
DZFEST
THE ALGERIAN FESTIVAL FOR ARTS & CULTURE IN THE UK
A FOURTH EDITION
23 SEPT -10 OCT 2026
LONDON | MANCHESTER | CARDIFF
PRODUCED
CULTURAMA
DzFest

ABOUT

CULTURAMA



CELEBRATE CULTURE WITH CULTURAMA

Culturama was founded in 2013 with the mission to promote and preserve the wealth of Algerian culture. There was always a need to highlight the uniquely rich Algerian arts & traditions, which have gone underrepresented on the global stage.
We are driven by our unending passion for culture and cultural exchanges & regernaration.

Over the years, Culturama has grown from a small community center to a thriving hub of cultural activity, with a wide range of programmes and events that attract visitors from all over the world, focusing on Algerian music and culture.
DzFest is one of our favourite events!

WHAT WE DO

CREATE A COHESIVE COMMUNITY

Culture is essential for avoiding conflicts and for conflict resolution. It is an ideal means of communicating across language barriers, empowering people and facilitating social cohesion,

PROMOTE ARTISTS

Provide a platform for established and emerging artists to showcase their art to UK audiences.

DEVELOP COLLABORATIONS

Collaborate with emerging and leading cultural, educational and social organisations to widen the impact of our offerings and reach wider audiences

CATALYSE CHANGE

Modify the cultural narratives surrounding smaller and ethnic minorities to enact a change in visions, attitudes and help to solve intractable social and economic problems; to raise understanding between people and nations; and to encourage solutions to some of the major international challenges we all face.

PROMOTE ALGERIAN CULTURE

Through our events, we join the effort alongside other artists, individuals and organisation in the promotion of the understated Algerian culture.

ABOUT

DZFEST The Algerian Festival for Arts & Culture in the UK

The first British-Algerian Festival for Arts & Culture in the UK.

A culmination and a result of continuous efforts by the Algerian diaspora and the Algerian community in the UK to promote and celebrate its culture & heritage.

To celebrate the British-Algerian and other hybrid cultures between two identities through the Algerian diaspora. To bring & share the much vibrant & hugely diverse yet unknown Algerian culture to all UK & international Audiences, to promote engagement & raise awareness, but also bring the Algerian communities together at a time where social isolation is increasingly becoming a reality.

2026 will see the **fourth edition of** DzFest after a frank success with the previous editions in 2022, 2024 and 2025



OUR THEME

This year, DzFest 2026 is shaped by the theme **Heritage & Decolonisation.** Algeria's cultural heritage is vast, layered and deeply alive: carried through garments, music, language, film, ritual, memory, hospitality and everyday practice.

This edition moves beyond celebration alone. Through exhibitions, talks, film screenings, music, workshops, university partnerships and public conversations, DzFest invites audiences to **revisit inherited narratives**, **challenge colonial framings,** and explore how Algerian traditions continue to be preserved, transformed and transmitted across generations and across the diaspora.

At its heart, DzFest 2026 asks a simple but urgent question: **who gets to define Algerian heritage, and how can communities reclaim the authority to tell their own stories?**

RECEPTION

OPENING RECEPTION

Launch

AFRICA CENTRE
66 GREAT SUFFOLK ST, LONDON SE1 0BL

Borough, London Bridge

WED 23 SEPT
6.30PM

Join us for the official launch of DzFest 2026.

This exclusive opening night kicks off with a warm welcome address by founder, followed by a dedicated sponsor and media moment celebrating the partners who make the festival possible.

Attendees will enjoy a special heritage & Decolonisation preview and of short filmed introduction that unveil this year's compelling festival theme.
It is the perfect start to our cultural celebration, bringing together community, history, and art in one unforgettable evening.
Followed by Refreshments and networking



