

Clowns without Borders

Al Bus camp



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Day 4 saw us up at the crack of dawn and again heading south to Sour to do a show in the Al Bus Camp. After a 2 hour journey we arrived and were met by Manar, the head of the school and centre Al Mahabba. We quickly set up on a staged area and went off to change into costume while Donal entertained the children with music and sounds.

There were 190 in the audience made up of 30 Syrian children, 40 Palestinian children from Syria and 100 Palestinian children aged between 8-11 years. Teachers, parents and toddlers made up the rest.

After the show we hung out with some of the children who played with us reenacting some of the scenes. One boy began to copy the magic tricks he had seen in the show making mine and Helen's hats disappear and reappear! Another was intrigued by the musical instruments so Donal showed him a rhythm on the tambourine which he couldn't get at first, but he kept trying until he had mastered it.

We had a short break and then took a workshop with 25 teachers and volunteers who work with the children. 24 women and 1 man. We played various drama games with them that they could teach to the children. Whilst playing 'grandmother's footsteps' one of the women turned to me and described the game as "beautiful".

After the workshop we went to Manar's office for coffee and chatted with her about the reaction from the children. She said that they rarely sit for this amount of time so concentrated and engaged, and that the show had made them very happy and excited.