

ID-DEJJEM THE EVERLINK



A PLAY WITH MUSIC & DANCE
ST. AGATHA AUDITORIUM, RABAT, MALTA

An original concept by Reuben Pace
featuring a collaboration between professionals & students

31.05.2024 - 20:00HRS

Artwork Creation & Design: SOA Students
Production Manager: Emmanuel Cassar
Stage Manager: Yasmin Falzon
Orchestra Conductor: Roderick Bugeja
Choir Master: Geoffrey Thomas
Costume Design: Sarah Grech
Art Adaptation & Projections: George Mario Attard

Executive Producer: Victor Galea
Composer: Reuben Pace
Script: Malcolm Galea
Artistic Director: Stephen Oliver



Synopsis

Aidan, a 10-year-old boy has never met his grandparents because they mysteriously disappeared before he was born. One night Aidan decides to go and look for his grandparents in the last place they were seen – the temples of Hagar Qim. However, he ends up in an unexpected adventure

Roles:

Aidan: Owen Polidano (student at St. Benedict's College)

Father: Clayton Mallia

Mother: Jessica Jane Cassar (student from Mikiel Anton Vassalli College, Malta School of Drama and Dance)

Grandfather: Franco Sciberras

Grandmother: Lydia Portelli

Pirate: Sean Briffa (Educator at Mikiel Anton Vassalli College, Malta School of Drama and Dance)

Policewoman: Derine Labada Muscat (student from Mikiel Anton Vassalli College, Malta School of Drama and Dance)

Ghouls/Ensemble: Faith Camilleri, Joy Xerri, Michela Caruana, Milagros del Mar Lattes, Adriano Jesus Lattes, Yana Busuttil, Neena Camilleri Briffa, Diana Zammit

Student dancers : Mia Josifov, Ana Briffa Francalanza, Emma Azzopardi, Jody Grech, Elise Cachia, Francesca Cauchi Grech (students from Mikiel Anton Vassalli College, Malta School of Drama and Dance)

Professional dancers : Cindelle Bouard, Charlotte Carpentier, Gaia Benedetelli, Simona Rando, Irene Nocella, Gabriele Farinacci

Mr. Victor Galea

Executive Producer,
Head of Mikiel Anton Vassalli College Network



It gives me great pleasure able to present yet another College production with the efforts and input from the specialised schools of the visual and performing arts (Schools of Drama, Dance, Music and Art) through the artistic platform Belt il-Bniedem.

The New National Education Strategy (2024-30) will allow for students to steadily progress towards attaining their dreams and reach their aspirations, and possibly towards a career related to the Arts Industry.

Following the production of the first Opera-Film in Maltese 'BLAT – The Island Fortress', premiered in June of 2022, last year we presented the production 'Ġawhar Misjub', literally meaning discovered gems, which focused on the operatic music of late Maltese composers.

Now, for 2024 we are presenting yet another multidisciplinary arts production ID-DEJJEM, this time focusing mainly on acting and dance. The educational objectives behind these multidisciplinary arts productions remain the same as in previous years:

- a) Giving students the experience to work with established artists – thus bringing our young generations closer to the Arts Industry;
- b) Creating awareness amongst students about the importance of the different roles that a multidisciplinary arts production entails, and the respect each art form necessitates;
- c) Giving an opportunity to all those involved (whether on direction/light/stage design, projections, costumes and wigs, dancers, musicians, visual artists, actors etc.) to be able to work effectively together.

Moreover, as a Further and Higher Education Institution, Mikiel Anton Vassalli College will award all successful students with an MQF Level 3 Award in Placement in Commercial Multi-Disciplinary Production (24 ECTS).

I am sure that following this live performance of ID-DEJJEM, many of you will be surprised about the high level and high standard of these productions.

Enjoy.

Dr. Reuben Pace
Composer and Producer



Writing for a theatre piece proved to be a challenge for me. I had worked for music for film and opera before but not for the theatre.

Luckily I already knew the director Stephen Oliver and this helped in visualising the action that would take place, hence I could connect with the dramatic action better resulting in a tight bond between the sonic and visual elements of this production.

Particular principal characters like Aidan and the Pirate have their melodic fragments whenever they appear, this helps them be more recognizable.

Today's multidisciplinary arts production is brought to you through the artistic platform 'Belt il-Bniedem (City of Humanity) now fully endorsed by the Mikiel Anton Vassalli College. The main aim of this artistic platform is to serve as an artistic-educational environment where students of the visual and performing arts can take part in the actual productions alongside professionals in the sector.

Putting up a staged performance such as today's is no mean feat as it involves several professionals besides the music performers.

