



A Seenaryo Scratch Performance

Creativity from Scratch

By Seenaryo, specialists in theatre and play-based learning in marginalised communities



Aya getting advice from a facilitator

To create theatre through a participatory approach is like cooking up a meal. One uses many different ingredients to bring the final dish (the theatre production) together! Seenaryo's theatre participants work with each other, guided by facilitators, to create an original performance from scratch.

Seenaryo has been using participatory techniques to create theatre with marginalised communities since 2015 in Lebanon and since 2018 in Jordan. Music, movement, dance and drama all play a part in Seenaryo-led theatre projects. We have three main theatre programmes:

1. **Seenaryo Studio** projects are our flagship productions led by professional theatre-makers and developed over several months with participants we know well or invite to audition. They often tour nationally (sometimes internationally) and the actresses and actors involved often undergo training to become facilitators themselves

2. **Seenaryo Cycles** are processes where we create theatre with the same participants, allowing the group to develop over time. They are led by facilitators we train and are in collaboration with partners and communities we engage with
3. **Seenaryo Scratches** are productions developed intensively over one or two weeks. They are also led by facilitators we train, and include our all-singing, all-dancing Showbuilds as well as many reactive, small scale projects like the ones we did in response to the port explosion in Beirut last year

Today, we're taking you into the world of Seenaryo Scratches.



"Of course, I was nervous before the performance, but the excitement overpowered it!" –Aya

And who better to guide you than one of our very own Children's Theatre participants, Aya.

Aya Malkawi (15) has a passion for the arts. She's taken part in three Seenaryo Scratches, one of which was an online theatre programme. We met up with her for a quick chat!

How old were you when you acted for the first time?
I was eight and in third grade when our teacher, who was very active, started lots of theatre productions for us, which was great! I played the role of a young boy at the time.

Was this the turning point that made you realise you enjoyed theatre?

Actually, no. My first experience with Seenaryo at the Haya Cultural Centre in Rusaifah East Amman made me really love theatre and being on stage!

What happens in a Seenaryo Scratch project?

At the very start, we (a group of children) are brought together by Seenaryo's facilitators and are introduced to each other. We play games to get to know each other, break the ice, and prepare ourselves for the process. The facilitators explain that we will be creating the scenes and developing the story ourselves. We then start playing more directed games and activities to create the scenes, the script and eventually the

entire performance. They also give us music and we write lyrics to the songs together. They help us create the storyline and then we start rehearsing the scenes we create together!

What roles have you had the chance to perform?
I've played the role of a wise old lady, a mother and a journalist.

Why do you think Seenaryo played lots of games during the process?

I think they're meant to prepare us as young actors and actresses for theatre and get us ready for the big performance.

Which project did you enjoy most?

I enjoyed the three productions equally; the face-to-face ones a bit more than the online one because I like being able to see the others and work with them directly. However, the story I liked most was the one we created during the second production. It had an open ending, but the facilitators told us we could each pretend the production had the ending of our choice.

Is there anything you enjoyed more about online theatre?

Yes, being able to film more than one take! If the first video doesn't work, I can just do it again.

What interests do you have other than theatre?

I like arts and drawing and I'm very interested in Japanese culture and Anime, a style of animation originating in Japan which I think is really cool. I also enjoy writing short stories.

Even though she's already participated in three theatre workshops with Seenaryo, Aya wants to develop her acting skills further and become more comfortable with being on stage and dealing with the jitters before performances. The teen also plans on pursuing her passion for art or learn Japanese, or maybe both! We know that as well as developing her acting skills, Aya has been strengthening her ability to collaborate, think critically, and be creative. These are essential and transferable life skills that will help her pursue whatever she chooses to do in the future. For us at Seenaryo, therein lies the power of participatory theatre.

To learn more, visit Seenaryo.com. You can also follow us on our social media for more information.



The show begins!

“ The children’s parents were extremely impressed with the level of professionalism in this project and reported a positive change in their children’s behaviour ”

–Mahmoud Hind, Director
of the Rusaifah Community Centre,
where Aya performed in 2019 and 2020

Zoom to the Moon

You can watch a whole range of our theatre performances on www.youtube.com/seenaryo.

In May, we live-streamed our online theatre festival, *Zoom to the Moon*, which showcased online theatre performances created by 100 children and youth in Jordan and Lebanon during lockdown. The children took part in theatre workshops over Zoom and filmed themselves acting out their scenes at home, which professional filmmakers then edited. Tune in to our YouTube channel to see the results! *Zoom to the Moon* is perfect for younger children to watch at home, full of good acting, lots of laughs and creative inspiration.

A 5-day Seenaryo Scratch


A whirlwind, jam-packed, magical five days at the end of which 20 or more children will have created an entire play with set, costume, songs and dance routines from scratch

Day One: Playing games, creating sketches and writing songs

Day Two: More games, learning songs and creating the story

Day Three: Painting the backdrop, choosing characters and devising scenes...oh, and more games!

Day Four: You guessed it...more games plus finishing devising the scenes and learning the dance routines

Day Five: Games, rehearse, rehearse some more rehearsals and then...show time! 



Aya and other participants rehearsing their songs