

الطهرين Al Hoshn Festival الطهرين

25.11
- 4.12
Festival
Programme

QASR AL HOSN

The historic heart of Abu Dhabi is alive with an action-packed live museum programme and engaging exhibitions, presenting the rich and diverse culture, heritage and history of the UAE capital.





Qasr Al Hosh Highlights



A Lens Through Time Exhibition

This exhibition will display a collection of photographs, from the very first photos of Qasr Al Hosn taken by historians to contrasting modern-day photos of Qasr Al Hosn snapped by competition winners.

National Consultative Council Archival Film

An archival feature film will be projected outside of the NCC, showcasing the beginnings of the national council, from Sheikh Zayed the First's majlis and moving through the years to the inaugural address of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan in the National Consultative Council Building next to Qar Al Hosn.

A Day in the Palace Exhibition

This exhibition focuses on the everyday lives of people at the palace. Through oral history accounts, historical documents and photographs, 'A Day in the Palace' shows the visitor a typical day in the 1950s and 1960s, following the activities of fictional characters, as inspired by historic figures such as residents, guards and foreign dignitaries.



A Photoshoot Experience

Al Hosn photoshoot experience offers visitors a unique opportunity to explore traditional fashion while also combining different pieces together in an expression of personal taste. Take away a historic photograph to remember by Photographer Mahra Al Muhairi

An Experience with The Host

A hidden location in Qasr Al Hosn is home to this one-of-a-kind experience. Track down the location through clues scattered around the fort, and find The Host, an Emirati-owned coffee shop.



Workshops

Candle Making - Discover how to make your own candle, with a signature scent reflecting the essence of the Fort.

Scent Poetry - Dr Afra shares how to write poems inspired by the memory of grandmothers and their scents.

Incense Creation - Discover how to blend your own traditional Bukhoor incense, inspired by the scents of Qasr Al Hosn.

Emirati Heritage Passport

Activity stations related to the intangible heritage of the UAE will take place across the festival grounds. Children will receive a "Checklist" at the entrance of the exhibition and encouraged to visit as many stations as possible. The goal is to integrate and highlight ICH elements at intervals throughout the site. Children will be introduced to short activities, both as individuals and in group settings where appropriate. Traditions of a Majlis, Gahwa Experience, Ayyala, Al Azi, Falconry, Pearling & Fishnet making, Sadu, Talli and Khoos.



Festival Arena

Surround yourself with family and friends in a festive open-air setting, where the enthralling sights and sounds of live concerts, shows and performances will get you moving and put a smile on your face.

Visit the Festival Arena and enjoy:

Eida Al Menhali Concert

Eida Al Menhali Concert, a special performance by "The Emirates' Voice" on November 26th opening weekend

An Emirati artist and singer, who was given the title of "The Emirates' Voice" by his fans. He recorded multiple songs that gained great success at all levels and on different platforms, achieving high views and interaction from his audience, and breaking records in the number of attendees at his concerts, and through various social media channels.

Hamad Al Ameri Concert

Hamad Al Ameri Concert, a UAE National Day celebration by the pride of the nation to honour the UAE's Golden Jubilee on December 2nd presented by Cultural Foundation, this honor the UAE's Golden Jubilee.

Borealis Northern Lights

by Dan Acher. Artwork presented by Cultural Foundation

Swiss artist Dan Acher brings the experience of watching the Northern Lights to cities around the world. His creation is as much a technological performance as a work of art, featuring high-powered laser beams and colours which convey magical illusions.

December 1st & 2nd from 7pm – 9pm
December 3rd & 4th from 9pm – 11pm



Traditional Performances

Everyday: traditional performances, falconry shows and The Police Marching Band.

Gahwa Championships

Gahwa Championships 2021 UAE Edition Award Ceremony on December 3rd from 6pm – 8pm.

See EXCHANGE for details on Gahwa Championships 2021



HERITAGE

Step into a land where time stands still and immerse yourself in, artisan-led demonstrations and interactive learning experiences that celebrate the days of our cherished ancestors and their way of life.





Qasr Al Hoshn Community

Classic Cars

To mark fifty glorious years since the founding of the UAE, fifty classic cars will line up for your inspection and admiration. Experience the motoring culture of past decades, and imagine how life in the city looked when these vehicles last toured the streets.



Police Marching Band

The synchronised movement and music of the UAE Police Marching Band has made it a highlight of many national events, but it looks and sounds at its very best at Al Hosn. The Band will add vibrancy, excitement, energy and colour throughout the Festival – so, look out for the uniformed marchers.



Qasr Al Hosn Police

Meet the police who used to protect the fort and its residents. Listen to their stories, watch them march and chant, then get professionally photographed alongside this historic force to create a wonderful memento.



Live Museum

We cannot go back in history, but the next best way of appreciating life at Al Hosn Festival in ancient times is to watch daily routines and rituals being re-enacted. Costumed actors and props recreate life inside the fort but also beyond, bringing historic narratives of the desert, oases and coastlines back to life.

Al Na'ashat

The Naashat is a dance, performed by at least four female dancers moving their heads and hair rhythmically as they sway in time to traditional drum beats and other percussive instruments. The vision of swishing hair, colorful dresses and unusual routines combine to make the unique and unforgettable effect of the Naashat dance.





The Village



School & Traditional Games

Stroll through authentic streets and alleys to visit iconic structures, enjoying the vibrancy of an old Abu Dhabi town. Visit a replica of the first school ever built in Abu Dhabi, exploring its classrooms before escaping into the playground for a taste of the games once played by our ancestors.

Wedding House

The ever-popular wedding house provides a privileged insight into how Emirati women used to prepare the bride and her dress. The House is situated in the Old Neighbourhood, with its buildings and materials evoking how Abu Dhabi would have looked and felt in times gone by.

Talli

Talli is a specialist art form, adding embroidery to the borders and edges of traditional clothing. Find out how twisted cotton threads are used to turn simple plain garments into decorative wonders, before trying your hand at this needlework technique.

Henna & Aajfa

Learning from nature – repurposing herbs and foliage – has always been part of Emirati culture. Learn how henna evolved beyond its initial medicinal use to create body art, and how aajffa herbs and spices are used to scent and style distinctive hair looks.

Dukhoun & Textile Dyeing

The mastery of herbs and foliage is the foundation of many Emirati innovations. For example, mixing and burning herbs led to the creation of dukhoun, a distinctive form of fragrant incense. Explore how nature inspired textile dyeing, using natural ingredients.





Burqa

The materials, techniques and dexterity required to make the intricate burqas traditional to the region are all demonstrated by skilled craftspeople. This is a fascinating chance to gain insight into the creation of this body covering, an important aspect of Emirati history and women's culture.

Dukkan

This beautifully-arranged recreation of the past depicts a grocer's premises within a tableau of community life in old Abu Dhabi. Buy dry items ranging from spices to sugar, beans to herbs and tea to coffee. Step into this scene to see, smell, hear, feel and taste a past way of life.

Blacksmith

This is where heat, expertise, strength and precision come together. Using skills introduced as much as 5,000 years ago, the blacksmith performs miracles of transformation, shaping unprocessed metals into tools, weapons and utensils.

Pottery

How can a lump of clay become a beautiful or useful plate, bowl, vase or sculpture? Here you'll find the answers, as skilled craftspeople demonstrate the essential skills and resources needed to turn nature's raw materials into crafted pottery.



The Souq





The Souq

Navigate an authentic souq for a traditional retail experience, where you can take home scents, textiles and spices, or sample a range of delightful traditional dishes from a pop-up of the beloved Meylas.



Meylas

Experience traditional flavours in a small cafe decorated like an Emirati canteen from a bygone era. Step inside this pop-up version of a local favourite to feel like you're at the start of the UAE's modern development in the UAE, and taste coffee from traditional Dallah pots.



Marine



Dhow Making

Every dhow holds layers of materials and skilled craftsmanship, bringing together knowledge from across the community. Witness artisans working on an unfinished replica vessel, recreating the traditions of centuries past.



