



Rethink Rebuild
Society

Celebrating Syria 2018

A festival of arts and culture
www.celebratingsyria.org

Manchester
6-14 October 2018

programme

Music Performance Film
Exhibition Workshops
Talks Food Books



A decorative border surrounds the page, featuring stylized hands in blue, orange, and yellow, and stringed musical instruments in shades of orange and red. The instruments resemble baglamas or similar stringed folk instruments.

Celebrating Syria

A festival of arts and culture

For many people, the little they know of Syria and its people comes from media coverage of the Conflict. Syria is so much more than that. Its beating heart is filled with the treasures emanating from a deep well of artistic creativity. The Celebrating Syria Festival 2018 shares some of this culture with the people of Manchester.

The theme of this year's Festival is **Home**. Home can be construed in many ways but a common thread running through the Festival is the cultural heritage of Syria, the country that the Syrian people call home. Memories of home shine through the performances and art.

Organised by Rethink Rebuild Society, the festival includes concerts, film screenings, workshops, talks, and discussions, together with an exhibition which will run from Saturday 6 to Wednesday 31 October and a selection of books that will be on sale throughout the Festival. For more details about the artists and for regular updates visit: www.celebratingsyria.org

And follow on social media:

Twitter @syriafestival and Facebook www.facebook.com/syriafestival

Some events are presented in collaboration with Journeys Festival International Manchester 2018, which celebrates the creative talent of exceptional refugee and asylum seeker artists and shares the refugee experience through great art. These are marked (JFI) on the timetable opposite.

For more information about Journeys Festival International visit: www.journeysfestival.com/manchester

Celebrating Syria is the first Syrian arts and culture festival in the UK showcasing the work and talent of Syrian artists.

Festival Timetable


Date	Time	Event	Category	Venue	Tickets Full/Conc
6 -31 October (daily except Sundays)	10:00 - 18:00	Creative Memory of the Syrian Revolution	Exhibition	Goodstock	Free
Saturday 6 October	11:00 - 15:00	'A Paperwork Exercise!' Origami workshop	Workshop	Longsight Library	Free
	11:00 - 15:00	Future Aleppo (JFI)	Workshop	Longsight Library	Free
	18:00 - 20:00	'Home' with Q&A with Rafat Al Zakout	Film	University of Manchester	Free
Sunday 7 October	14:00 - 16:00	Music Action International (JFI)	Workshop	Rethink Rebuild	Free
	19:30 - 21:00	'A Bridge for Peace' Riyad Nicolas & Mariela Shaker	Music	Stoller Hall	£16/£8*
Monday 8 October	17:00 - 19:00	A Taste of Syria	Workshop	Rethink Rebuild	£5/£3
	19:30 - 21:00	'Recipes from Home' In conversation with Itab Azzam	Talk	Rethink Rebuild	Free
Tuesday 9 October	17:00 - 19:00	Music Action International	Workshop	Rethink Rebuild	Free
	17:30 - 19:00	'Is home really where the heart is?'	Group discussion	HOME	Free
	20:00 - 21:30	'Legends of Love and Pain'	Performance	HOME	Free
Wednesday 10 October	20:30 - 22:30	'Taste of Cement' with Q&A with Ziad Kalthoum	Film	Savoy Cinema	£5/£3*
Thursday 11 October	17:00 - 19:00	Music Action International (JFI)	Workshop	Rethink Rebuild	Free
	17:00 - 19:00	Raqqa (JFI)	Performance	University of Manchester	Free
	18:30 - 19:30	Women, Art & Revolution	Panel discussion	HOME	Free
	20:00 - 22:00	Maya Youssef	Music	RNCM	£17/£7*
Friday 12 October	13:00 - 14:00	Creative Memory exhibition with Sana Yazigi	Talk	Goodstock	Free
	19:00 - 21:00	Zakaria Tamir's short stories with Dr. Alessandro Columbu	Talk	Rethink Rebuild	Free
Saturday 13 October	14:15 - 16:00	'Letters!' Calligraphy workshop	Workshop	Longsight Library	£2/free
	19:30 - 21:00	Masters of Syria Arabic music	Music	Emmanuel Church	£10/£6
Sunday 14 October	11.00 - 16:00	Family Creative Celebration (JFI)	Entertainment	Whitworth Art Gallery	Free

All events are free for asylum seekers (except Maya Youssef at RNCM). Concession tickets apply to students and unwaged people. Tickets can be purchased at celebratingsyria.org or where marked with * directly from the venue.



FILMS

Home



Rafat and the three young men he encounters on a trip to North Syria use the new fragile freedom to realise their dream and make a creative space they call Home. They exchange hopes, reveries and fears, as a strong bond of friendship develops between the group and Rafat who himself is searching for his 'home'. (cert PG)

Saturday 6 October, 6pm
University of Manchester



Taste of Cement

This essay documentary follows a group of Syrian refugees working on the construction site of a new skyscraper in Beirut which is being built on ruins caused by the Lebanese civil war, while their own houses are being bombed in Syria.


(cert 18)

Wednesday 8 October, 8.30pm
Savoy Cinema



DISCUSSIONS

Is home really where the heart is?




What does home mean to you? What emotional connection do you have to home? Is a citizen of the world a citizen of everywhere, anywhere or nowhere? How does our relationship with home change when we move away, whether through force or choice? Everyone is welcome to this free-flowing conversation facilitated by Dr. Mustafa Alachkar.

Tuesday 9 October, 5.30pm

HOME

Women, Art and Revolution



A thought-provoking discussion that explores how Syrian women artists have advanced the cause of the revolution and how the Revolution has shaped their creative work and given them a defiant voice not only against the regime but against all forms of oppression in a male-dominated society.



