

Live Your Life



This play was created and performed by Shaza Hamad, Sally Hweih, Razan Hweih, Marwa Hamad, and Malak Hamdan from Beit Hanoun prep girls UNRWA school [A], Gaza, with support from their teachers, Manal Ismail and Rinan Al Mazanin. A recording of the play being performed by the actors is available here...



<https://youtu.be/PeofGSQet3I>

Grandpa: *[Grandpa enters the stage]* Life is sweet. I have lived my life in every single detail. Though I'm getting older, I'm still strong enough to go on. I still have my teeth, healthy, healthy! *[Parents enter the stage carrying a carpet with a big calendar written on it. The mother steps on the different dates as she speaks]*

Mum: Come on Abou-Mahmoud, hurry up! Listen Abou-Mahmoud, I'm worried about our daughters' future. I want the years to pass fast. This year, I want them to get married and this year, I want them to have babies. Oh and this year, I'll feel relieved and free from responsibilities.

Dad: That's true dear! Girls are a heavy burden. What should we do?

Grandpa: *[talking to the parents]* That's nonsense. Let the girls live their lives normally!

[Parents leave and girl 1 enters the stage]

Girl 1: Hello, grandpa! *[gives him a kiss]*

Grandpa: Hi, sweetie! Have you finished your book?

Girl 1: Sure! Imagine grandpa! I dream of the day in which I get the first rank in the reading competition. All social media will talk about me. I'll be famous. I love reading books. It's my favourite hobby.

Girl 2: *[Girl 2 enters the stage talking to Grandpa]* Oh! But I have a different dream. I want to be a famous designer. I like making clothes and designs. I promise you Grandpa that you'll wear my first design. It'll be a fabulous suit.

Grandpa: *[Grandpa talks to granddaughters]* I'm sure of that honey. I'm so proud of you.

Mum: *[The parents enters the stage. Mum talks to the girls]* Take off the glasses and the books, the scissors and the clothes - throw them away! *[talking to girl 1]* Come here, Look at me. You wear glasses. You won't marry. What will people say? You

have a defect. No one will marry you. Forget about reading, think of yourself as a beautiful bride. *[talking to girl 2]* And you , take these high-heeled shoes. You'll look taller and prettier like a lady. This will bring you more handsome grooms. Oh God! How can I overcome these problems? One wears glasses and the other is too short.

Dad: *[talking to Mum]* Easy, easy dear! Everything will be all right. Calm down.

Grandpa: *[talking to the whole family]* Come here my son. Your daughters are gracious and kind but they need to live their own lives. Every girl has her own dream and she enjoys her life as it is. Don't push them too soon or too hard. We are in two thousand and seventeen. We can't rush through the years. Take things slowly. And you granddaughters, don't let anyone destroy your dreams and your future. Live life happily and normally!

Both girls: *[standing side by side, chanting]* This is our life! We want to enjoy it. Please, don't pressure us! We love you parents.



Manal and Rinan say....

"We were filled with happiness and excitement when we heard the news of our winning the third place in the playwriting competition. But at the same time we weren't surprised since we know that our students have great skills and abilities. They were so enthusiastic about creating the play, and put everything of themselves into it as they enjoyed so much.

From doing this play, we realised how important drama is in revealing outer and inner feelings and expressing thoughts. As a result, we're now emphasising more and more the importance of using drama in teaching inside the classroom. It helps students to overcome some of their educational difficulties and to break the

usual routine from traditional methods of teaching”.

We asked Shatha, who played the role of the grandpa, about her experience. She said, “When we started writing the play, I wanted to make something that would challenge the idea of a male-dominated society in Palestine. I enjoyed playing a grandpa who was wise and more responsible, and who gave good advice and help”

Malak and Marwa, who played the father and the daughter roles, agreed about this. “We wanted to make a play about patience, and having the strength to defy all the obstacles to make our dreams come true”