

February 2024 • Issue No. 8

The Squeeze

OC PULP ARTS COLLECTIVE



FEBRUARY - MARCH EVENTS & EXHIBITIONS

Brain & Body Music Studio



Brain and Body Music Studio will be hosting their monthly *New Moon Sound Circle* on February 9th from 8:15pm until 9:30pm, as well as their monthly *Open Stage in Downtown Santa Ana* on February 19th from 6:00pm until 9:00pm

Monthly Art Show@The Linden Twig *Through February 29th*

The Linden Twig, an art gallery and antique store in Old Town Tustin, is hosting their first monthly art show through February 29th, featuring a gallery of Orange County visual artists.

Rocky Horror Picture Show@The Frida Cinema *February 9th - 11:59pm*

On February 9th at midnight, The Frida Cinema will host a showing of Rocky Horror Picture Show with a live performance from the award-winning resident shadowcast, KAOS.

CeaseN'Desist Residency@The Vine in Long Beach *Every Tuesday in February - 8:00pm*

Friend of the collective Humbert! will be DJing every Tuesday in February at The Vine in Long Beach as part of CeaseN'Desist Printing's residency which will feature "a whole month of rock n' roll, hardcore, and everything in between."

Existential Songwriters@The Den Cafe in DTSA *February 8th - 5:00pm*

Another dear friend of the collective, Francis Co. has gathered a motley assortment of singer/songwriters (John Forst Israel, Rory Strong & Nick Seider) who will delight and depress us (but like in a cool and fun way) with their original lyrics and arrangements.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH!



On Feb 3rd, Orange County celebrated its 44th annual Black History Parade and Unity Festival in Anaheim!

Visit Brea Library on 2/16 to plant a peanut seedling and learn about George Washington Carver!



See Ina Bucker-Barnette perform a "Talking Drums" African Folktale Show at La Habra Library on 2/21



... And more!

For details, visit ocpl.org to see local Black History Month events going on in our very own libraries all Month!



**OC PULP ZINE VOL. 2 IS COMING SOON!
BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR A CALL FOR ART!**

LOCAL ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

KAELIN TESTER (SHE/HER)

Kaelin Tester (she/her) is a playwright, stage director, poet, and stage designer from Silverado, California, currently residing in Orange. She is the author and director of the play *Look Into My Eyes*, which was recently produced on the Chapman University campus as the culmination of a semester-long project of Tester's.

Look Into My Eyes is a two-act, semi-abstract play that follows six characters in their early twenties and explores the complexities of their interpersonal relationships. "It's really about six different kinds of love, from childish hallway crushes all the way to having an affair," says Tester. The play was partially written during the production process, as a collaborative project between Tester and her cast and crew. "My favorite part was working with the actors involved, being able to build and create these characters. The characters on the page became very different once interpreted by the cast. This was a living script we were working with," Tester explains. "Whenever I felt like a scene wasn't working, I would work one-on-one or in a group with the actors to really find what the scene was about and even sometimes have them improvise... Theater is ethereal. It only lasts as long as it's on stage."