To mention but a few; one requires a stage director, a stage manager, a set designer, a costume designer, a lights designer – and the list goes on. Along with these professionals, we have a substantial number of students who are part of the production by assisting and working alongside the professionals.

The roles taken by students range from singers to backstage hands. By working and being mentored by professionals in different fields the students will master the leap from the classroom environment to the Entertainment/Art Industry.

The college has also gone further than this and has designed an accredited MQF Level 3 Certificate in Practical Multi-Disciplinary Studies in the Visual and Performing Arts (60 ECTS), in which students can gain further knowledge and skills in their prospective career as artists.

Stephen Oliver
Artistic Director



Only a child sees things with perfect clarity, because it hasn't developed all those filters that prevent us from seeing things we don't expect. For Aidan that fantasy becomes a reality when he goes searching for his long-lost grandparents and finds himself trapped in another world, complete with adventures beyond his wildest dreams. Will he ever get back to his Mother and Father safely ?

I am indebted to the producers of ID-DEJEM for putting their trust in me to direct this little gem of a story and to my committed and multi-talented cast and crew, together with our fabulous orchestra and choir, to be able to bring you this beautiful story.

Malcolm Galea
The Script Writer



Malcolm Galea is a playwright who has been working professionally in theatre for over 20 years. His international awards include the Off-West End Theatre Award for Best New Musical (2011) and the Brighton Fringe Award for Best Newcomer (2022).

Young Aidan sets out to find his grandparents who disappeared mysteriously many years ago. After finding them in a strange world and time, he realises that he is now unable to return. Does he have what it takes to face the challenges that now stand in his way?

The Performers

Roderick Bugeja - Conductor



Currently Principal Trombone with the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra, Roderick Bugeja Calleja was born in 1978 in Malta. At the age of eight he started his music studies at the MAVC, Malta School of Music, formerly known as Johann Strauss School of Music in Valletta.

In 1989 he attended trumpet classes at the Soċjetà Filarmonika Pinto, Banda San Sebastjan. He continued to study brass instruments, namely the euphonium and the trombone, under the guidance of Mro Paul Borg. He also enjoyed some experience playing the viola with which he performed for both the Manoel Theatre Orchestra and the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra. In November 2000 Roderick was appointed Band Master of the Għaqda Mużikali Marija Bambina, Banda Vittorja, Naxxar, for whom he has directed several music programmes some of which have been recorded on CD.

In 2008 he directed the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra (MPO) in recording two songs with the group Sixth Sinfoni. He has since conducted the MPO as well as the Malta Youth Orchestra (MYO) on a number of occasions. He directed the MPO as it accompanied the internationally renowned deejay Tenishia during the inauguration ceremony of Valletta as European Capital of Culture in 2018 and again in July 2020 as part of a project called TEMPO.

In January 2020 Roderick attended a conducting masterclass in Lithuania with Alexander Polyanichko. He was there chosen to conduct the Lithuanian State Symphony Orchestra in the final concert. He has also attended conducting classes with Mro Eduardo Portal who had debuted with the London Symphony Orchestra in 2011.

In August 2021 Roderick was given the role of assistant conductor with the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra for its Dubai tour. In September '21 he conducted MPO in the Independence Concert with a repertoire from Verdi, Tchaikovsky, local composers Alex Vella Gregory and Albert Garcia, as well as Malta's premier performance of Bloch's Nigun for violin and orchestra.

In November 2023, Roderick was again entrusted by the Malta Philharmonic board in the 'Do-Re-Mi of music' project, designed to introduce the enchanting world of classical music to the young audiences, and he conducted its opening concert.

As a solo trombonist, in June, 2016 Roderick was invited to play in a Gala Concert alongside the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra under the direction of Mro Brian Schembri and in 2019 he was again invited to perform, this time in Kazakhstan with the Eurasian Symphony Orchestra and the OMSK Symphony Orchestra of Russia.

Throughout the years Roderick has delivered numerous masterclasses on brass instruments; how to prepare and practice for performances as well as on conducting and on orchestral skills. Roderick is the author of a two-book series, A way to Practice, which were launched in June '23. They are specifically crafted for Trombone and Euphonium in Bass clef and Trombone, Euphonium and Baritone in Treble Clef.

Moveo Dance Company - Choreographers

Founded in 2008 by Artistic Director and Choreographer Dorian Mallia, Moveo stands as one of Malta's foremost dance companies, boasting a distinguished legacy. Presently, the company is under the co-



direction of Diane Portelli, who also serves as a resident choreographer. Comprising a diverse ensemble of both local and international dancers, Moveo places a firm emphasis on the cultivation of strong technical foundations.