Dhow & Oyster Opening

Dhows are beautiful from afar, but fascinating when aboard. Step on to see this ancient marine craft up close and watch oysters being opened. Will one reveal a pearl? If so, you may find yourself taking it home. Either way, everyone can enjoy the suspense.

Fish Salting

Before the age of refrigeration, fish and other perishable foods could only be preserved through salting or drying. The skills are still alive, and you can see them in action in this demonstration. Here you can learn about the salting process.

Fish Traps (Gargoor)

Traditional fish traps, locally known as "Gargoor", are still used today, testifying to their smart design and timeless effectiveness. Watch the admirable weaving techniques involved.

Fishnets

There is a lot more to making a fishing net than you might imagine. The craftspeople of this region needed to create consistently strong nets to bring in vital food for communities along the coast. Watch experienced mariners create and sew together different types of net using traditional tools.



Net Casting

Get a close-up view of how local fishermen cast their nets, using skill and dexterity to catch fish of different types and sizes. The sight of the net casting which you see today distinguished this coast for hundreds of years.



Sails

Making a sail is not just about stitching ability: it requires mathematical capabilities and advanced craftsmanship. Here is where you can see this turned into a reality, watching experts measure and make sails for different boats.

Shasha Boats & Paddles

Shashas are small rowing boats and a true art form, being made entirely from palm. Watch their evolution from plant to boat, learning which parts of the tree are used and how tools are used to create different boat types, each suited to making rapid progress through the water.



Al Nahma

When pearl divers rowed out to the best diving sites, they chanted to stay motivated and maintain a steady rhythm. These evocative chants are not lost: you can hear them for yourself, imagining the sun glinting off the water as the pearl divers headed off to work.

Al Ayyala

This iteration of the traditional Ayyala - a key part of local intangible heritage - is linked to maritime culture. It was performed along this coast as part of welcomes and departures for pearl divers and other sailors. The rhythm of the percussion echoes the powerful waves of the sea.



Coastal Café by Al Sayyad

Sample the flavours of the sea at this café, serving coastal cuisine that celebrates our heritage. Sense how the bounties of the sea – from fish to molluscs – have nourished local people for centuries. Watch a traditional fish barbecuing method, and taste the smoky flavours of fresh fish prepared here.

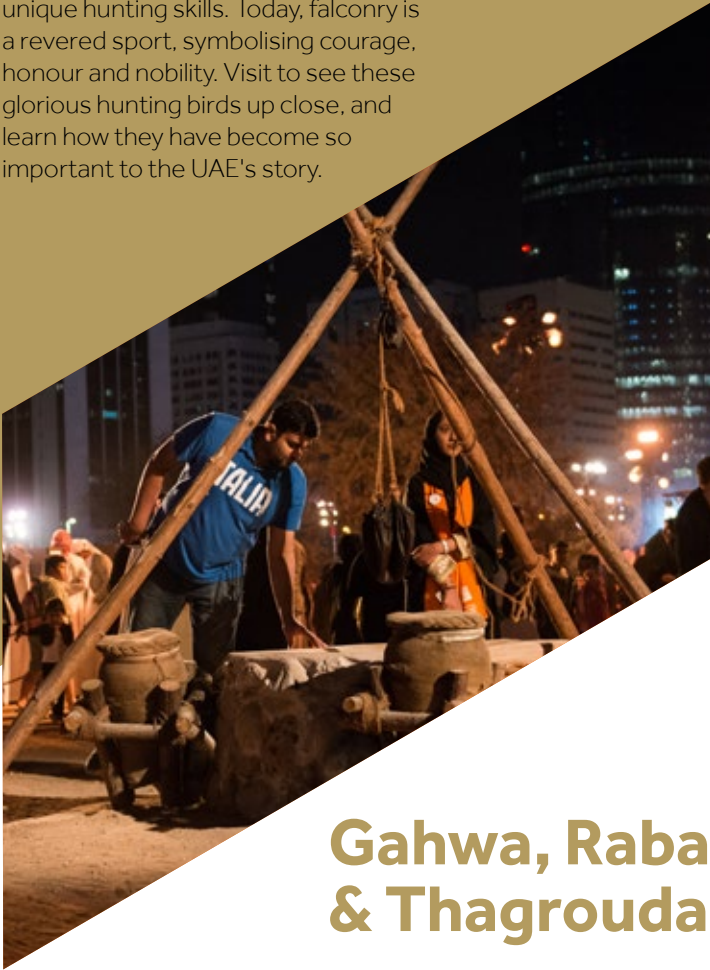


Desert



Falconry

Our ancestors recognised the extraordinary qualities of predatory falcons, learning to harness their unique hunting skills. Today, falconry is a revered sport, symbolising courage, honour and nobility. Visit to see these glorious hunting birds up close, and learn how they have become so important to the UAE's story.



Gahwa, Rababa & Thagrouda

Who could imagine Emirati hospitality – past and present – without Arabic coffee and dates? Learn how to make a warm and welcoming combination in the traditional style, to the soothing sounds of a single stringed Rababah instrument. Listen to Al-Taghrooda performance, a form of improvised poetry and a beloved part of UAE Culture.

Sadu & Ghazl

Sadu is a form of Bedouin weaving with embroidery, used in creating everything from tents to carpets and belts to camel saddles. Enjoy watching expert craftspeople demonstrate their spinning and weaving skills as they beautify everyday items.



Butter Making

Learn about the importance of butter making and how this ingredient influenced many national dishes. Watch chefs churning butter in the local traditional way, and see how they use it in ghee or fresh yoghurt which can then be converted into long-lasting cheese.

Al Majlis

People of all ages and families with children are welcome to learn more about our heritage from local experts. Join them in this large Bedouin tent for a Majlis lesson on the Ayalla.



Al Razfa

Performed at weddings, national holidays and other special occasions, Al-Razfa is a celebratory Dance of Unity. Originally unique to Bedouin communities, this combination of movement and poetry has spread throughout the UAE. While the swords and daggers which featured in the dance have been replaced by canes, its emotion and grace is timeless.

Al Yola

See an impressive traditional dance performed live. Usually reserved for weddings and traditional celebrations, Al Yola was derived from a war dance. Participants use sticks and weapons to move in rhythm, evoking the fierce and powerful energy of battle.



Camels & Camel Caravan

Meet the most famous local mammal – the camel – and see how they were kept in communities.

Saluki Dogs

Salukis have been as central to Bedouin life and success as falcons. Meet the two types of Saluki hounds and hear how their speed, skill and finely-tuned senses made them tremendous hunters, bringing fresh meats to desert dwellers cooking fires.

The Well

Access to water in a desert climate is paramount, so take a close look at the traditional Tuwi well, constructed from palm and stone. Discover how previous generations made water accessible even in an arid landscape, enabling life to flourish.

Traditional Cooking

At the traditional cooking hut, Emirati women will be demonstrating cooking techniques for a variety of traditional sweet and savory dishes like Legaymat, Reqaq, Chebab and Mhalla Zayed.



Oasis





Palm Weaving (Khoos)

This is your opportunity to watch Emirati women demonstrate the art of palm weaving, as the leaves are picked, dried, soaked, dyed, and woven into handicrafts.

Drying Palm Fronds

An essential material throughout local crafts and construction, palm leaves needed to be dried before being used to make essential items. Watch how this traditional material is properly prepared through a specific drying process.

Bait Al Arees

Learn how a traditional Areesh house is built, and help to construct part of one yourself. In this workshop, you will have the chance to see how all elements of the house are constructed from parts of the palm tree, from roof the ceilings and beams to the gutters. No wonder the palm is known as 'the tree of life'.

Goats

Goats have long been an invaluable desert resource, providing everything from clothing to milk and cheese. But when did you last see one up close? This is your chance to meet a once-familiar figure in local households, and get to know this characterful animal a little better.