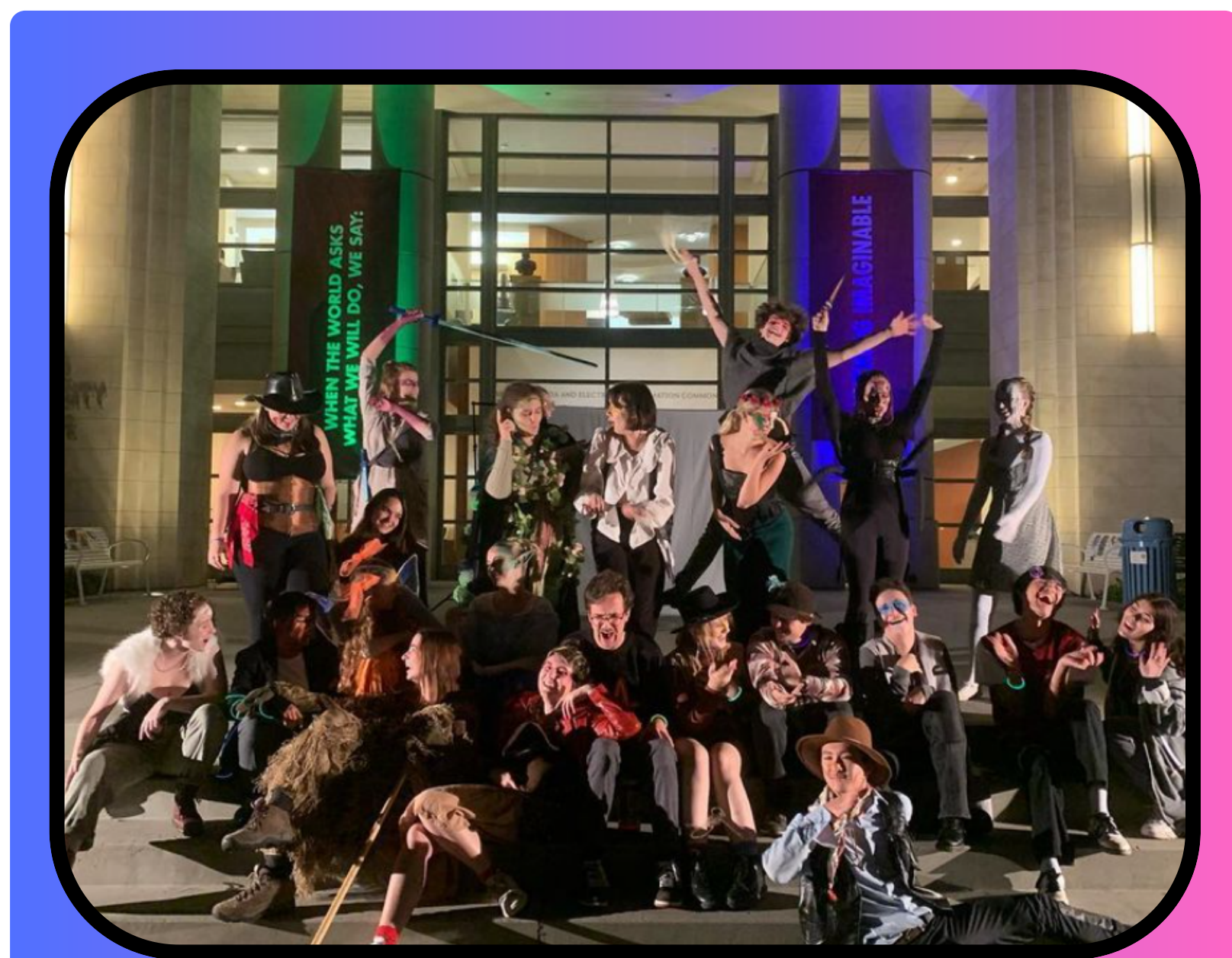
Tester makes no bones about it, describing the pitfalls of such a time-sensitive art medium. "Theater is a living artwork, and when something's living, it will eventually die. Now that the show has closed, in a lot of ways, [*Look Into My Eyes*] has died. It lives on in our memories."



Self portrait of Tester taken from her Instagram

There are other, more permanent mediums where Tester has left her mark, though. Recently, she has begun the massive undertaking of "writing five hundred poems by the end of February." Expanding on this, she says, "I was recently inspired to get back into writing, because I had this really intense writer's block, and a friend suggested that I try tanka poetry, which has given me a better grasp on form. The ability to really force myself to focus on the form and choosing my words carefully has been really instrumental in creating more work. I'm proud to say I have written two hundred poems since the 28th of January. While a lot of it is not good, it has allowed me to experiment within my body of work and see what is possible."

Tester draws most of her inspiration as a writer from her real life experiences, the world around her, and the friends she surrounds herself with, and many of her poems fit squarely into the imagist school of thought. When she writes plays, she finds herself inspired by the playwrights Lynn Nottage (*Intimate Apparel*), Sam Shepard (*The Right Stuff*), and Nick Payne (*Constellations*). Her song recommendation for the spring is "Nothing Matters" by The Last Dinner Party, and you can find her on Instagram @notsocleverkaelin.



