



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **BROOKLYN KIDS FESTIVAL ADDRESSES ARAB-ISRAELI RELATIONS**

**Feb. 19, 2009, Brooklyn, NY**

With Mideast tensions running high following the outbreak of war in Gaza, one Brooklyn-based nonprofit is using their arts festival to send a proactive message of peace.

**Dancewave**, a nonprofit dedicated to dance education for young people, has chosen an **Arab and Israeli theme** for its annual **Kids Cafe Festival** March 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> at the Kumble Theater, Long Island University, Brooklyn Campus. This festival will feature workshops on Egyptian and Israeli dance, as well as a city-wide roster of young artists performing dance, theater, and music pieces.

When news of the Gaza war hit US newspapers on January 3rd, **Diane Jacobowitz**, Dancewave's Executive Director, dropped her morning tea. "I was staring at the headlines thinking, what is happening in the world? It made me wonder if we could use Kids Cafe, which is a celebratory family event, to bring together the two cultures together through dance. Let's have kids, from the melting pot that is New York City, point the way to peace."

Kid's Cafe Festival activities will incorporate the topic of conflict and healing. Both days' events will include a tribute to peace run by author and teacher **Dr. Jalaja Bonheim**, known for pioneering a conflict resolution technique called "circlework." Dr. Bonheim has recently returned from running sessions in Israel and the West Bank that brought together Druze, Bedouin, Arab and Jewish women as the Gaza war raged. In addition, workshop participants will have the opportunity to embrace dance traditions from both cultures. **Yuri Lane**, a Chicago beatboxer whose hip-hop play *From Tel Aviv to Ramallah* has toured the US since 2003, will be teaching workshops on hip hop and beatbox on the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>. On March 7<sup>th</sup>, **Yasser Darwish**, a performer and teacher of Egyptian and Middle Eastern dance (including the Tannoura, a secular sufi spinning dance) will teach a workshop; while on the 8<sup>th</sup> the **Parparim Ensemble** of the Israeli Dance Institute will teach a workshop on Israeli folk dance. Dancewave has also invited Arab and Israeli groups from throughout New York City to view the performance and take part.

### **Kids Cafe Festival 2009: Embracing Arab and Israeli Cultures through Music and Dance**

March 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>, Workshops 1-2:30, Performance 3pm Long Island University's Kumble Theater in Brooklyn, 1 University Plaza (at Willoughby St., one block north of B/M/Q/R DeKalb Ave., 2/3/4/5 Nevins St.)

For tickets contact Kumble Theater Box Office 718-488-1624 or visit [www.kumbletheater.org](http://www.kumbletheater.org)

For workshops contact [reghan@dancewave.org](mailto:reghan@dancewave.org) or 718-522-4696; additional details at [www.dancewave.org/kidscafe/](http://www.dancewave.org/kidscafe/)

**About Dancewave:** Dancewave is a nonprofit arts organization offering unique exposure to world-class, pre-professional performing arts training to New York City youth. Our programs approach dance as a forum for meaningful, positive exchange between kids of all backgrounds and cultures.

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