Talk & Exhbition

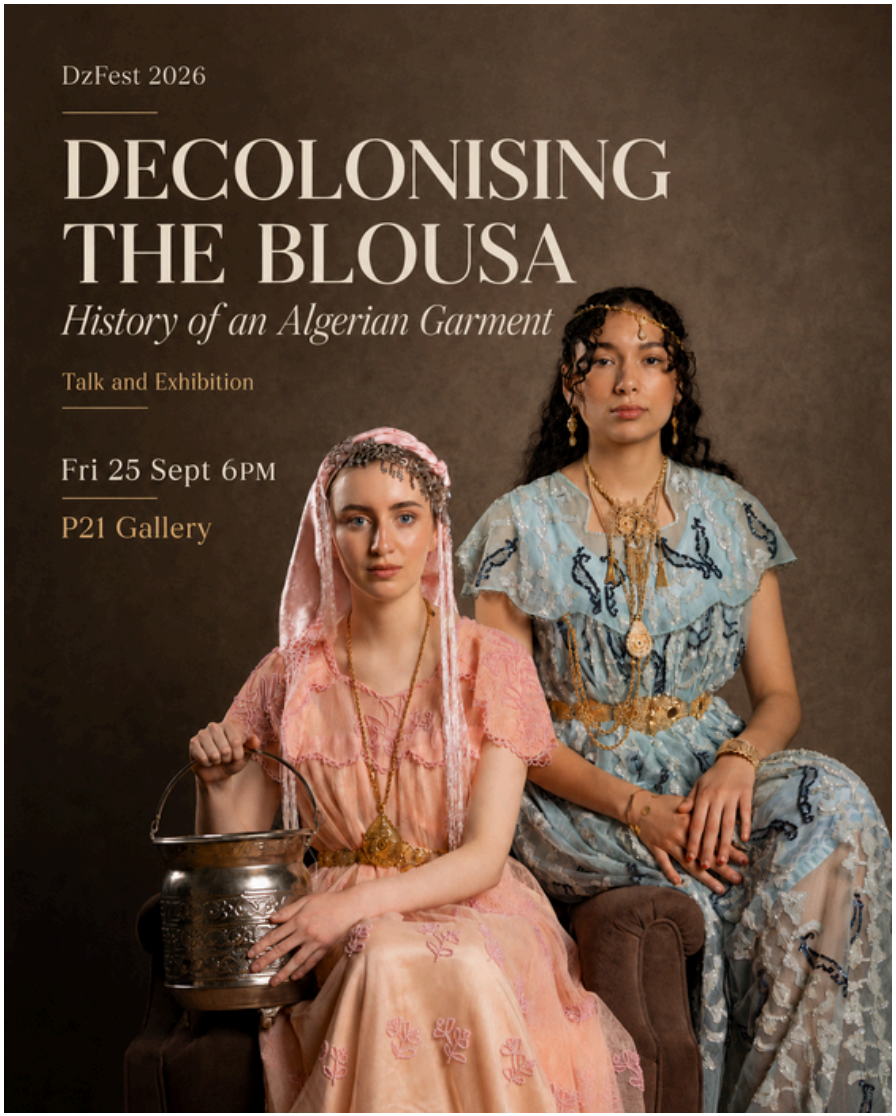
DECOLONISING THE BLOUSA: HISTORY OF AN ALGERIAN GARMENT

Talk & Exhbition

P21 GALLERY
21-27 CHALTON ST, LONDON NW1 1JD

Kings Cross, Euston

FRI 25 SEPT 2026
6PM



As the Algerian blousa makes its historic journey toward formal inscription on the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage list, its narrative stretches far beyond mere aesthetic elegance.

Originating from regions like Tlemcen & Oran, this iconic garment serves as a living archive of historical evolution, regional pride, and creative resistance. However, as indigenous fashion enters global institutions, critical questions arise regarding cultural ownership, international diplomacy, and preservation.

Join Fashion and design scholar **Nada Koreish** and cultural researcher and author **Iyas Bergriche** for an urgent, in-depth discussion exploring the complex history and decolonisation of North African material culture.

Together, the panel will dissect how the Blousa survived colonial disruptions, its modern transformation, and what global protection means for the artisans keeping this heritage alive. Discover how fashion operates as a profound tool for sovereignty, cultural reclamation, and the rewriting of overlooked histories.

Including the official launch of the Blousa exhibition

The exhibition is curated by Le Fennec et Son Burnous and Amelia

The Exhibition features a screening of the 40-minute documentary film “LA BLOUSA” by Abdelatif M’rah

BAZAAR , EXHIBITION

THE ARTFEST - THE SECOND EDITION

SAT 26 SEPT
12-8PM

FAIR, EXHBITION

21 GALLERY
21-27 CHALTON ST, LONDON NW1 1JD

Kings Cross, Euston

A **multidisciplinary bazaar** celebrating Algerian fashion, textiles, garments, design and contemporary craft. Taking place alongside the **Decolonising the Blousa** exhibition, the event brings together Algerian and North African artists, makers and designers from the UK and beyond.