Khallab

Climbing trees using a palm-fibre belt harness is a tradition which has to be seen to be fully believed. Having witnessed the skilled Khallab specialists in action, you can learn about the tools used to make the rope and protect the tree, then have a go yourself - if you're feeling brave.

Ropes

The palm tree has many uses: one is providing the material used to make local rope. Take a moment to see how a traditional rope maker showcases the art, using their hands and legs to roll the fibre and create strands tough enough to support great weights.

Indigenous Garden

This is the place to learn all about the uses and benefits of the region's native plants – whether culinary, medicinal, practical or purely decorative. Come to explore and leave with newfound respect for nature's bounty, and human ingenuity. Indigenous garden in collaboration with **Ghafah Nursery** and facilitated by Abdulla Thani Almatrooshi.



مشتل غافه
GHAFAH NURSERY
Creating a New Perception of Nature

Food
& Drink



Mirzam

Bringing you the flavours of real cocoa made right here in the UAE, Mirzam creates mouth-watering chocolates from scratch using just 3 natural ingredients: cocoa beans, unrefined cane sugar and a touch of cocoa butter, with a sensational single original collection crafted from beans sourced directly from Vietnam, Indonesia, Madagascar, Papua New Guinea and India.

The Espresso Lab

With unbounded passion that goes into every cup, Espresso Lab is a Dubai-born artisan company founded by Emirati entrepreneur Ibrahim Al Mallouhi. The specialty coffee hub strives to inspire coffee enthusiasts and the general public through speciality coffees made with care and innovation, while engaging everyone to be part of memorable shared experiences.

ERTH

Bringing visitors an authentic taste of the Emirates, Erth Restaurant is where those who enjoy traditional cuisine and recipes passed down from generation to generation come to experience a exceptional meal, while delighting in the creativity and skill of the current generation of Emirati culinary talent.



HOUSE OF ARTISANS

A treasure trove of authentic Emirati crafts, you will learn centuries-old handicraft making practices and take part in expert-led workshops to put your skills to the test, in addition to the Bait Al Gahwa experience.



Workshops

Clay Coaster Moulding

Customize your own quick-drying clay coaster with your own design.

Clay Painting

Unleash your creativity as you experiment with different painting techniques.

Gelli Printmaking

Discover a revolutionary printing surface that allows you to create amazing layered prints, colours and textures.

Pottery Wheel

Learn how to turn clay into newly created masterpieces!

Sadu Bracelet

Create your own bracelet, guided by one of our expert artisans.

Stamp Carving

Carve your unique design into rubber, to stamp your identity on paper, wood and more.

Custom Shop by NOMAD

Celebrating the ongoing rituals of winter adventures in Abu Dhabi. Highlighting the evolution of desert camping and the progression of the same tradition.

The visitors will experience a 3 step customization to enhance the experience that includes:

- Khoos Sadu "Dallah" Bag
- Multiple options for utility Straps
- Picnic Mat
- Cushion
- Cup Holder



Art Centres Workshop

Colourful Corals

by Art Studio - ages 12+ (Heritage)

Join this hands-on sculpture workshop to learn about the importance of coral reef structures to marine life and connect with this environment through creative making. In this hour-long session, we will create small coral structures out of earth-friendly materials that will be incorporated into a single, large-scale collaborative installation.

Timeless Toy

by The Children's Art Centre - ages 4 -12 (Exchange)

This immersive play area is home to the beloved toymaking experiences of past festivals. Children and families can engage in hands-on workshops, crafting and playing with timeless toys such as dolls, cars, boats, and hobby horses.

Creative Calligraphy by Bait Al Khatt - ages 12+ (Contemporary)

Be part of the 'Bait al Khatt' for this workshop, where you can engage in a creative, contemporary take on Arabic Calligraphy. Here, you can learn the basics of Kufic lettering, create a word on a calligraphy grid, and transfer this sketch to polymer clay. Once your clay name is glued onto an acrylic box, you can take this away as a personalised and beautiful piece of homeware.



Volunteer
Programmes
At Al Hosh
Festival

Al Hosn Festival is proud to be partners with:

Al Hosn Volunteers

Al Hosn Festival could not run without a dedicated team of volunteers. As part of DCT's mandate to engage youth and build capacity, the Al Hosn Volunteers programme was established in 2015. The group is made up of both University students and recent graduates that bring with them a passion for the history and culture of the UAE and they strive to reflect the values of the nation's founders.



Happiness Imprint

Happiness imprint volunteering team was established in July 2017. It was created by a group of distinguished youth and diligent people who strive to serve the community. The team launched initiatives targeting all segments of the society, participated in national and international events, and organized events for governmental and semi-governmental sectors in the country.



We Are Police

The We Are All Police initiative facilitates a joint effort, between the Abu Dhabi Police and members of the Abu Dhabi community, to create an ever more happy, positive and secure environment in the Emirate. The inspiration for the initiative lies in Abu Dhabi leadership's desire to follow in the footsteps of its founding leader, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan (may God rest his soul).

EXCHANGE

Explore the edges of the possible and discover creative inspiration, where modern makers continuously shape the future of their crafts through innovation and interpretation, while hands-on workshops and live experiences take you on a unique cultural journey.





Gahwa Championships

The Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi established the Gahwa Championships in the UAE capital in December 2019. Building on the success of its Bait Al Gahwa initiative, which aims to document and protect Gahwa as an essential element of Emirati culture. The Championships will continue to test the knowledge and practice of competitors from across the region in areas such as the heritage of Gahwa; bean selection and roasting; and Gahwa preparation and serving. The Championships also feature categories specific to roasting as well as a beverage concept award.



Makers Village

As you explore Makers Village, you'll find a variety of fascinating installations and shops, as well as opportunities to expand your knowledge through engaging talks and learn crafts where artist meets artisan in a variety of workshops.

“Weaving Hope” a collaboration between FBMI x HOA

Fatima Bint Mohamed Bin Zayed Initiative x House of Artisans come together to create a unique carpet representing UAE's support to the Afghan people. The different weaving techniques will result in a distinctive textured rug that symbolizes the two communities working hand in hand for a brighter future.



Workshops & Installations

Decorate a Tote Bag with Food Waste Dyes by The Alchemy of Dyeing

Our world is looking for ways to cut food waste and make fashion more sustainable – but imagine if these missions were combined? Join Alchemy of Dyeing to craft a reusable cotton tote bag using dyes distilled from local excess food. This is your chance to learn about hot bath natural dyeing methods linked to traditional shibori dye techniques



Journey Through the Alchemical Spice World by The Alchemy of Dyeing

Visit a local spice vendor and explore how everyday spices from the MENASA can be used in natural dyeing and pigment making. Learn the bundle dyeing technique and apply your newfound expertise by using spices to decorate a silk scarf that you can treasure forever.



Movement of the Wind Photo-Walk by Maitha Hamdan

The wind shapes an ever-shifting landscape around us. Creatively explore the power of this natural force in this workshop with artist and photographer, Maitha Hamdan. Learn how to capture the beauty of the wind and its effects using images or textiles, as you are guided on a relaxing journey around Al Hosn with a cup of coffee in your hand. All you need to bring is a phone or camera, comfortable shoes, and your imagination.



**Photography Without Cameras
by Mashael Al Saie**

Did you know you can produce a photograph without a camera? Discover cyanotype – an alternative technique developed before the cameras we know today. Create elegant photograms by placing objects on sensitised paper that turns a distinctive hue when exposed to sunlight. In this workshop, we will experiment with materials and exposures to create unique artworks for you to keep.