Throughout its history, Moveo has consistently delivered compelling contemporary dance performances, earning recognition from esteemed venues and festivals. While contemporary dance remains at the core of their artistic pursuits, the company has seamlessly engaged in collaborative endeavors across interdisciplinary boundaries. An integral facet of Moveo's creative process involves active participation from its dancers, a practice that ensures each production remains vibrant and in a state of perpetual evolution, both in terms of dynamics and artistic form.

Owen Polidano – Aidan Student St. Benedict's College, Kirkop



Owen Polidano is an enthusiastic and skilled actor and, although the performance *Id-Dejjem* is going to be his debut in professional theatre he has already taken part in a myriad of school plays such as "Jack And The Beanstalk" and "Grajja" in which, besides acting on stage, he played an important role in the writing of the script.

Jessica Jane Cassar - The Mother



Jessica started singing when she was ten years old, as part of Shalom Choir, Amadeus Chamber Choir and St Monica Choir. She also studied classical music for a number of years but then fell in love with acting.

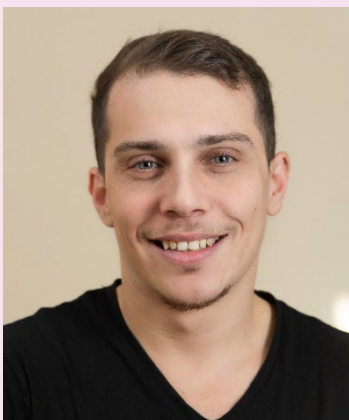
At eighteen years old she had the opportunity to visit Stella Adler and took some master classes there on screen acting. Returning to Malta, after staying in LA for a couple of months her first role was in the local film *Deċeduti Wara l-Aħħar tad-Dinja*.

Over the years she was part of numerous television programmes such as *Prima Facie*, *Il-Patt*, *Sorelle*, *F'Ġieh l-Imħabba*, *Ħbieb u Għedewwa*, *Noli*, *Fattigi*, *Bizzilla*, *Klassi Għalina* and *lċ-Ċaqqufa*. She also acted in short films and the latest feature film that she took part in was *Klassi Għalina vs Dracula*.

She also had the opportunity to be part of the feature film *7 Days in Entebbe* where she went to film with some other Maltese actors at Ealing Studios in London. She featured in the Web series *Coming Soon* and music videos produced by Take 2, The Crowns, and The Busker. In 2021 she took part in the MADC One Acts in the play *Housekeeper Wanted*.

She also has a background in modelling and took part in fashion shows, competitions and commercials. She holds an ATCL in Speech and Drama from Trinity College London and currently she is studying for the MQF Level 5 Certificate in Acting and Drama (60 ECTS) at the MAVC, Malta School of Drama and Dance.

Clayton Mallia - The Father



Clayton Mallia found his passion for theatre and performance some 12 years ago. As a former TMYT member he has managed to explore skills such as devising, co-directing, physical theatre, musical theatre, commedia dell'arte, puppetry and shadow puppetry.

His stage credits include *Dreamcatchers* (ŻiguŻajg 2023), *Sam in It's Reigning Cats and Dogs* (ŻiguŻajg, 2022/23), *Banquo/Sayton in Macbeth* (Teatru Manoel, 2023), *Ensemble in Hush* (2018, TMYT).

2018 saw him awarded Best Actor in the MADC One Acts Festival.

He also co-produced an online web series named *Qarabagħli* which is available on YouTube.

Franco Sciberras - The Grandfather



Franco has always enjoyed performing – through various University Student Festivals and VOICES concerts. In more recent times, he has appeared in “Fiddler on the Roof”, “One Flew over the Cuckoo’s Nest”, “Robin Hood” (Panto), “Evita”, “Taming of the Shrew”, “Amadeus”, “Macbeth”, “Tempest”, “Breaking the Code”, “the Merry Wives of Windsor” and “Cikku and the Chocolate Panto”.

Franco is a Certified Accountant by profession and has completed his Grade 6 Trinity College Drama Exam and his Grade 5 Contemporary Voice and Music Theory at the MAVC, Malta School of Music. Franco has also participated in MADC’s “One Act Play Festival” twice, being nominated for Most Promising Actor in 2017 and for Best Actor in 2019.

Lydia Portelli - The Grandmother



Lydia Portelli has been taking part in theatrical productions for the past 20 years. Some of the productions she has been in are Metamorfofi, Moving Mountains, L-Ewwel Jien and Il-Lukandiera.

Her favourite genre is Forum Theatre and she was part of a Community Theatre group for a number of years. As part of this group, she performed in various locations around the country such as youth clubs and schools.