Rooted in DzFest 2026's theme of **heritage and decolonisation**, ArtFest explores how material culture can be reclaimed, reimagined and carried forward beyond colonial or folkloric frames.

More than a bazaar, ArtFest is a living cultural space where heritage is displayed, worn, exchanged and renewed.

- **Meet designers and creators!**
- **Explore the Blousa Exhibition**
- **Watch a film on the Blousa**
- **Network and Meet people**
- **Enjoy some Algerian hospitality at the P21 Café**



CINEMA, Q&A

ALGIERS

Film screening with Director Q&A

CINÉ LUMIÈRE

South Kensington

SUN 27 SEPT 2026
6PM-9PM

Join us for this exciting UK premiere screening of this Algerian thriller set in the city of Algiers.

A mystery thriller film written and directed by **Chakib Taleb-Bendiab** in his directorial debut.
An international co-production starring Meriem Medjkane, Nabil Asli and Hichem Mesbah.

It won the Grand Prix Award at the 28th Rhode Island International Film Festival and it was selected as the Algerian **entry for the Best International Feature Film at the 97th Academy Awards**

By hosting this decolonial narrative at the French institute, DzFest intentionally reclaims an institutional space to examine the complex, intertwined history of France and Algeria through a contemporary artistic lens.

Followed by a Q&A with the director Chakib Taleb-BENDIAB & Film writer & critic Linda Marric



TALK WORKSHOP

Ink and Ancestry: The Disappearing Face Tattoos of Algeria

FRI 2 OCT 2026
6.30-9PM

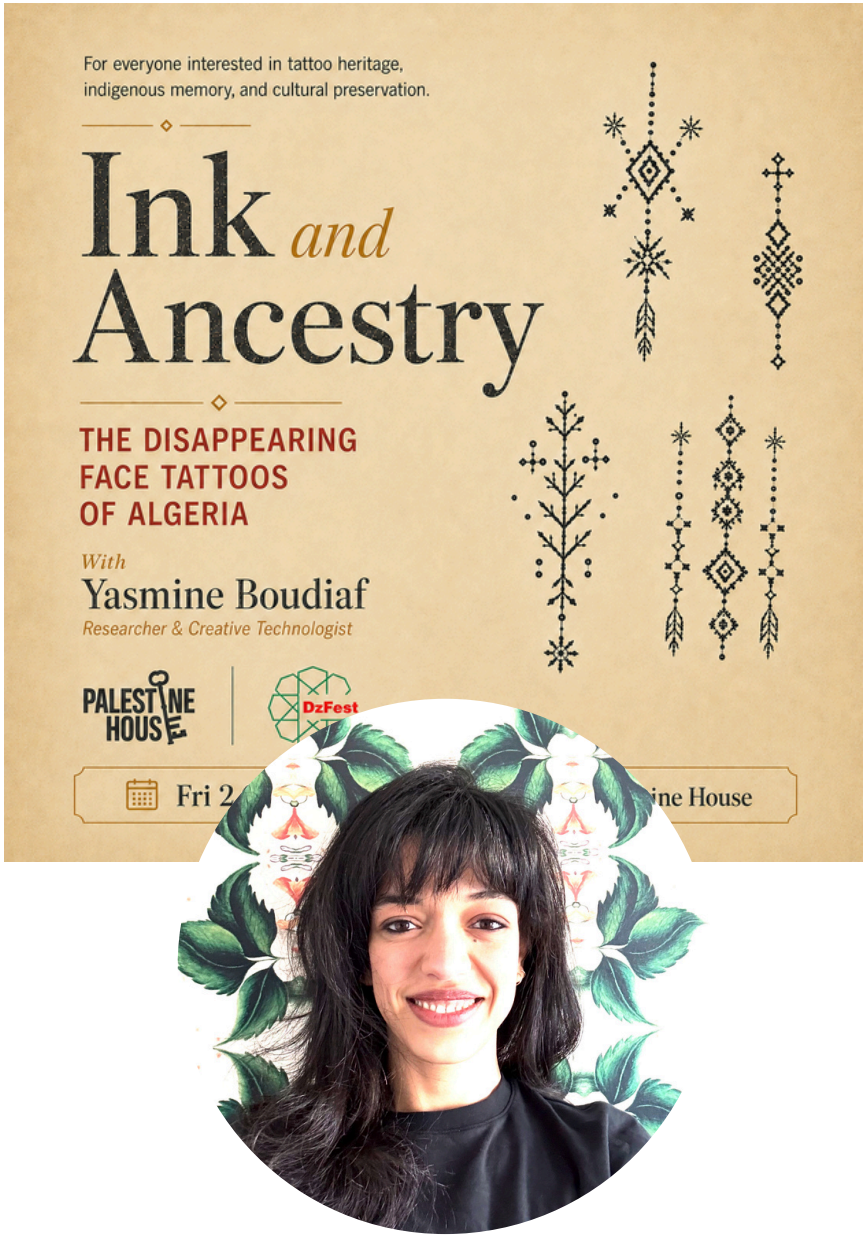
TALK AND PARTICAPTORY WORKSHOP
PALESTINE HOUSE