Silkscreen Monotype by Yoshi

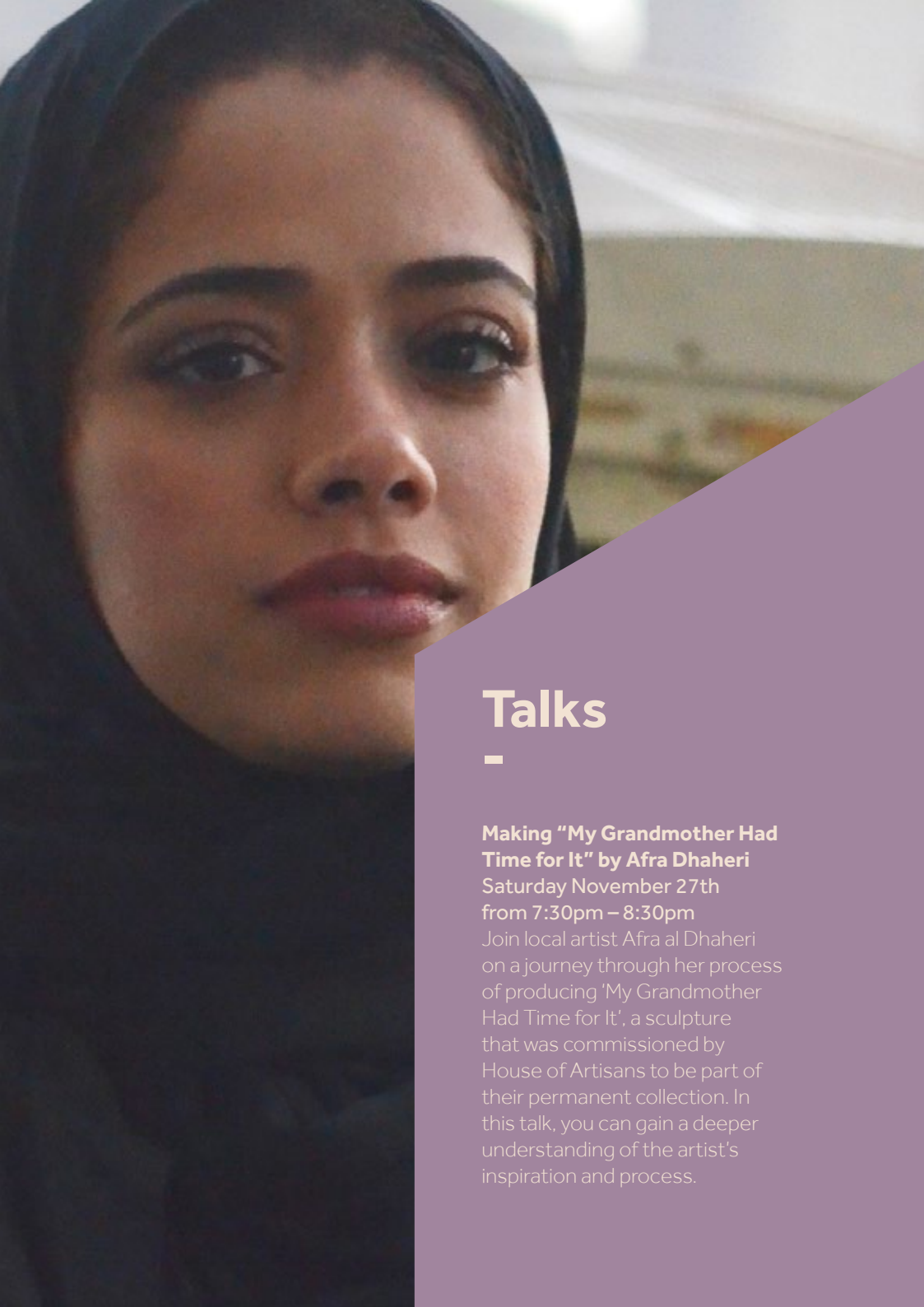
Discover a simple and rewarding form of printing called monotyping, using a silk screen method to create your own artwork. Monotype is an easy and fun technique for all levels, so let your creative flair loose as you learn how to transfer a water-based painting onto paper or fabric using a mesh screen.

**Tell a Story Through Metal
by Noura Al Serkal**

Inspired by the artwork created for ALHOSN FESTIVAL titled "FIDDA" meaning silver in metal, this workshop will look into creating a story through metal using the sand-casting technique. Participants will learn new ways of working with casting metal and get a better understand of metal smithing. They will be able to leave with a silver piece made by them using the sand casting technique.

**Traditional Soap Making
by Fatima Bint Mohamed Bin
Zayed Initiative**

Step into the sensory history of soap making in this workshop. Learn about the heritage of natural oils and ingredients, before using saffron and date syrup to make a natural soap of your own. With no artificial dyes, scents or chemicals, your soap will be friendly to all skin types.



Talks

Making “My Grandmother Had Time for It” by Afra Dhaheri
Saturday November 27th
from 7:30pm – 8:30pm

Join local artist Afra al Dhaheri on a journey through her process of producing ‘My Grandmother Had Time for It’, a sculpture that was commissioned by House of Artisans to be part of their permanent collection. In this talk, you can gain a deeper understanding of the artist’s inspiration and process.

Archiving Histories: Memory, the Body, and Beyond the Frame” by Mashael Al Saie

Wednesday December 1st
from 7:30pm – 8:30pm

In this talk, Mashael Al Saie discusses how she accesses and re-imagines material and photographic archives in her art. Listen as she explores how archival material allows us to navigate of time and form imagined narratives, shedding light on contemporary art’s relation to historical image-making, memory, and embodying the past. At the end, everyone will have the chance to ask their questions



The Culinary
Programme
by House
of Artisans

Al Hosn Culinary Competition 2nd Edition

The full variety and flavours of Emirati cuisine are on the plate in this unique 5-day showdown, where participants will test their cooking skills to create delectable dishes and win great prizes.

Head Judge: **Musabbeh Al Kaabi**

Judge: **Raghuprasad Pillai**

Judge: **Sultan Manea Saeed Al Otaiba**

November 26th – December 1st



Traditional food presentations & demonstrations

December 3rd & 4th

History of Emirati Cuisine Talk by Sultan Manea Saeed Al Otaiba (Sarood Yadooh Restaurant)

December 3rd

Contemporary Emirati Cuisine Talk by Eloisa Martin (Emirati Food Studies)

December 3rd

Emirati Cuisine Talk by Maryam Al Mansoori (Montauk Boutique Café)

December 4th



CULTURAL FOUNDATION

A lively destination for young and old alike, dedicated to Emirati arts, literature and culture, and the home of the Abu Dhabi Children's Library, where imaginations are unleashed by stories and fun performances take centre stage at the theatres.





Visual
Arts

Moving Memories

presented by Guggenheim Abu Dhabi

A film series focusing on Guggenheim Abu Dhabi collection artist Ayman Yossri Daydban's, *Love* (from the *Maharem* series), 2014. In collaboration with **Cinema Akil** and curated by Ma Hoogla-Kalfat.



Mohammed Shabaa: Visual Consciousness

Presenting the life's work of a pioneer of Moroccan contemporary art and global south modernity, Mohammed Chabâa, this first posthumous retrospective exhibition for the artist outside of Morocco brings together his paintings, sculptures, graphic art, interior design models and archival material, encompassing his creative journey from 1957 to 2012.

Al Mujamma

The Archival Exhibition of The Cultural Foundation

Al Mujamma is the endearing name residents have long used to refer to Abu Dhabi's Cultural Foundation, which is among the capital's most prominent modern heritage buildings. This interactive archival exhibition narrates the story of the Cultural Foundation and the countless people who enjoyed it, through carefully selected objects, images and videos – from its conceptualization by the Late Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan in 1973 to its closure in 2009 and its reopening in 2018 – as a dynamic centre of Abu Dhabi's culture, tradition and society.



Food for Thought: Thought for Change

Rasheed Araeen - Shamiyaana

For the first time in Abu Dhabi, share break and break barriers at the ground-breaking artwork Shamiyaana, an interactive experience that aims to bring people from different cultures and speaking different languages together under one roof, where they meet, eat and engage in conversations. First created in Athens in 2017, Shamiyaana is brought to Abu Dhabi by Rasheed Araeen, one of the pioneers of minimalist sculpture in Britain.

