



AMERICAN  
UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT

CENTER FOR ARTS  
& HUMANITIES

# MEETING POINTS SHAKESPEARE & ARABIC

SPEAKER **GEORGINA VAN WELIE**

Moderator: **WRITER & DIRECTOR LUCIEN BOU RJEILY**

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2025 | 5:00 PM**

**AUDITORIUM A, WEST HALL**

## ABSTRACT

British theatre-maker Georgina Van Welie outlines her process of creating a bilingual Arabic-and-English adaptation of Shakespeare's *Troilus and Cressida*, a response to her earlier collaboration on the Ten-Year Arab Shakespeare Trilogy with Sabab Theatre. Having lived in Kuwait for ten years and continuing to work with artists in the Arab region, she will speak about her experience as an outsider working in Arabic, and why Shakespeare provides a meeting point for languages, artists, and audiences. The talk will be accompanied by a screening of a short film from the first phase of the theatre project, produced at Columbia University's Paris Center.

## BIO

Theatre-maker **Georgina Van Welie** has worked with some of the most prestigious performing arts venues in the world, including the Royal Shakespeare Company, La Comédie-Française, and the Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM). Committed to working in English and Arabic, and to the role that culture can play in building bridges, she co-founded Sabab Theatre (2002–2012), best known for the Arab Shakespeare Trilogy (*The Al-Hamlet Summit*, *Richard III: An Arab Tragedy*, *The Speaker's Progress*). The trilogy's 10-year international tour included the Kennedy Center in Washington, and the Tokyo, Sharjah, Singapore, Seoul, Holland, Warsaw, and Sydney festivals. She is currently based in Paris, where she is creating Ajnabiun, a theatre company of artists working across multiple frontiers. The company's first production in development, *Hub wa Harb*, an adaptation of Shakespeare's *Troilus and Cressida* was recently showcased at Columbia University's Paris Center and the Amare Cultural Center in The Hague, and has been selected for this year's D-CAF Arab Arts Focus in Cairo. Her film work includes co-writing *Whose Country*, directed Mohammed Siam (BBC Arabic Best in Journalism Award; Chicago Film Festival Best Documentary Award). She is also a regular contributor to *The Markaz Review*.

## IN COLLABORATION WITH

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