Holborn

Explore the history, symbolism, and digital preservation of Oucham [tattoos], the traditional facial markings of indigenous women across North Africa, in this ground-breaking session by researcher Yasmine Boudiaf.

For generations, these permanent geometric tattoos served as tribal identifiers, protective amulets, and sacred milestones of womanhood. Now on the brink of erasure, this ancient matriarchal practice is being revitalised through a modern lens.

This session bridges ancestral tradition with modern technology, demonstrating how tools like artificial intelligence (AI) can be used ethically to archive indigenous memo**ry, protect data justice, and combat cultural exploitation.**



Yasmine BOUDIAF
An **Algerian creative technologist** and **researcher** based in London. She is a research fellow at UAL's Creative Computing Institute, a fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and previously at the Ada Lovelace Institute. She was recognised as one of '**100 Brilliant Women in AI Ethics 2022**'.
Her projects interrogate the impact of new technologies on cultural life using **anti-colonial approaches**.
Yasmine's project sits at the intersection of generative AI, intangible heritage, and decolonial practice. It responds to the urgent need to rethink AI infrastructures that rely on extractive data practices, high carbon footprints, and cultural appropriation.

Algerian Cinema: Short stories, Big voices

FILM, DEBATE

SHORT FILMS SCREENING WITH DEBATE
NOT/NOWHERE CINEMA

Hommerton, Hackney

SUN 4 OCT 2026
1.30PM

Lhara Film
الحارة

Curated by **LHARA films** for **DzFest**, this screening brings together a powerful selection of bold, independent shorts from a rising generation of Algerian directors.

Moving fluidly between intimate personal portraits and sweeping societal commentaries, these films offer an unvarnished look at modern Algerian life, memory, and identity.

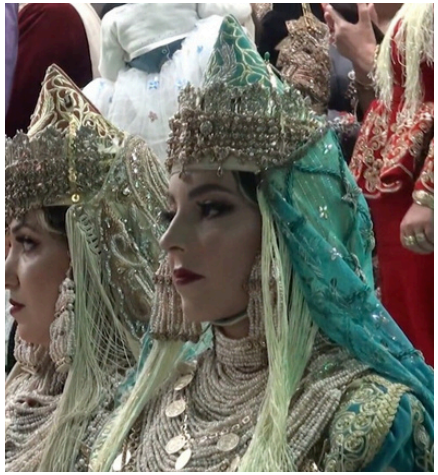
Each filmmaker uses the brief, punchy medium of the short film to challenge traditional cinematic structures, reclaim historical narratives, and push the boundaries of post-colonial visual storytelling.



Boualem Heard It All
(2025) - 17 min



Ta Marbouta
(2023) - 18 Mins



Ta3ezrit
(2024) - 34 mins

LHARA film is an independent, volunteer-led initiative that is currently unfunded and run through dedicated voluntary effort. A community cinema initiative dedicated to celebrating cinema from the Global South.

Alaa Belkis Nouasri is the **founder and director** of Lhara Film,
Alaa is a UK-based Algerian film programmer, writer, and academic whose work focuses on the role of women in North African and Arab screen cultures.

Talk & Exhbition

DECOLONISING THE BLOUSA: HISTORY OF AN ALGERIAN GARMENT - MANCHESTER UNIVERSITY TOUR

WED 7 OCT 2026
1PM

Talk & Exhbition
UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER
Manchester

As the iconic Algerian Blousa journeys toward formal inscription on the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage list, its story stretches far beyond aesthetic elegance.
Worn predominantly in the cities of Tlemcen, Oran, and Mostaganem, the blousa stands as a profound tool for sovereignty, cultural reclamation, and the rewriting of overlooked histories.