With panelists: graphic designer and curator Sana Yazigi, novelist Dima Wannous and Raya Homsy of the charity Souriyat Across Borders. Chaired by writer, film maker and activist Muzna Al-Naib.

Thursday 11 October, 6.30pm

HOME



MUSIC

A Bridge for Peace

A concert with Riyad Nicolas & Mariela Shaker. This delightful duet, two of Syria's leading young classical musicians, build a bridge between the East and the West as they perform Vivaldi, Chopin, Bartok and Mayyas al Yamani. This unique compilation of classics will light up your Sunday!

Sunday 7 October, 7.30pm
Stoller Hall



Masters of Syria

The ensemble have performed concerts and in festivals across Europe and have worked with singer Damon Albarn as part of his collective project to reunite the Syrian National Orchestra. This is a unique opportunity to hear them perform in this intimate venue.

Saturday 13 October, 7.30pm
Emmanuel Church



Maya Youssef

The Qanun is a traditional Syrian 78-stringed plucked zither. A virtuoso on the instrument, Maya's unique and innovative approach to playing it has expanded her audiences to international platforms. She combines her extraordinary musical gifts with a generosity of warmth, humour and optimism.

Thursday 11 October, 8pm
Royal Northern College of Music



EXHIBITION

Creative Memory of the Syrian Revolution



The project aims to document all forms of Syrian intellectual expression, both artistic and cultural, during the time of the revolution.

Image: Moustafa Jacoub

Exhibition: 6-31 October, 10am-6pm

Talk: Friday 12 October, 1pm

Goodstock

BOOKS

Throughout the festival books written by Syrian authors and novelists will be available to buy at a discounted price.

WORKSHOPS

Future Aleppo

13-year-old Mohammed Kteish rebuilt his home city of Aleppo first as paper models and then in virtual reality. Experience the virtual reality of the city of Aleppo as Mohammed remembers it and join us to help build our own city of Manchester from paper and in virtual reality.

Saturday 6 October, 11am

Longsight Library

With Journeys Festival International



Music Action International

Three creative drop-in workshops for young people from refugee backgrounds aged 8-13 years. Led by local musicians from refugee backgrounds, they will explore rhythms, traditions and melodies to create a new song together, inspired by their own dreams for the future.

Sunday 7 October, 11am, Tuesday 9 October, 5pm, Thursday 11 October, 5pm.

Rethink Rebuild Society

With Journeys Festival International

A paperwork exercise!

Learn how to make beautiful objects from pieces of paper in this origami workshop with Azmi Shoufan.

Saturday 6 October, 11am

Longsight Library



Letters!

Calligraphy Workshop with Abdullah Al-Anezi. Explore the beauty of Arabic writing and learn how to write your own name with ink and a Qalam.

Saturday 13 October, 2.15pm

Longsight Library



A Taste of Syria

Cookery workshop with a Syrian cook. Learn how to make delicious Syrian food from scratch, sample it, try making it yourself, and learn some secret recipes to try at home.

Monday 8 October, 5pm



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ENTERTAINMENT

Family creative celebration



A day of family activities. Build and fly a kite, build a den in the park, try your hand at Arabic calligraphy and origami, join Mark of Hope Theatre for a performance and workshop and hear the music created throughout the week with Music Action International.



Sunday 14 October, 11am-4pm

Whitworth Art Gallery

With Journeys Festival International

TALKS

Syria: Recipes from Home



In conversation with Itab Azzam author of a book which celebrates the taste and culinary culture of Syria, and explores what food represents for people and their identity.


Copies of the book will be on sale.

Monday 8 October, 7.30pm

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Zakaria Tamir's short stories



Dr. Alessandro Columbu explores the life and oeuvre of the father of the modern Syrian short story, looking at modernity, gender roles and authoritarianism in contemporary Syrian literature.

Friday 12 October, 7pm

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PERFORMANCES


Legends of Love and Pain

An Evening of Poetry and Music with Samir Kanou and Peshang Abdulhannan. Syrian Arabic poetry meets Syrian Kurdish music in this stirring and unforgettable performance.

Tuesday 9 October, 8pm

HOME

Raqqa



A work-in-progress sharing of scenes and songs from a new play by playwright Lizzie Nunnery, exploring women's experiences of conflict.

Thursday 11 October, 5pm

John Thaw Studio, University of Manchester

With Journeys Festival International

FESTIVAL VENUES



Emmanuel Church 6 Barlow Moor Road, Didsbury M20 6TR

Goodstock 6 Oxford Road M1 5QA

HOME 2 Tony Wilson Place M15 4FN

Longsight Library
519 Stockport Rd, M12 4NE

Rethink Rebuild Society Unit 7
Longsight Business Park
Hamilton Rd M13 0PD

Royal Northern College of Music
124 Oxford Rd, M13 9RD

Savoy Cinema 105 Heaton Moor Road Heaton Moor SK4 4HY

Stoller Hall Hunts Bank M3 1DA

University of Manchester
Oxford Road, M13 9PL

Whitworth Art Gallery
Oxford Road M15 6ER





RETHINK REBUILD SOCIETY

Rethink Rebuild Society (RR) is a Manchester-based charity that works towards improving the lives of refugees, asylum seekers, and immigrants in the UK, in particular but not exclusively Syrians, helping them become positively established within British society.

We began informally after the start of the uprising in Syria in March 2011 and since then we have grown stronger in our work to inspire, strengthen and advocate for refugees, asylum seekers, and immigrants, Syrians and otherwise, and help them become an effective part of British society.

For more information, please visit:

www.rrsoc.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/RethinkRebuildSociety

Twitter: [@rethink_rebuild](https://twitter.com/rethink_rebuild)

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