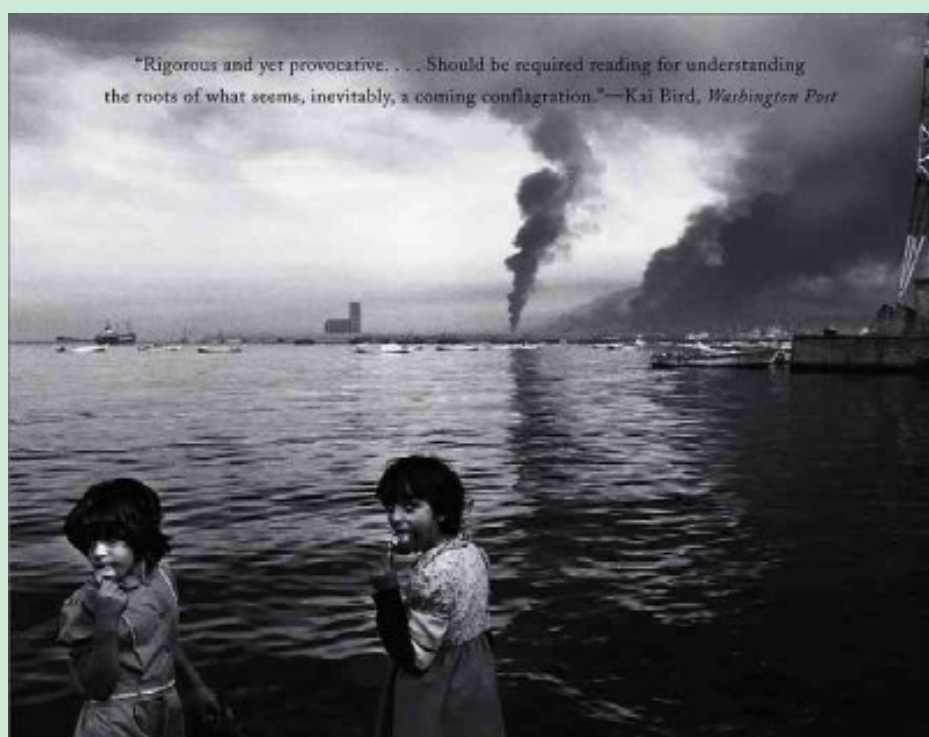
Mystery Forest Project, a show Tester was involved with. - Taken from Instagram

READING RECS!

SANBUD TEHRANI

Beware of Small States: Lebanon, Battleground of the Middle East
Davis Hirst

"Theirs, in the fullest sense, the Zionists always intended that Palestine should be. It was not merely a 'home' they sought there, but a fully-fledged state. Nor were they planning to respect the Palestinians' 'civil and religious rights', for, in the fullness of time, there would be no Palestinians in Palestine with rights to respect. To be sure, it was always official Zionist policy publicly to deny any such intentions; anyone who said otherwise was 'suffering from gross ignorance, or actuated by malice'." Any understanding of the plight of Palestine requires a material analysis of the tragic saga of Lebanon (the third largest location of Palestinian refugees). I would absolutely recommend this history of Israel's imperialistic and disastrous policies in Lebanon as fundamentally important. Sectarianism, the bloodiest tragedy of human civilization, was never such a plague on Lebanon until it was weaponized and promoted by the Israeli government.



The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine
Ilan Pappé

"Ethnic cleansing is a crime against humanity, and the people who perpetrate it today are considered criminals to be brought before special tribunals. It may be difficult to decide how one ought to refer to or deal with, in the legal sphere, those who initiated and perpetrated ethnic cleansing in Palestine in 1948, but it is possible to reconstruct their crimes and to arrive at both an historiographical account that will prove more accurate than the ones achieved so far, and a moral position of greater integrity."

In the modern world, talk of genocide and ethnic cleansing is often weaponized cynically in the interest of imperial adventurism. Moreover, it is increasingly clear that international law and rules are mostly the stage of petty nation-state feuding, farcical and hypocritical when it comes to the issues of the Global South. Pappé succinctly relates the human tragedy and genocide that is the story of the Palestinian people.

Speak, Bird, Speak Again: Palestinian Arab Folktales
Ibrahim Muhawi and Sharif Kanaana

"The Palestinian folktale is a highly developed art form. Its style, though not artificial, follows linguistic and literary conventions that set it apart from other folk narrative genres. It relies on verbal mannerisms and language flourishes not used in ordinary conversation, especially by men. Women were largely responsible for developing this style, and they carry on the tradition."

Anyone that seeks to understand a culture should seek out its mythology and folk tales, and this elegant and indispensable collection provides exactly that when it comes to the stories of Palestine. Fascinating and also effective in how it relates these stories to the rich and historic traditions of Levant. The collective memories of a people are vital to maintaining their existence in the face of state-directed cultural erasure and devastation.



READING RECS!