This curated showcase invites visitors to explore how indigenous fashion enters global institutions, tackling critical questions regarding cultural ownership, international diplomacy, and the preservation of material culture through colonial disruptions.
Join us at The University of Manchester with fashion and design scholar Nada Koreish and cultural researcher, historian Dr Ikram BENANI for an urgent, in-depth discussion exploring the complex history and decolonisation of North African material culture.
Together, the panel will dissect how the blousa survived colonial disruptions, its modern transformation, and what global protection means for the artisans keeping this heritage alive. Discover how fashion operates as a profound tool for sovereignty, cultural reclamation, and the rewriting of overlooked histories.

🎬 The talk features a screening of the 40-minute documentary film “LA BLOUSA” by Abdelatif M’rah, offering an immersive visual journey into the craftsmanship, daily lives, and heritage of the artisans keeping this legacy alive.



This event is in collaboration with the University of Manchester & The Fashion Liberation Collective North Africa.

Talk & Exhbition

MINI DZFEST 2026 - CARDIFF UNIVERSITY TOUR

FRI 9 OCT 2026
4PM

Talk & Exhbition, Short fims

CARDIFF METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY
WESTERN AVENUE, CF5 2YB

CARDIFF, WALES

As the iconic Algerian Blousa journeys toward formal inscription on the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage list, its story stretches far beyond aesthetic elegance.

Worn predominantly in the cities of Tlemcen, Oran, and Mostaganem, the blousa stands as a profound tool for sovereignty, cultural reclamation, and the rewriting of overlooked histories.
This curated showcase invites visitors to explore how indigenous fashion enters global institutions, tackling critical questions regarding cultural ownership, international diplomacy, and the preservation of material culture through colonial disruptions.

Join us at **Cardiff Metropolitan University** with fashion and **design scholar Nada Koreish** for in-depth discussion exploring the complex history and decolonisation of North African material culture.
The talk will dissect how the blousa survived colonial disruptions, its modern transformation, and what global protection means for the artisans keeping this heritage alive. Discover how fashion operates as a profound tool for sovereignty, cultural reclamation, and the rewriting of overlooked histories.

🎬 **Including the screening of three short films curated by Lhara Films followed by a short debate/round table.**

- **Ta Marbouta (2024) - 18 mins**
- **Boualem Heard It all (2025) - 17 mins**

Lhara Film
الحارة

Cardiff Metropolitan University | Prifysgol Metropolitan Caerdydd



This event is in collaboration with the University of Manchester & The Fashion Liberation Collective North Africa and Lhara Films

WORKSHOP

Frame Drum Masterclass: Exploring the Traditions of the Bendir

FRI 9 OCT 2026
6.30-8.30PM

MARCHMONT CENTER

Kings Cross, Russel Sq

Master the hypnotic percussion traditions of Algeria & North Africa in this immersive, hands-on workshop led by expert **Algerian percussionist Samir Nacer.**

Discover the history and polyrhythms of the frame drum—known as the bendir the historical heartbeat of Algerian communal life, celebration, and spiritual devotion.

Participants of all skill levels will learn to feel and play signature regional time signatures, from the powerful 6/8 grooves of rural Chaoui folklore to syncopated Rai accents and elegant Andalusi phrasing.

