

## SAAD AL GHEFARI سعد الغفري

born in Damascus 1981, is an actor and stand-up comedian based in Vienna. Growing up in a family of female artists, he was raised up in between emancipatory discussions about religion, politics, art and women's rights, significantly influenced by his grandmother and his mother, who, as prominent figures in the Syrian cultural scene, have always been committed to socio-political issues. At the age of nine, Al Ghefari began his career as a child actor in Syrian television, followed by numerous film, theater and television productions both in Syria and abroad. He completed his studies at the renowned Higher Institute of Dramatic Arts in Damascus. Over time, Al Ghefari developed a particular interest in comedy as both an artistic form and a political tool. This interest deepened during the Syrian War, where he explored the potential of comedy as a means of expression. He performed as a stand-up comedian in Damascus for the first time in 2014, establishing a genre that had not previously existed in Syria. After his flight from the ongoing war in Syria, he continued his work as a stand-up comedian in Austria, trying to develop a language that is both idiosyncratic and global, preserving the polemics and poetics of the Arabic language in English with all its deviations and absurdities. Along with his passion for cross-cultural conceptions of history, mythology and etymology, he is keen to display these traditions through new media such as the Tiktok platform, following their potential to engage youth as a movement for a global understanding to come.

Currently, he is working on the play *I'm Crocodiled*, in collaboration with Theater Spektakel funded by Stadt Wien, and is teaching in the project *Schalom und Salam - Scenes of Peace*, a political education initiative aimed at promoting Jewish-Arab dialogue.

## Selected works

### Theater:

2018

*The Factory*

Director: Omar Abusaada, Script: Mohammad Al Attar

Ruhrtriennale 2018 – PACT Zollverein, Essen

Coproduction of Volksbühne Berlin with Ruhrtriennale

2017

*Flüchtling im Wunderland*

Director: Oula AL Khatib, Script: Khalil Mohammad

Venues: Dschungel Wien, Theater Akzent Wien, Kultur.Park.Traun,

Forum Stadtpark / Theater am Lend Graz, Brunnenpassage Wien

2016

*I think we called it family*

Concept: Barbara Wolfram, Text: Barbara Wolfram und EVOLve

Theatre Company Ensemble

Brunnenpassage – in the frame of KunstSozialRaum Brunnenpassage

In Cooperation with Train of Hope, Schauspielhaus Wien, ERASMUS

Student Network, Lions Club Wien, Afghan Women Writing's Project,

Smart Academy

2011

*One Thousand and One Night*

Adaption: Hanan al-shaykh, Director: Tim Supple

Venues: Toronto – Canadian Opera Company, Royal Lyceum Theatre

Edinburgh / Schottland – Edinburgh International Festival

Commissioned by Luminato, Toronto Festival of Arts and Creativity

2010

*O'odaa Syria [»Syrian Flat«]*

Adaption: Oula Al Katib nach dem libanesischem Theaterstück »Smile

you are Lebanon« von Yehya Jaber. A production of the Syrian

National Theatre Damascus

- 2009 *A'do al sha'ab*  
Director: Yaser Abed Al Latif after »An Enemy of the People« of Henrik Ibsen. A production of the National Opera Damascus
- 2006 *A Midsummer Night's Dream*  
Director: Fayez Kazak after »A Midsummer Night's Dream« of William Shakespeare produced by the Higher Institute of Dramatic Arts, Damascus
- 2005 *AB -*  
Improvised script. A production by the Higher Institute of Dramatic Arts, Damascus
- 2024 **Stand-Up Comedy:**  
*Modern Parenting for Arabs*  
Comedy Thursday im Votivkino Cafe, The Church – International Bar, Comedy Pub Vienna
- 2022 *Muslim in the Church*  
The Church – International Bar, Spektakel
- Comedy Café Netherlands, Amsterdam*  
*Laugh or Die Laughing Comedy Club, Berlin*  
*Lagrange Points, Brussels*
- 2021 *Culture Shock*  
Kultursommer Vienna »Wien dreht auf«, 1210 Vienna
- Offensivley Funny u.a.*  
Shebeen – International Pub Wien / together with Tamas Vamos  
Cillax Wien, 1070 Vienna

voie 15, Paris  
Little Stage Club, Berlin

2020 *Sultans of Comedy*  
together with Walid Azak, Gazelles, 1090 Vienna

2019 *Four Wieners*  
together with Paul Nonama, Gus Horn Pereira und Michal Poznik  
Shebeen – International Pub Vienna

**Film / Video:**

2023 *Fi Dalma [»In the Dark«]*  
Director: Waref Abi Quba. Music Video production with Basma Jabr  
for her album »Furat«, AT 2023

2020 *Cups*  
Director: Mattheo Sanders, Kurzfilm AT 2020

2018 *The Story of the Polar Bear that wanted to go to Africa*  
Director: Mo Harawe, Short film, AT 2018

*The Sparrow*  
Director: Nasri Hajjaj, Short film, AT 2018

2016 *Citadel*  
Director: Anastasia Skava, Short film, AT 2016

*City of Spies*  
Director: Phil Moran, Advertising, AT 2016

2007 *Seven Kilometers from Jerusalem*  
Director: Claudio Malaponti, IT 2007

TV shows:

2009

*Al Horob* [»Escape«]

Director: Saer Mussa, SY 2009

*Aboab Al Naeem* [»Doors of Heaven«]

Director: Hatem Ali, SY 2009

*Lawrence Of Arabia*

Director: Saer Mussa, SY 2009

*Qa'a Al Madina* [»Abyss of the City«]

Director: Samer Housain, SY 2009

*Jonon Al A'aser* [»Modern Mdaness«]

Director: Marwoan Barakat, SY 2009

2003 -2008

*Nada al Ayam* [»Dew of Days«]

Director: Hatem Ali, SY 2008

*Al Malak Al Thaer* [»The Revolutionary Angel«]

Director: Fardous Atasi, SY 2007

*Orwa ben Al Ward* [»A Poet«]

Director: Ghassan Jabri, SY 2006

*Al Mawo'oda* [The Buried]

Director: Saer Mussa, SY 2005

*Zekrayat al Zaman* [The Memories of the Future]

Director: Haitham Haqqi, SY 2003

**Lectures / Teaching:**

2017

*Syria between Mythos und Reality*

Curating the event of SPERANZA »about a nation beyond blood and tears«, Transform! europe 1040 Vienna

2023

*The Gaza Mono-Logues*

Lecture, together with N. Tamar Adler-Oppenheim in the frame of Hier & Jetzt Vienna 2023, Kunsttankstelle Ottakring

2025

*Schalom und Salam - Scenes of Peace*

A political education initiative aimed at promoting Jewish-Arab dialogue (employed as a fixed teacher at schools since March 2023)