathering the research behind 1001 Nights documentation.

Jivan Gasparyan, Jr. (Armenian Duduk Musician)



Jivan was born in Yerevan, Armenia, and inspired by the Armenian folk melodies his grandfather played. Jivan moved to LA in his teens and pursued duduk and music full time. He quickly gained a reputation as one of the finest duduk players, performing with Jivan Sr. at prestigious concert halls and playing at Nelson Mandela's 90th birthday celebration in London, 2008 and the London Philharmonic, 2009. Jivan has released 3 solo albums and won awards such as Big Apple Music Awards for the best duduk player in New York and 1st prize at Duduk competition in 2010. UNESCO provided Jivan a special award during the 8th International Music Festival in 2011.

Jivan has performed with notable musicians such as Michael Brook, Serj Tankian, Madeleine Peyroux, producer Larry Klein, Armen Babakhanyan, Heavy Machinery, Kadance Ensemble, Walter Quintus, Vahag Hayrapetyan, Armen Hyusnunts, Armenian State Jazz Band.

It is Jivan's passion to infuse the traditional melodies of Armenian Duduk with modern music to leave a lasting impression.

Danny Shamoun

(Suryani Multi-Instrumentalist and Producer)



Hailing from Detroit, music producer and instrumentalist Danny Shamoun contributes his Middle Eastern roots into the creation of Mesopotamian house music and ethereal meditation soundscapes. Under the mentorship of Ethnomusicology professor Dr. A. J. Racy (UCLA), Danny studied the classical music of the Near East helping him gain a vast knowledge in the art of composition and music history.

Having recorded and toured with world renowned artists such as System Of A Down, Scars on Broadway, along with film scoring credits, proved to be a pinnacle in the vast musical experiences as a world touring artist. Integrating the Ney, Kawala and Santoor, Danny released his first meditative piece "Deep Thoughts" in 2020 on all music platforms, achieving over 12 million streams. Today, Danny continues to collaborate with top film composers and producers in the electronic scene while promoting his solo releases with shows around the world along with private sound meditation experiences.

KÁRYYN

(Composer and vocalist)

KÁRYYN is Syrian-Armenian composer, producer, vocalist, songwriter and videographer who draws from the worlds of classical, pop, and electronic music to formulate a unique sound that explores her heritage while delving into uncharted sonic territories that connect personal, scientific and spiritual dimensions of creative expression, reaching towards something universal. Her songs have been featured in multiple films and acclaimed TV series for Netflix, HBO and in cinemas worldwide. Most recently, her track "BINARY" was featured during the unveiling of Apple's iPhone 13 Pro.

She composed for the abstract opera "of Light" directed by Samantha Shay and supervised by Marina Abramović, and has an ongoing collaboration with Frank Weidemann of the house/techno duo me, which yielded a #1 hit at German club charts for "The Witness", on September 2021. Now based between London and Los Angeles, she is finishing the follow-up to her debut album "The Quanta Series", released in 2019 on Mute Records.



Partnerships & Bookings

1001 Nights is a self-contained experience that can travel to cultural centers and museums at home and abroad.

In concert with our grassroots ethos, we work with local artists and institutions to support indigenous arts programs and apprenticeships.



[CONTACT US FOR BOOKING INQUIRIES OR PARTNERSHIPS](#)





Donations & Sponsorships

With your support we can continue to build this experience that supports the arts while also supporting the artists that have devoted so much to this project.

Any amount is appreciated. Simply follow the link below to make a tax-deductible contribution.

DONATE





Hakawati NGO integrates the work of professional artists, renowned spiritual teachers, innovators, scientists, and therapists with a commitment to transform trauma through authentic storytelling.

Hakawati is a non-profit organization that accepts donations globally. USA donors can make use of its 501(c)(3) tax exempt status (EIN #83-1664484).

www.hakawati.org