

**Press release**

**“ARNA'S CHILDREN” - DOCUMENTARY SCREENING**

**On Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May at 8pm, The Weaving Mill presents the screening of the documentary film “Arna's Children”, a Palestinian documentary film about a children's theatre group in the Palestinian occupied territories. This screening is organised by ‘Cyprus Palestine Solidarity Campaign’ to mark the 60th Anniversary of Al-Nakba (the Arabic word for 'the catastrophe'), the day Palestine was occupied and Zionist state created.**

“Arna's Children” (85min, English subtitles, 2003) is a Palestinian documentary film about a children's theatre group in Jenin in the Palestinian occupied territories. Directed by Danniell Danniell and Juliano Mer, the film won "Best Documentary Feature" 2004 Tribeca Film Festival.

Arna Mer-Khamis, a Palestinian Jewish woman, was a legendary activist for the rights of the Palestinian people. During the First Intifada she helped establish a children's theatre group in Jenin refugee camp in the West Bank, teaching children, including Zakaria Zubeidi, to express themselves through acting. Her son Juliano, a director for the group, filmed Arna working with the children over a 6-year period. Following Arna's death, he returns to the camp to find out what became of the young refugees.

The 14<sup>th</sup> of May marks the 60th Anniversary of Al-Nakba. In 1948 Israel drove approximately 750,000 Palestinians from their homeland. Today nearly seven million people remain in exile in refugee camps dispersed around the world, forbidden to return to their homeland.

**For further information:**

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**This screening is supported by:**

Union of Palestinians in Cyprus  
KISA, Action for Equality, Support, Antiracism  
Workers Democracy  
Stop the War Coalition-Cyprus  
New Cyprus Party (YKP)  
BARAKA Cultural Centre  
Youth Against Nationalism  
Federation of Ecol. & Envir. Organizations  
Nepalese Equality Partner Association for Liberty  
Kalimerhaba HellenoTurkish Community  
Hands Across the Divide  
ASI (Cultural Centre)  
Cyprus Indymedia  
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