

Title: Dance and Political Resistance in Palestine

Abstract:

This paper traces the history of dance as a form of political resistance within Palestine and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, from the mid 19th century to the current day. This includes a critical analysis of how Palestinian dance forms have been appropriated by the Zionist movement to provide cultural legitimacy to the establishment of the State of Israel, and the ways that Palestinian dance artists, teachers and groups have been subject to persecution by the Israeli military occupation in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem. Within the context of the ongoing political oppression and marginalization of Palestinian people by the state of Israel through the establishment of an apartheid regime, this paper reviews how dance artists, teachers organizations and academics from the US have supported the State of Israeli throughout this period, and questions how the Palestinian call for the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) presents a legitimate, non-violent form of protest for dance artists and academics.