

For Immediate Release



Special theater production to be staged in war-ravaged part of town, in remembrance of war

Beirut, Lebanon- 28/04/2014 - The American University of Beirut (AUB) with the support of the International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ), marks the 39th anniversary of the beginning of the Lebanese Civil War, with the presentation of a site-specific promenade theatre performance entitled *Watch Your Step: Beirut Heritage Walking Tour*, which will be held on May 3rd and 4th, 2014 at 15:00 and 17:00 in Khandaq Al Ghamiq, near the center of Beirut.

[AUB](#) and [ICTJ](#) both recognize the urgent need to engage the entire Lebanese society in the process of recuperating memories and revealing the truth about the country's history of violence. One significant goal of this site-specific theatre piece is to serve as an eye-opener for both performers and audience about the importance of remembering and confronting our past as the only path to a sustainable peace. The performance is a contribution to the creation of a broad understanding in Lebanese society of the need to squarely acknowledge our tragic legacies as a prelude to an effective reconciliation process. Another significant aim of this performance is to dramatize the necessity and usefulness of civic action in the absence of any official measures to remember the nation's civil war.

Site-specific theatre is a type of performance that takes place in a found space, a location that was not constructed to function as a theatrical site. Khandaq Al Ghamiq, a living history of the war, becomes a silent character that plays a major role in the theatrical story, which combines architecture, love and war. The promenade performance was conceived by [Sahar Assaf](#), a Lebanese theatre actress and director and a Lecturer in Theatre at AUB, and her students in the Fine Arts and Art History course "Workshop in Theatre Production." It was written by [Robert Myers](#), a playwright and Professor of English and Creative Writing at AUB, and directed by Sahar Assaf. *Watch Your Step* was devised from ICTJ's mapping report "[Lebanon's Legacy of Political Violence](#)" and oral history film "[Badna Naaref](#)" (We Want To Know), and the active participation of Lebanese individuals who generously shared their memories and stories of the war.

The tours will be available in Arabic language; however, the scenes are designed to also engage non-Arabic speaking spectators. The audience, comprising of only 15 members per tour, will be picked up from AUB's Medical Gate to be immersed in a trip into the past. They are advised to follow their guide at all times, wear comfortable clothes and shoes as the tour will involve walking up and down stairs, and carry their personal items in the pockets of their clothing. Also, the audience is advised to follow the attached guidelines.

To watch your step as you take a walk through Khandaq Al Ghamiq, reserve on: watchyourstep2014@gmail.com by May 1 at the latest. For more information, please call the director at 03-757467.

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Note to Editors

About AUB

Founded in 1866, the American University of Beirut bases its educational philosophy, standards, and practices on the American liberal arts model of higher education. A teaching-centered research university, AUB has more than 700 full-time faculty members and a student body of about 8,500 students. AUB currently offers more than 100 programs leading to the bachelor's, master's, MD, and PhD degrees. It provides medical education and training to students from throughout the region at its Medical Center that includes a full service 420-bed hospital.

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