She has taken part in various local television productions. Lydia is an Assistant Head of school and an active volunteer in dog shelters.

Sean Briffa – The Pirate



Sean Briffa is an actor and a performing artist. Apart from his work on stage, he also performs his puppet shows and his fire shows all around Malta

Some of his favourite shows featuring his puppets were the street theatre shows done for festivals such as Medieval Mdina and Notte Bianca, the science shows done for Science in the City, Science in the Citadel and the Kids Dig Science program. Another theatre experiment he holds close to heart was Teatru Malta's production of *Fi-Do*, a performance joining puppets, physical work and music for an audience of dogs and their owners.

Sean also has a passion for improvisation. His show *Nibnu Storja* and Teatru Malta's *Etikett* have toured the islands with several shows, each time bringing a new adventure to the stage.

Sean is an educator at MAVC, Malta School of Drama and Dance.

Derine Labada Muscat - Policewoman



In 'Id-Dejjem', Derine plays a dual role - part of the ensemble and a policewoman. Having completed her training in theatre and media at the Malta Visual and Performing Arts School (MVPA), Derine hopes to pursue a career in the performing arts.

She is currently studying Drama, Musical Theatre, Freestyle Dance and Dance Theatre Fusion at the MAVC, Malta School of Drama and Dance.

Just finishing her Matsec exams, Derine looks forward to studying Theatre at the University of Malta.

Eleonor Borg - Flute



Eleonor is 20 years old and currently, studying at MCAST to become an accountant. One of her hobbies and stress relievers is playing the flute which she has been doing so for ten years.

She started learning the flute with a local village band and later on took her studies to the MAVC, Malta School of Music where currently she is reading for a Diploma. During her musical journey she has played with several local village bands, orchestras, and other small ensembles. Playing in a live orchestra during a live production was something that she always wanted to do and therefore 'Id-Dejjem- The Everlink' will be her first experience doing so.

Aleksander Zgorzak - Double Bass



Aleksander Zgorzak, is a 17 year old who was born in Warsaw, Poland, where he started playing the doublebass at the age of six. He participated in many national Doublebass competitions in Poland, earning first place. After this he continued his double bass studies in Slovenia, at the Musical Conservatory of Ljubljana, where he also had his first experience playing in an orchestra.

Four years ago his family moved to Malta where Aleksander resumed his studies at the MAVC, Malta School of Music under the guidance of Professor Cinkievski and Professor Agnetti. Profesor Cinkievski encouraged him to apply for the Malta Youth Orchestra, where he has been excelling his skills for the past three years. His musical journey has been ever evolving, and he is excited for what is yet to come!

Martha Kouzuopi - Percussion



Maria Athanasia Kouzoupi is an undergraduate student at the University of Malta, Music Department, B.Mus. (Hons) degree. She is also a student at Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece, Bachelor of Film Studies (under suspension of studies). She has been studying and playing music (percussion and piano) since she was 8 years old. She has been awarded degrees in Harmony and Symphonic Percussion by the Greek Ministry of Culture. She also has a degree in Medical Health as a medical laboratory assistant. She has a great interest in music performance, orchestration, and composition. She has performed with the Philharmonic Orchestra of Malta (MPO) and the Malta Youth Orchestra (MYO) as a timpanist/percussionist since 2022, and the Symphonic Youth Orchestra of Crete, Greece, as a timpanist/percussionist since 2015. She composes her own music and has given many music concerts as a percussionist of classical, traditional, and modern music.

The Crew

Stage Direction – Stephen Oliver

Assistant Stage Director – Eoin Kennedy (Student, MAVC, Malta School of Drama and Dance)

Book – Mackenzie Cauchi (Student, MAVC, Malta School of Music)

Set Design – Students from the MAVC, Malta School of Art

Set Building – Benny Casha

Light Design – Stephen Oliver

Costume Design and Manufacture – Sarah Grech

Assistant Wardrobe Mistresses - Emilie Vella (Student, MAVC, Malta School of Music), Muscan Cara

Pullicino (Student, MAVC Multidisciplinary Arts Studies), Alisa Orlova (Student, St. Nicholas College)

Stage Management – Yasmin Falzon (Educator, MAVC, Malta School of Drama and Dance)

Assistant Stage Manager – Keyan Borg (Student, MAVC, Malta School of Art), Richard Ruta (Student, MAVC, Multidisciplinary Arts Studies)

Audio Engineer – Alec Massa

Choir master – Geoffrey Thomas

Production Manager – Emmanuel Cassar (Educator, MAVC, Malta School of Drama and Dance)

