

# ARNA'S CHILDREN



A Fundraising Screening on:

**8pm Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2006**

Pod C, The HUBS

(Sheffield Hallam Students Union), Paternoster Row.

Tickets on the door: £4.50/£3

This screening of the extraordinary film "Arna's Children" is a fundraiser for the making of the Al Asria film - the story of the Palestinian dancers who came from the Jabalia refugee camp in Gaza to perform in Sheffield, York, Liverpool and Birmingham in 2005. See [www.sheffieldpsc.org.uk](http://www.sheffieldpsc.org.uk) for more details.



ARNA'S CHILDREN tells the story of a theatre group that was established by Arna Mer Khamis. Arna comes from a Zionist family and in the 1950s married a Palestinian Arab, Saliba Khamis. On the West Bank, she opened an alternative education system for children whose regular life was disrupted by the Israeli occupation. The theatre group that she started engaged children from Jenin, helping them to express their everyday frustrations, anger, bitterness and fear. Arna's son Juliano, director of this film, was also one of the directors of Jenin's theatre. With his camera, he filmed the children during rehearsal periods from 1989 to 1996. Now, he goes back to see what happened to them. Yusef committed a suicide attack in Hadera in 2001, Ashraf was killed in the battle of Jenin, Alla leads a resistance group. Juliano, who today is one of the leading actors in the region, looks back in time in Jenin, trying to understand the choices made by the children he loved and worked with. Eight years ago, the theatre was closed and life became static and paralysed. Shifting back and forth in time, the film reveals the tragedy and horror of lives trapped by the circumstances of the Israeli occupation.