

IRAQI THEATRE IN CONTEXT



Online seminars organized by
Hadeel Abdelhameed &
Antonio Pacifico

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On the 23rd anniversary of the US invasion of Iraq, we are revisiting this historical event by examining the country's cultural richness. We have chosen not to mourn it but to celebrate its ability to reinvent itself through the arts. More particularly, this seminar series is designed to bring together scholars and practitioners interested in Iraqi theatre. Our main goal is to foster collective reflection on the development of Iraqi theatre as an autonomous academic field in both the Arab world(s) and Western academia. Indeed, Arabic studies have consistently overlooked Iraqi theatre. Too often, Iraqi theatre makers have been excluded from academic discussions about the formation of Iraqi intellectuals. Meanwhile, the genesis of theatre, its developmental history, and its relationship to other forms of cultural production, such as literature and visual arts, have never been thoroughly examined in the context of modern and contemporary Iraq.

This seminar series is part of the project '(Re)constructing the Field of Iraqi Theatre Studies', launched in September 2025 with a panel at the 35th Deutscher Orientalistentag Conference.

For more information about this seminar series please write to Hadeel Abdelhameed (hadeel.abdelhameed1@monash.edu) or Antonio Pacifico (antonio.pacifico@univ-lyon3.fr).

PROGRAM

To attend the seminars, please click on their titles

31st MARCH

4 p.m. Iraqi Time /
2 p.m. Central
European Time /
1 p.m. UK Time

THE STATE AND FUTURE OF IRAQI THEATRE STUDIES

Hind Bilal - University of Exeter

Interpreting Iraqi Theatre: Positionality and Epistemic Misalignment

Antonio Pacifico - Jean Moulin University Lyon 3

*Beyond the Christian Church: Practices, Institutions and the Question of
Autonomy in Early Iraqi Theatre*

Raad Kareem Abd-Aun - University of Babylon

*From Fragile Print to Searchable PDF: Knowledge Production and the
Archival Problem in Iraqi Theatre Studies*

Mod: Hadeel Abdelhameed - Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich

21st APRIL

8 p.m. Iraqi Time /
6 p.m. Central
European Time /
5 p.m. UK Time

IRAQI THEATRE, CULTURAL GOVERNANCE AND SOCIETY

Hadeel Abdelhameed - Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich

Iraqi Theatre During the 1990s: the Paradigm of Cultural Isolation

Majid Hameed Al-Hachami - University of Kufa

Post-2003 Iraqi Popular Theatre and the Politics of Representation

Rasha Fadhil Mousa - University of Brighton

Technology as a Resistance Tool in Iraqi Theatre After the US Invasion

Mod: Antonio Pacifico - Jean Moulin University Lyon 3

13th MAY

8 p.m. Iraqi Time /
6 p.m. Central
European Time /
5 p.m. UK Time

IRAQI THEATRE AND THE WORLD

Amir Al-Azraki - University of Waterloo

Performing Exile: Iraqi Theatre in Canada

Hassan Abdulrazzak - Award-winning playwright and translator
*Stages of Belonging: Iraqi Theatre Makers in the British Cultural
Landscape*

Pauline Donizeau - Lumiere University of Lyon 2

*Histories, Narratives and Imaginaries of Iraq on Contemporary French
Stages*

Mod: Hadeel Abdelhameed - Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich & Antonio
Pacifico - Jean Moulin University Lyon 3