

"I AM WAITING FOR YOU"

"وصفولي الصبر"

A play directed by **Lina Abyad**

Written by **Abir Hamdar**

Media **Dareen Shams Aldin**

Actors

Nama'a Al Ward

Aliya Khalidy

Dima Al Ansari

Soha Choucair

Saif Ahmad

Hiba Sleiman

Lina Abyad

May Ogden Smith



In a room, a group of women (and one man) sit waiting. Some have been waiting for weeks, others for years, still others seem to have been waiting forever. They wait patiently and impatiently, nervously and calmly, hopefully and resignedly.

Wasafuli al-Sabr (Eng. *I am waiting for you*) is the first dramatic staging of Arab women's experience of cancer. Based on interviews with female cancer patients from the Arab world, the play explores women's cancer from the inside out. What does it feel like to 'have' – or be had by – cancer? How does it impact upon one's relationship with oneself and with others – doctors, husbands, lovers, children, fellow sufferers? Why is women's cancer so often defined as a period of interminable waiting with neither beginning nor end? Why do we insist on perceiving it as an 'end-of-life' narrative, rather than a journey towards recovery?

That disease, that thing, the bad disease: these are just some of the terms that are used to name and shame cancer and cancer patients in the Arab world. This play aims to break some of the cultural taboos put in place vis-à-vis cancer, to contemplate fears and disavowals and to listen to experiences that have for long been rendered unspeakable.

Wasafuli al-Sabr will be performed at Nuha al-Radi Hall in Madina Theater, Beirut, Lebanon, from 21 July 2017. The production is funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, UK as part of the Open World Research Initiative (<https://www.dur.ac.uk/owri/>), by Durham University, UK, the Lebanese American University's Performing Arts Program, and the theatre company Beirut 8:30.

Masrah Al Madina, Nuha El Radi Hall, Hamra

World premiere: **Friday 21 July 2017 @ 8.30pm**

Dates: 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 July 2017, @ 8:30pm

Tickets sold at Librairie Antoine and on www.antoineticketing.com (20,000LL+30,000LL)