No prior musical experience is required



CONFERENCE, TALK, STALLS

Conference: Soundscapes of Al-Andalus – The Algerian Legacy London

SAT 3 OCT
1 - 6 PM

UNIVERSITY OF EAST LONDON [UEL] . STRATFORD CAMPUS

Stratford

CMRB Centre for Migration, Refugees and Belonging

University of East London
Pioneering Futures since 1898

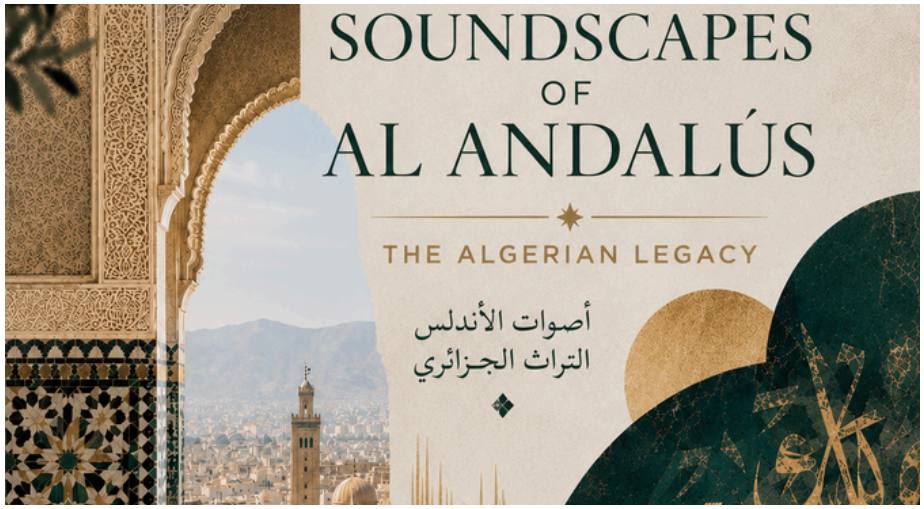
Algeria's Al-Andalus music legacy: **exploring Nouba music**, Sana'a, Gharnati & Malouf via history, performance, gender & decolonial debate.

DzFest 2026 presents a landmark conference at the University of East London, bringing together musicologists, researchers and master musicians to explore Algeria's classical musical traditions and their relationship with the heritage commonly associated with Al-Andalus.

The conference will examine the Ṣanaʿa of Algiers, the Ṣanʿa of Tlemcen [also known as Gharnati], and the Malouf of Constantine, while taking a critical view of simplified claims around direct Andalusian transmission.
Rather than treating origin as settled fact, the programme will explore how music, memory, migration and identity have shaped **these repertoires across Algeria and within the diaspora.**

Going beyond celebration, this event will challenge inherited narratives, **revisit assumptions around the Nouba,** and create a decolonial space for serious discussion on Algerian musical heritage, transmission and cultural memory.

By hosting this historical and cultural inquiry at the University of East London, DzFest draws on UEL and CMRB's diverse, community-centred academic environment to create an independent and decolonial space for indigenous, diasporic and transnational research.



Programme Highlights

- Insights from **Dr Latefa Guemar**, researcher and musicologist **Dr. Redha Benabdallah and Dr Salva MORRA.** Moderated by BBC Analyst **Hicham YEZZA**
- Performance: An exclusive Kwitra solo showcase by **master Kwitra player** and researcher **Dr. Redha Benabdallah.**
- **Refreshments & Networking: Unwind with some Algerian authentic mint tea, and Algerian sweets**.

This event is in collaboration with The Centre for Migration, Refugees and Belonging (CMRB) and University of East London (UEL)

LIVE MUSIC

NIGHTS OF AL-ANDALUS: ALGERIAN SONGS OF MEMORY AND HERITAGE

St James' Piccadilly
PICCADILLY, W1J 9LL
Green Park, Piccadilly, Oxford Circus

SAT 10 OCT 2026
7-9.30PM



DZFEST CLOSING NIGHT

Join the Algerian Music Association of London (AMAL) for an enchanting night celebrating the rich, sweeping heritage of Algerian music.
Directed by **mezzo-soprano Rachida Lamri,** this diverse ensemble takes the stage in breath-taking traditional attire to perform "Arabo-Andalusi" Nouba & classical masterpieces and nostalgic oldies.

The choir's captivating vocal arrangements will be backed by an exceptional line-up of world-class instrumentalists. Lead by **oud virtuoso Yaz Fentazi,** celebrated for his high-profile collaborations with global icons Robert Plant and Natacha Atlas.

Secure your seat for a magical evening of culture, rhythm, and pure musical artistry in this beautiful venue in the heart of London.

Born out of love, love of community and love of music.
Founded in February 2025, following the hugely successful Algerian-Andalusi singing workshops at DzFest 2024, AMAL is a vocal choir bringing together parents, children, musicians, and aspiring singers to celebrate and re-discover their heritage.
With a varied repertoire spanning Algerian classics and timeless favourites.

ABOUT OUR

SPONSORS & Partners!

A HUGE THANKS TO OUR FUNDERS & PARTNERS FOR MAKING OUR WORK POSSIBLE!



PARTNERS & VENUES

CMRB Centre for Migration, Refugees and Belonging

P21 Gallery

University of East London
Pioneering Futures since 1898

Manchester 1824
The University of Manchester

Palestine House

Lhara Film
الحارة

The Liberation Collective

Cardiff Metropolitan University | Prifysgol Metropolitan Caerdydd

Culturama

Ciné Lumière

Le Fennec et son Burnous

Amelia
Traditional Outfit for Ri

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