Films

Showcasing pioneering Emirati artists in their homes, studios and other places of inspiration, this exceptional film initiative follows them as they speak about their experiences growing up in the UAE. We learn about the rise of the UAE arts community through their eyes, the great challenges and opportunities of those early days, and how they and the Cultural Foundation have been instrumental in paving the way for today's thriving arts scene and its talented emerging artists.

Summer Dreams & Ice Creams

A recipe for flavourful fun with family and friends, this delightful experience is inspired by ice cream and all its many flavours this summer. Chill-out, try refreshing ice cream flavours, snap some selfies among the irresistible gelatos and appreciate the showcased art, with cool limited-edition products designed by local talents available to browse and buy.

Experience Mars

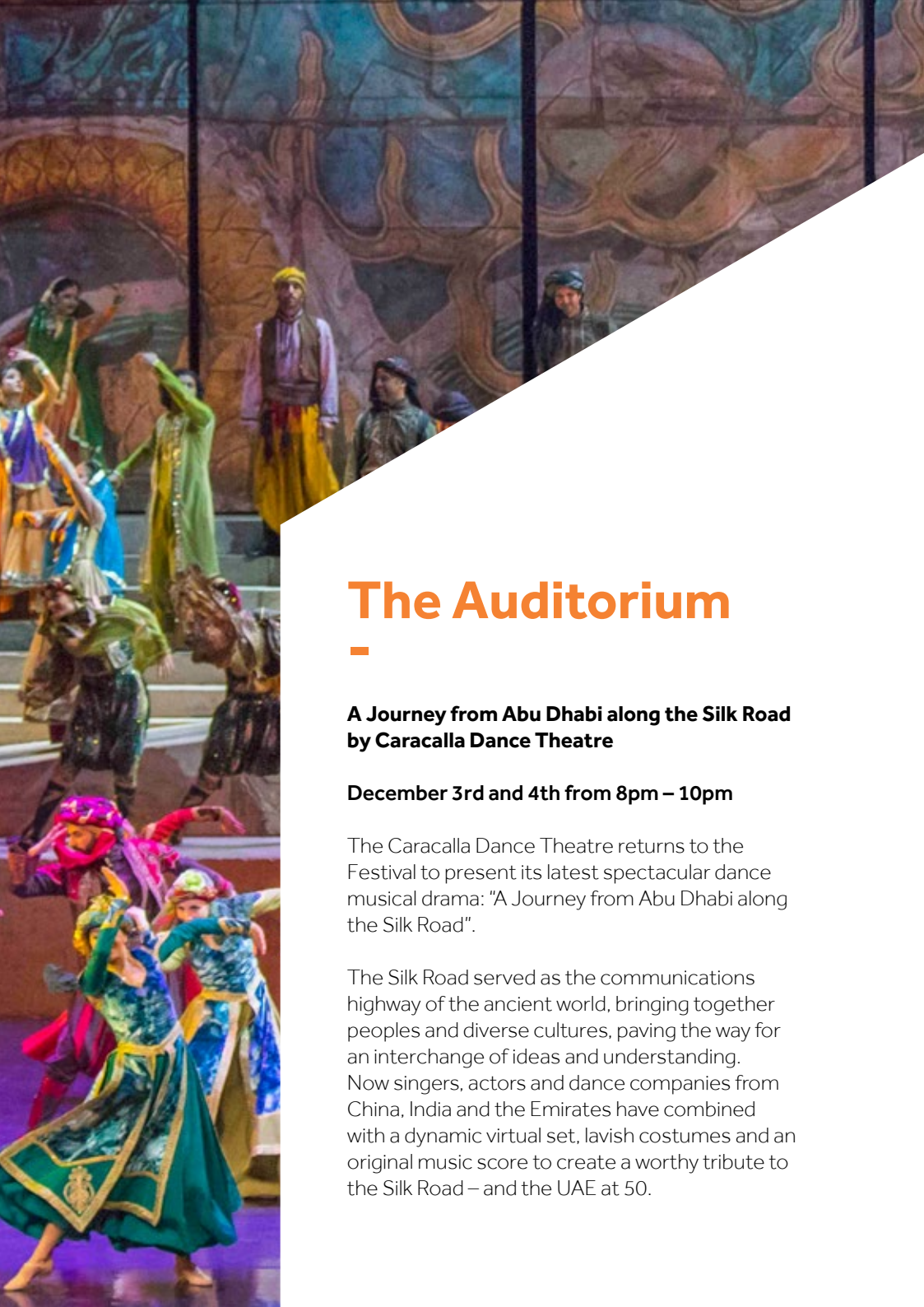
Step inside, fasten your seatbelt and prepare for lift-off to Mars. This interactive experience celebrates the UAE's space programme and achievements, taking you on a mission through space to the surface of Mars, with many stimulating and challenging activities along the way, designed to delight every passenger and inspire the young generation to dream beyond the stars. At The Abu Dhabi Children's Library.

To Jar by Mirna Bamieh

The artist expands her body to include the body of the jar, and the body of the jar to include the world. this short film, born out of the pandemic and lockdown, aspires to open a doorway into a new space for thought – on global distress, rituals of self-protection, preservation, social transformation, regeneration, and what we can learn from bacterial cultures to create communities in times of uncertainty and crisis.



Performing Arts



The Auditorium

A Journey from Abu Dhabi along the Silk Road by Caracalla Dance Theatre

December 3rd and 4th from 8pm – 10pm

The Caracalla Dance Theatre returns to the Festival to present its latest spectacular dance musical drama: "A Journey from Abu Dhabi along the Silk Road".

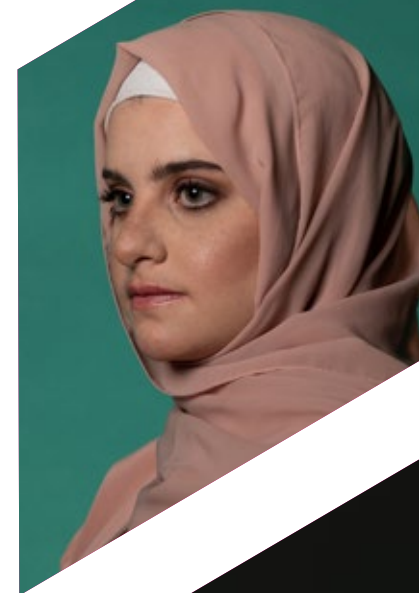
The Silk Road served as the communications highway of the ancient world, bringing together peoples and diverse cultures, paving the way for an interchange of ideas and understanding. Now singers, actors and dance companies from China, India and the Emirates have combined with a dynamic virtual set, lavish costumes and an original music score to create a worthy tribute to the Silk Road – and the UAE at 50.

The Amphitheatre

Ghaliaa

November 26th from 8pm - 9pm

English-Arabic singer Ghaliaa fuses RNB, HipHop, Electropop, Indie and Jazz to form her own unique take on storytelling. This multi-talented artist composes and produces her own material, plays multiple instruments (including drums, guitar and piano) and uses a distinctive raspy voice to convey a true passion for music. Based in the United Arab Emirates, she believes music is a feeling, not a language, yet still manages to perform in Arabic, English, French, Turkish, Armenian and Spanish.



Noon

November 27th from 8pm - 9pm

NOON is an experimental music project, blending elements of Oriental music with polyrhythmic Jazz Rock. This reflects the cosmopolitan feel and reality of the UAE, as does the band's origins. The three musicians are drawn from different cultural and musical backgrounds, using bass and drums to frame the distinctively middle eastern oud, replacing the expected sound of a lead guitar. The resultant sonic fusion is propelled by a funk groove, African and Indian percussive rhythms and electronic effects. If you like the sound of "experimental Oriental" you'll love NOON.





Freet

November 27th from 9pm - 10pm

Somalian MC and rapper Freet (Mustafa Ismail) is a pioneer in the GCC underground music scene, often labelled the godfather of Arabic drill rap and musical innovation. A prolific musician, producer and director, his hits (such as Wala Kilma) have propelled him onto the international music scene and led to high-profile commissions, including writing for Adidas and Liverpool legend, Mohamed Salah.