Hair and Make-up – Kimberley Deguara

Projections – Students from the, MAVC, Malta School of Art

Image manipulation – Mario George Attard (Educator, MAVC, Malta School of Art), Roderick Camilleri (Administrator at MAVC, Malta School of Art), Fabrizio Ellul, Kamy Aquilina (Educators, MAVC, Malta School of Art)

Projector Operator – Mario George Attard (Educator, MAVC, Malta School of Art)

Surtitles programming – Yasmin Falzon (Educator, MAVC, Malta School of Drama and Dance)

Surtitles operation – Marvic Doughty (Educator, MAVC, Malta School of Drama and Dance)

The Orchestra

FLUTE / PICCOLO – Clara Galea, Eleanor Borg

OBOE / ENGLISH HORN 1 - Maximilian Schembri, Clara Tilleri (Teacher, MAVC, Malta School of Music)

CLARINET / BASS CLARINET - Godfrey Mifsud (Teacher, MAVC, Malta School of Music)

TRUMPET - Alex Bezzina, Mark Saliba

FRENCH HORN - Aaron Borg, Isabella Borg

TROMBONE – Emmanuel Giordimaina, Christian Fenech

TUBA – Christopher Spiteri

PERCUSSION - Joseph Bibi Camilleri Snr (Educator, MAVC, Malta School of Music)

VIOLINS - 1st Valhmor Montfort (leader), Teona Debono, Alex Abela, Augusto Quintano

VIOLINS - 2nds Stephen Scerri, Matthew Zammit, Carol Ciantar, Sonia Mallia

VIOLAS - Daniel Zammit, Mika Baluyot

CELLOS - Gilmour Peplow, Christopher Greenhalgh

DOUBLE BASS – Aleksander Zgorsak (Student, MAVC, Malta School of Music)

KEYBOARD – Geoffrey Thomas

Sofia Narmania (Educator, MAVC, Malta School of Music)

Acknowledgements

Mikiel Anton Vassalli College (MAVC) would like to thank the Ministry for Education, Sport, Youth, Research and Innovation for supporting the College in such artistic productions.

The College would also like to express its appreciation towards the Working Group on the National Education Strategy 2024 – 2030 for further recognition of arts as a specialized area of study.

Thanks to the Administrators and Teaching Staff of the schools within the MAV College (Art, Drama, Dance and Music) for their dedication in promoting visual and performing arts education.

Last but not least, a big thank you to (a) the students taking part in this production especially those following the MQF Level 3 Certificate in Practical Multi-Disciplinary Studies in the Visual and Performing Arts, (b) the various artists for their continuous support.

Behind the Scenes Photo-Diary

Performance Teams



Orchestral Rehearsals



Choral Rehearsals



Drama & Choreography Practices

Masterclasses



Script Writing



Direction

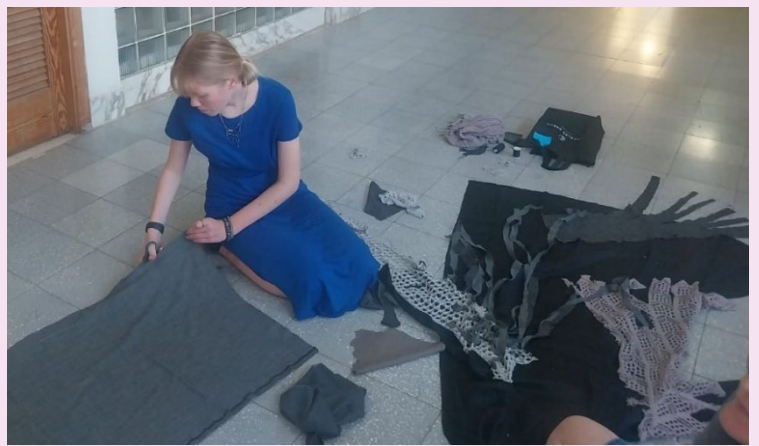


Make-up & Hair

Design Teams



Designing and Building of the set



Costume Design



Projection Design

MQF Level 3 Certificate in Practical Multi-Disciplinary Arts (60 ECTS)

Mikiel Anton Vassalli is currently offering a course in the multidisciplinary arts. This 2 year course goes in depth on opera, musicals, ballet, drama and films. The course consists of 6 modules :

1. Concepts of Music, Dance, Drama and Visual Arts
2. The Synergies of Multi-Disciplinary Productions
3. Direction and Production Teams
4. Intra and Interpersonal Skills
5. History of Multi-Disciplinary Productions
6. Placement in a commercial multi-disciplinary production

Applications for the course are currently open. Follow this link <https://mavc.gov.mt/programme/apply>



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