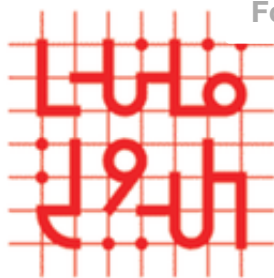


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1ST NOV 2014

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## THE PHANTOM DANCE. REMEMBERING RAMALLAH UNDER JORDANIAN RULE



*Dancers – Ramallah Summer Festival, 1963. Courtesy: Ramallah Municipality Archive*

In **July 1963**, 15 years after the Nakbah, when Palestine was under Jordanian rule, the **Ramallah Summer Festival** was organised as an expression of national pride. Musicians and coreographers were invited also from Jordan and Lebanon and schoolchildren participated in the show.

'**Phantom Dance**' is a work by **Vera Tamari** and **Yazid Anani** that recalls the haunting images of dancing figures from this festival. The artists' inspiration comes from the exposure and deterioration of the archival and documentation material of a group of dancers during the Festival. The eroded images become a source for both contemporary reflection and reminiscence of the past. The dancers evoke a contention in gender relationships and a transfiguration **from being performers of traditional dance to dancers enacting freedom fighting**.

Thus, the 'Phantom Dance' questions the representation of folklore in structuring Palestinian identity under the Jordanian rule vis-à-vis the employment of folklore for political expression.

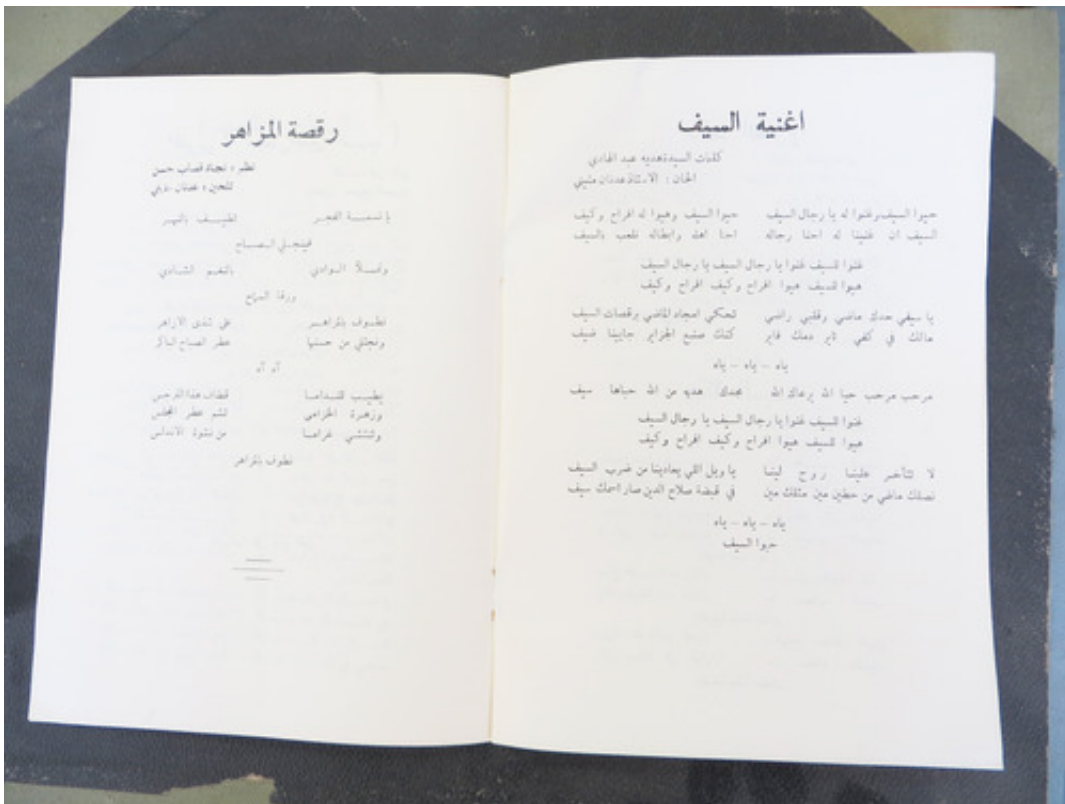
The Ramallah Summer Festival has become a means to understand the extended geography of Palestine at that time with its neighbouring Arab countries, as well as the **vitality of the transcendence of culture, people and politics beyond the political borders and constraints**. The dancers and the archival material of the Ramallah Summer Festival set a critique to the limitations of contemporaneity in present day Ramallah, in comparison to the state of diversity and transnationalism that the city witnessed in the 50s and 60s of last century.



During the opening the artist **Jumana Dabis** performed, attempting to translate the exhibition theme through movement, to bring the phantom dance back to life.



The musician and visual artist **Dirar Kalash** curated the sound installation.



Excerpts from the songs catalogue, Ramallah Summer Festival, 1963. Courtesy: Ramallah Municipality Archive.



*The opening on the 27th October 2014*

The exhibition, part of the project **Outside the Archive** of Ramallah Municipality, continues until 15/11/2014 in **Jaber House**, 17 AIKuliyeh AIAhliyah St., 600 Ramallah

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