The Fountain

Sonore Al Andalus by Isabel Cañada Luna

November 25th from 8pm - 9:30pm

In homage to the great Andalusí musical tradition, soprano Isabel Cañada Luna provides a glimpse into Spain's Arab past through this spine-tingling musical tour de force. Inspired by scholars and poets, the recital opens with a 9th century poem by the creator of the Moaxaja, Ibn Muafá Al-Qabrí. The performance then adds music from Spanish composers across the ages, showcasing a strong Arab cultural and musical legacy.

The Courtyard

Kathak Dance by Swarashri Shridar

Decemeber 3rd & 4th from 6pm - 8pm

Swarashri Shridar uses dance as a medium for change, addressing unspoken and complex social issues. Her grace and elegance combine with exemplary control and precise movement within the disciplines of Kathak, one of the six Indian classical dance forms. The dance style originated within Hindu temples as a way of portraying epic tales from the scriptures through rhythmic movement and poetry. Swarashi is one of the great exponents of the contemporary art form.



Abu Dhabi Children's Library Workshops





Build a Water Rocket

Kids build simple water-powered rockets, propelled by rubber bands.

Create a Robot

Youthful inventors bring together multiple disciplines to create their own robots

Learn Laser Cutting

Children learn how to use lasers safely and artistically, to make fun shapes and objects



Make a Helmet

Through arts and crafts, children customize space helmets then add their national flags.

Take a Space Walk

Thanks to the marvels of advanced virtual reality, young explorers walk through space.

CONTEMPORARY

A stunning showcase of modern and multi-dimensional local contemporary culture, where the whole family can take part in engaging experiences and fun activities across design, film, cuisine and art that reveal the best of the Emirate today and in the future.



Pyramid Hexagon by Cyril Lancelin

This installation is made up of inflatable sculptures combining technology and artistry, linking science and nature within geometric repetitive shapes that compliment the 'Sabkha' formations of the site. Cyril Lancelin spent 15 years as an architect before changing course to create boundary-pushing public art. His inflatable sculptures combine technology and artistry, linking science and nature within geometric repetitive shapes. Here he uses stacked hexagons to build a contemporary pyramid, blurring the lines between modernity and the past.





Open Air Screenings by Image Nation

Unleash your imagination with a selection of films curated by Abu Dhabi's homegrown and award-winning film and entertainment company. Image Nation Abu Dhabi is an award-winning film and entertainment company which has built its reputation on breaking boundaries and unleashing imagination. Its mission is to help build the film and entertainment industry across the GCC and MENA - a pioneering ambition in line with Abu Dhabi's vision to shape a competitive, sustainable and globally open economy. Image Nation enables all those who engage with it to become guardians of culture and ambassadors of change.



Live
Performers

Enjoy the talent of a handpicked collection of outstanding local performers:

Amjad Shakir – Nov 25th, Nov 27th & Dec 2nd

Arqam – Dec 1st & 3rd

Danny Aridi – Nov 26th, Dec 2nd & 4th

DJ Karrouhat – Nov 26th & Dec 4th

Frezidante – Nov 25th & Dec 2nd

Jindi – Nov 27th & 29th

Justin – Nov 30th & Dec 1st

Leone Murphy – Nov 28th & 30th

Muhaisnah 4 – Nov 27th & Dec 3rd

Ray x Hosny – Nov 28th & Dec 3rd

Rony – Nov 26th & 29th

Shebani – Nov 25th & Dec 4th



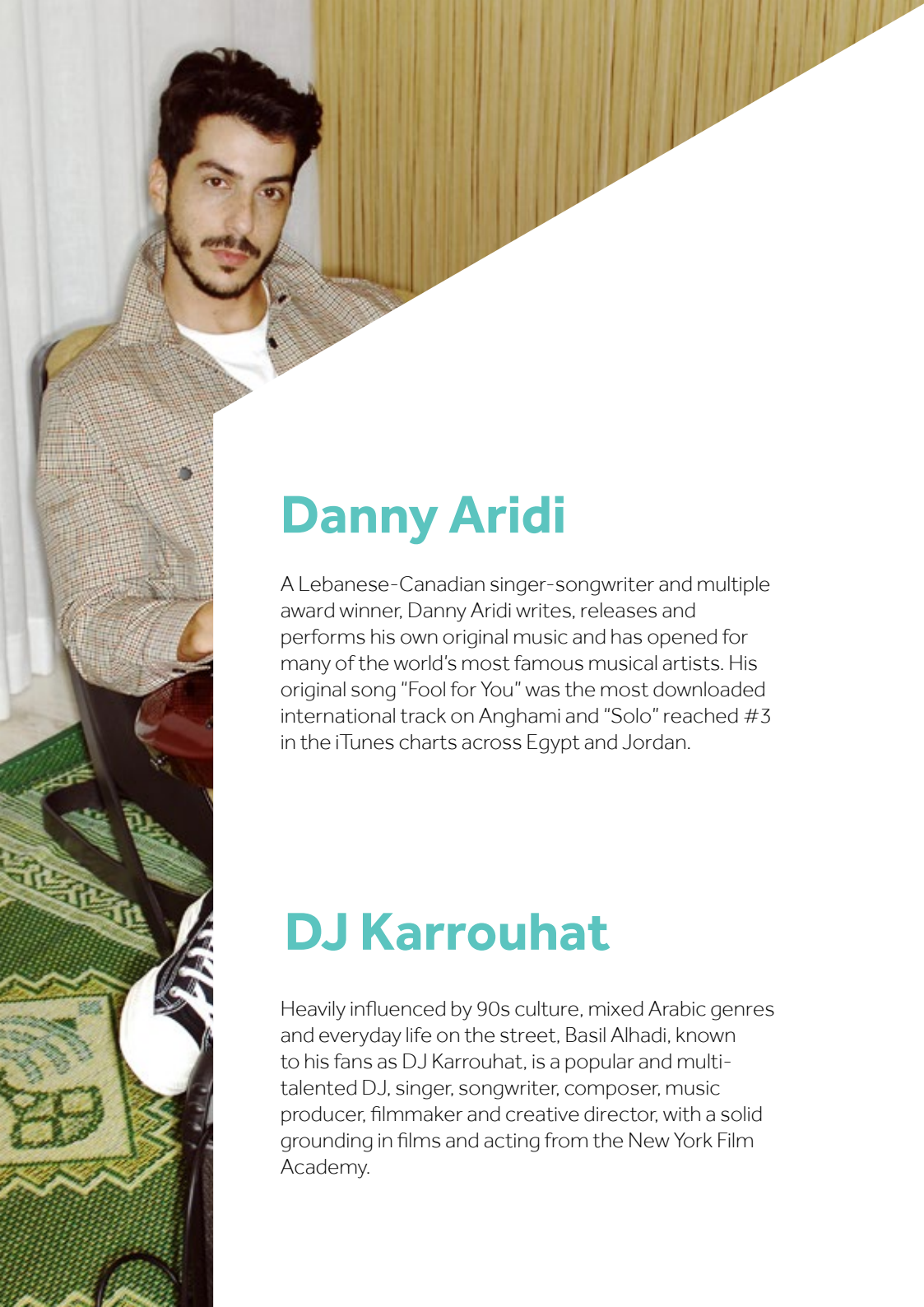
Amjad Shakir

A truly multifaceted and multicultural singer, guitarist and performer, Amjad Shakir was born and raised in Saudi Arabia within a Sudanese family. Staging dynamic shows featuring hip-hop, dancehall and a range of other influences, he performs in English but also sings in Arabic accents, from Khaleeji and Egyptian to Lebanese and Sudanese.



Arqam

Striving to make a difference through positive music and conscious entrepreneurship, Arqam is a young Emirati soul singer whose music is an embodiment of the UAE, where old values meet the new and progressive – old school soul and neo-soul beats, with lyrics rooted in positivity, introspection, love and the search for purpose.



Danny Aridi

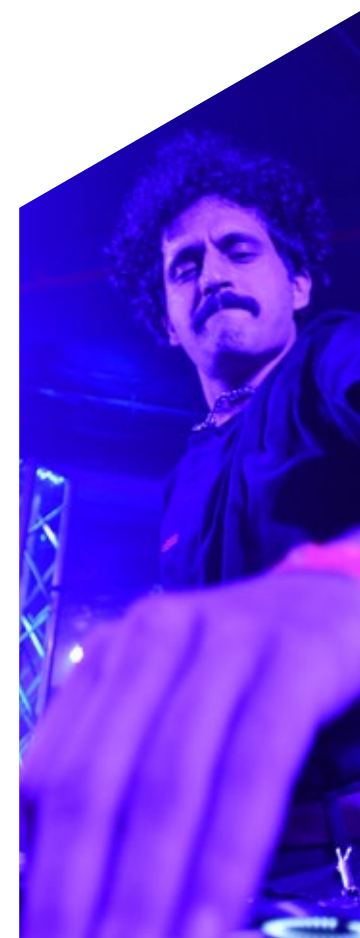
A Lebanese-Canadian singer-songwriter and multiple award winner, Danny Aridi writes, releases and performs his own original music and has opened for many of the world's most famous musical artists. His original song "Fool for You" was the most downloaded international track on Anghami and "Solo" reached #3 in the iTunes charts across Egypt and Jordan.

DJ Karrouhat

Heavily influenced by 90s culture, mixed Arabic genres and everyday life on the street, Basil Alhadi, known to his fans as DJ Karrouhat, is a popular and multi-talented DJ, singer, songwriter, composer, music producer, filmmaker and creative director, with a solid grounding in films and acting from the New York Film Academy.

Frezidante

A true connoisseur who represents all four elements of hip hop – DJing, MCing, breakdancing and graffiti – Frezidante has been involved in the hip hop scene for years and has DJed for countless events, including VICE, YouTube, Netflix, Sole DXB, Dubai Jazz Festival and many more. He's known as the 'Godfather of Street Art' in the region and has co-founded his own record label, Tarboosh Records.



Jindi

With his smooth mix of R&B and dancehall, Jindi is a dubai-based, award-winning singer-songwriter whose infectious energy instils positivity and affirms that we can still find commonality through music. His unique sound hit the airwaves through his debut Ep "1995", which featured chart topping singles such as "Dance Floor" and "Midnight Love".

Justin

Hailing from the Caribbean nation of Trinidad and Tobago – the birthplace of the steelpan – Justin is a pannist who first picked up his pan sticks at the age of 6. With a versatile musical range that includes calypso, soca, reggae, jazz and pop, he performs mainly as a solo artist but also as part of various musical groups in Trinidad, Dubai and Brazil.



Leone Murphy

A multi-talented songstress, born in South Africa but Dubai based since the age of ten, Leone Murphy lights up any stage with her sets filled with her own songs as well as beautiful cover versions. Known for her voice and a style that flits seamlessly between pop, soul, folk and jazz stylings, she is always working on her own original compositions between her performances.



Muhaisnah 4

Muhaisnah Four has been an eclectic mainstay of the UAE's independent music scene for years. The band's 'A Memoir' serves as a soundtrack to the upbringing and life experiences of front man Cromwell Ojeda. Filled with the nostalgia of growing up in the UAE, it's jam-packed with everything from samples to synth driver melodies, 80s bass lines and beats, taking the listener on a rollercoaster ride of roller-rink pop, bubblegum funk, chillout music and airy lyrics.





Ray x Hosny

The dynamic duo of Ray x Hosny melds Arab and western music in new and surprising ways. Hosny is a talented oud player and Arabic singer and songwriter while Ray is the Middle East championship beatboxer, whose guttural beats, powerful stage presence, and exhilarating performances leave audiences completely dumbfounded. Together and independently, they have performed to acclaim across the UAE and internationally.



Rony

A Dubai-based singer and songwriter, known for performing at music, arts and community festivals around the UAE, Rony Sarkis delights crowds with a mix of popular genres, including acoustic, indie-rock and the blues. The recent release of his debut single 'Fields of Green' delivers a unique sound and explores the artist's unique voice and perspective.

Shebani

Performing music that spreads positivity and self-acceptance, Shebani tells lyrical stories that are emotional, honest and raw. This Iraqi-born, UK-trained songwriter and R&B performer has evolved from a cover artist into a fresh new voice: a bright talent within the UAE's growing music community.



Retail



Al Batar

ALBATAR is not just a sandal, it's a lifestyle built on the best designs, from the best materials, by master craftsmen in Italy's elite factories. Classic yet contemporary, its unique footwear keeps true to UAE heritage, while staying present with international trends, to offer luxury that matches your life and your style.



Aljoud Lootah Design Studio

Discover the elegant products of Aljoud Lootah, an Emirati product designer who has gained international acclaim for her contemporary approach to traditional forms and patterns. Since establishing her own studio in 2014, Lootah has preserved the unique character of her craft by focussing on contrasts in form and function, and by interpreting Emirati artisanal techniques into her own design language.



Asateer

Asateer is both a product design studio and a production workshop, specialising in the creation of handcrafted products from Mother of Pearl and other raw materials, all sourced within the UAE. Founded by the grandson of a traditional pearl diver and the son of an entrepreneur, Asateer introduces a contemporary pearling vision and breathes new life into Mother of Pearl through a crafted discovery of culture and design.

Atelier Du Cristal

Atelier Du Cristal designs each crystal in their collection and ensures they are handmade into exclusive pieces. Limiting their collection to 100% crystal items, the Atelier offers its customers only the most refined experience of its craft.



AYA – The Art of Living

AYA is the creation of Ayah Al Bitar, a Saudi Arabian product and furniture designer. Focused on combining tradition and modernity, Al Bitar creates products that are a dialogue in craftsmanship between the East and the West. Her pieces strive to explore culture boundaries with thought-provoking concepts.

Easy on the Eyes

Established in 2020, Easy on the Eyes is a high-fashion concept store that brings together collections of classic and vibrant new pieces from up-and-coming brands. Explore their festival collection, curated specially for cultured and bold dressers.



Frame

FRAME is a unique space for an equally unique community to experience global lifestyle and fashion trends while harmonising the concepts of EAT, DRING and SHOP. The region's first dedicated ramen hotspot serves up authentic, handmade bowls of wholesome goodness, while the sensory experience is only heightened through globally-sourced coffees and teas, and a multi-brand retail experience offers coveted fashion labels, streetwear brands and awesome collectibles.

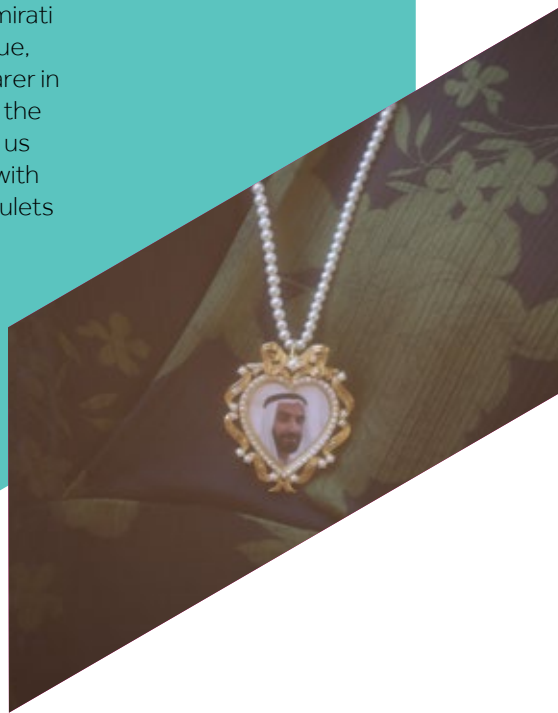
From the Arabs

This Emirati brand aims to preserve but also modernize local culture through the fragrance of candles. Incense and regional raw materials echo the Arabic flavors and authentic nature of real Emirati homes, with influences including memories of the founder's grandmother and her bikhor recipes. These hand-made products are 100% locally sourced, each item being distinguished by unique craftsmanship and pottery skills.



Kan Yama Kan

Kan Yama Kan is a concept boutique by Emirati designer Fatima Al Mehairbi, offering unique, handcrafted pieces that immerse the wearer in a dream world of bygone aesthetics. With the belief that objects have the power to take us away into the clouds, the pieces on offer, with the stories that inspire them, become amulets that carry the magic of their stories.



Laggar

LAGGAR presents a handcrafted tradition of men's sandals made with passion and dedication, building a bridge through timeless contemporary designs that merge the past with the future, with exclusive finishing, modern style, premium quality Italian materials, all made in the United Arab Emirates.



Nails – The Modern Manicure Studio

With over 18 years of serving loyal clients, nails® is the modern manicure studio setting new standards for nail care and culture in Abu Dhabi. With six high-end studios located in Abu Dhabi's most prestigious commercial and retail spaces, the brand embodies its style through its chic interiors and the skillful hands of highly-trained technicians and beauticians. Enjoy an expert manicure as part of your Festival experience of our contemporary urban culture.

Nine by Reem

Nine by Reem is a locally grown perfume brand inspired by childhood memories and rooted in the genuinely elegant Emirati heritage. Using the finest materials and old-world techniques, it offers traditional, authentic Arabic perfumes, including the world-renowned oud, which are deeply ingrained in the Emirati experience.



Plisse

Plissé, representing the puckered or pleated finish given to fabrics, is a homegrown fashion brand specialised in Emirati abayas and galabiyas, applying modern designs based on regional sensibilities that are harmonised with global fashion trends.



Ruwaya Jewellery

Ruwaya is a jewellery brand that draws on the influences of family, Arab aesthetics, cultural fusion, and designer Fatima Al Dhaheri's own sense of style. Naming her collection after her grandmother – a powerful woman – Al Dhaheri aims to represent a new generation of jewellery design which ties together timeless beauty with bold contemporary craft.

Salama Khalfan Jewellery

Based between Dubai and Paris, Salama Khalfan's collection of intricate jewellery is created with fine craftsmanship. Each piece is made for a fearless woman with a sense of adventure and a love of culture. This award-winning brand opens its doors to inspiration from across the world to create timeless works of beauty, meant to be treasured forever.





SideNote by Aljoud Lootah Design Studio

A project by the studio of celebrated designer, Aljoud Lootah, SideNote offers a high-end, illustrative and typographic engraving on leather items from bags to books. Explore how this brand makes space for experimentation, as designers make time to sketch out their creative vision onto products you can cherish forever.

The O Jewellery

Using gold, diamonds, precious and semi-precious stones, The O Jewellery creates designs which celebrate the richness of the past with the simplicity of the present – and an aspiration for the future. The contemporary yet timeless aesthetics of O jewelry designs are based on strong concepts that turn the jewellery into art pieces.



Toka Uban Store

TOKA Urban Store is a concept retail experience that surrounds you with a fresh selection of fashionable designers, exclusive pieces and trendy products, from cool clothing, bags and accessories to a wide variety of other arts, crafts and limited items, so you'll always find something you'll love or a perfect gift for that special someone.



Food
& Drink

Al Areesh

Offering a distinctively Lebanese dining experience in Abu Dhabi, Areesh has dedicated thirty years to perfecting the art of Lebanese street food. This UAE brand combines authentic techniques with fresh and nutritious contemporary ingredients. The key to Al Areesh's success is its unique sauce combination – passed down through generations, and ready to be treasured for many more.

Aptitude Café

This coffee shop, restaurant and gathering place is a relaxing oasis with its own distinctive vibe. Visit to try pizzas created at 400 degrees, using cold-fermented dough made fresh each day from just three ingredients – including one invented and locally sourced, just for the festival.

BRDG

BRDG is a hot dog concept store inspired by the diversity of New York City – a city with 4 million freelancers from around the world. Celebrating how the global creativity of Abu Dhabi echoes NYC, BRDG has built a fun community activation kiosk for Al Hosn Festival, offering you coffee, food, photography, and products from local retailers.

BurGo

Dialogue

This is more than a coffee house and restaurant: Dialogue is a home for culinary art and good conversation.

The same devotion that goes into fine food and fresh pasta illuminates a space devoted to one simple idea: Let's Talk!



ERTH

Bringing visitors an authentic taste of the Emirates, Erth Restaurant is where those who enjoy traditional cuisine and recipes passed down from generation to generation come to experience a exceptional meal, while delighting in the creativity and skill of the current generation of Emirati culinary talent.



House of Pops

House of Pops crafts entirely natural fruit ice pops with no refined sugar. As the first and only ice cream brand with zero plastic packaging, the House is committed to natural nourishment, using plant-based ingredients with no preservatives or food colorings.

If You Know You Know

Bringing new flavour to coffee culture in the UAE, IYKYK is as mysterious and unique as its name, with monthly collaborations with emerging Emirati and international brands to widen its creative journey whilst supporting local talent and serving up memorable brews and experiences.



Karakulture

Imagine a paratha roll filled with Nutella - or cheese, cream and honey. Consider a samosa or vegetable pakora. Picture a Mango Lassi or cup of Hibiscus Chai, with pomegranate seeds. If any of this makes you mouth water, visit the home of great street food at Karakulture, for a quick bite and long-lasting memories ...

Morsel Chocolates

Bringing you the flavours of real cocoa made right here in the UAE, Mirzam creates mouth-watering chocolates from scratch using just 3 natural ingredients: cocoa beans, unrefined cane sugar and a touch of cocoa butter, with a sensational single original collection crafted from beans sourced directly from Vietnam, Indonesia, Madagascar, Papua New Guinea and India.

Poke San

Inspired by Hawaiian Poke (diced fish) as well as Japanese snack food, this is a fusion like no other in the UAE. From volcano rolls to ramen noodles and sushi to sashimi, this is where Hawaiian and Japanese traditions meet.

As they say, grab a bowl and feed your soul.

Smoking Barrel

If you love a barbeque you'll adore Smoking Barrel, where smoke-infused brisket or beef chorizo sausage is sold by the half pound. Augmented by apple coleslaw and potato salad, this is food in a bun (or sandwich) to set the taste buds quivering.



Susan's Baking Company

Having moved to the UAE in the 1980s, Susan spotted a gap in the market. She filled it with Susan's Bakery, the only bakery serving classic American desserts to UAE residents.

Using only authentic family recipes and the freshest ingredients, this is a story of butter, flour, eggs, sugar and sweet extras, served with love and passion alongside fresh bean to cup coffee.

Twice Burger

A new casual eatery inspired by hip-hop and urban flair, this is an upscale but cool place to be, for families and friends.

This vibrant bistro combines a range of flavours with modern cooking techniques, with the simple aim of redefining the world of burgers and pizzas. So twice the flavour – which is twice as nice!

The Gang

The Gang do corn dogs. That's the story, but not all of it. The American menu covers all the favourites, so alongside your dogs come a world of tasty extras. In a bun or on a plate, this is fast food to take your time over.

Wild and the Moon

A lifestyle movement created by a tribe of food lovers, chefs, nutritionists and naturopaths who believe that food should be 'Good for You, Good for the Planet and Always Delicious', Wild & The Moon is slow food set to an urban beat, so you can enjoy every bite while aligning with the rhythms of nature.

Top IT

Inspired by the surprising toppings on food and drinks served from the street food stalls of Venice, Italy, Top It Cafe is a fusion fast food adventure. Sample this Abu Dhabi brand's delicious savoury and sweet menus – complete with notorious toppings.

Wrap That Café

A cosy Emirati-owned cafe that serves up a mouth-watering assortment of creative wraps, salads, comfort foods and specialty coffee, Wrap That Café's menu includes a modern and healthy twist on classic and trendy favourites that are prepared daily from fresh ingredients.



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