SANBUD TEHRANI



Letters to Palestine: Writers Respond to War and Occupation *Vijay Prashad*

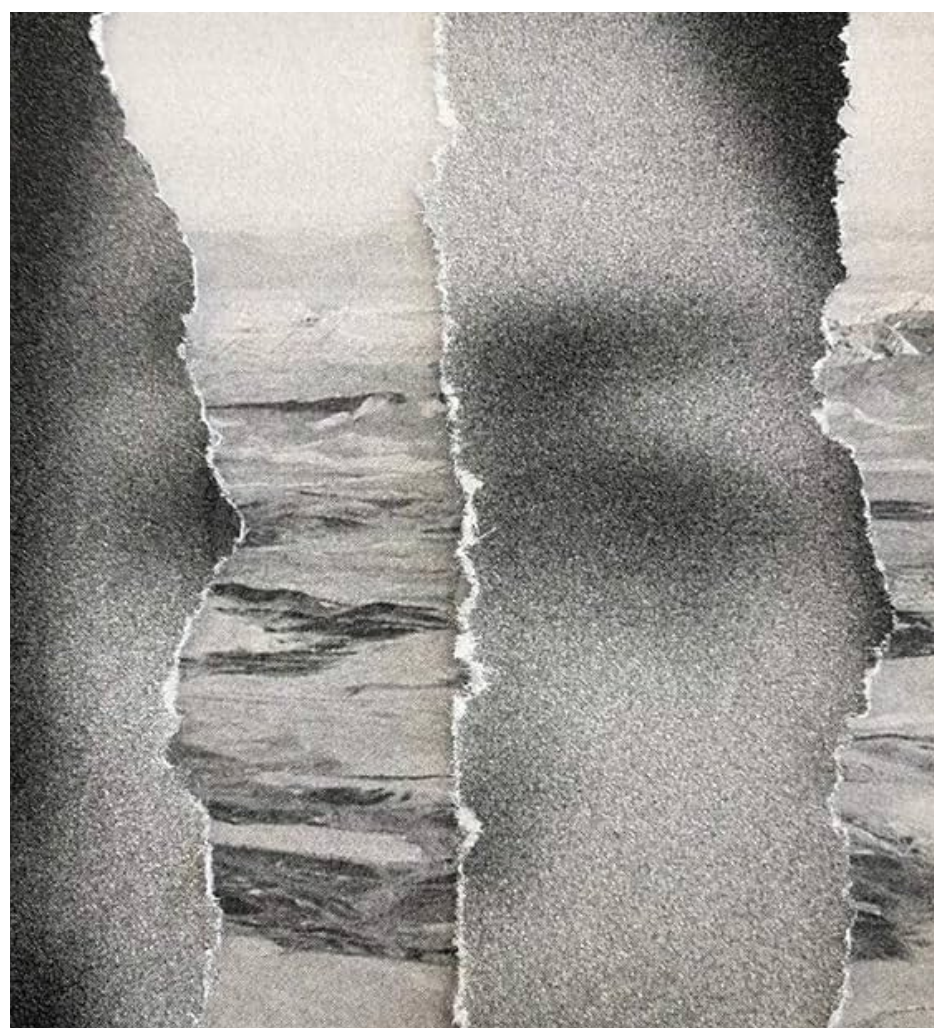
"On the night of Tuesday, July 29, 2014, three shells hit the Jabalia Elementary Girls School in Gaza—a UN-designated emergency shelter for 3,300 Palestinians. Those who had taken refuge there came because the Israelis had warned them to leave their homes. The UN had given the Israelis the coordinates of this school seventeen times. Their warnings made no impact. The shells killed at least sixteen people and wounded hundreds. The UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA) chief, Pierre Krähenbühl, said in a powerful statement, 'Children killed in their sleep; this is an affront to all of us, a source of universal shame. Today, the world stands disgraced.'"

An important collection of essays by prominent scholars and artists on the plight of the Palestinian people written in response to atrocities in Gaza in 2014. Prashad, a contemporary progressive voice whose point of view I quite value, has put together a brilliant mass of essays from some of the most creative and thoughtful people in the world. Mumia Abu-Jamal, Teju Cole, Robin D.G. Kelley, Corey Robin, Najla Said, Junot Díaz, etc.

Minor Detail *Adania Shibli*

"By the way, I hope I didn't cause any awkwardness when I mentioned the incident with the soldier, or the checkpoint, or when I reveal that we are living under occupation here. Gunshots and military vehicle sirens, and sometimes the sound of helicopters, warplanes, and shelling, the subsequent wail of ambulances; not only do these noises precede breaking news reports, but now they have to compete with the dog's barking, too."

This may be the book in this list that many of already heard of, but in light of the absolutely outrageous anti-Palestinian controversy at the Frankfurt Book Fair last year, I think that Adania Shibli's *Minor Detail* has only become a more important and vital novel. Dry, acerbic, brutal, uncompromising, this is a story of the kind of horrific sexual violence that Palestinians have been subjected to for nearly a century. Content warnings abound, of course, there is sexual violence so any potential reader should keep in mind the content is quite traumatic.



The Crusades Through Arab Eyes *Amin Maalouf*

"As for the woman, the Frankish doctor examined her and said, 'She has a demon in her head who has fallen in love with her. Cut her hair.' They cut her hair. The woman then began to eat their food again, with its garlic and mustard, which aggravated the consumption. Their doctor affirmed, 'The devil himself must have entered her head.' Then, grasping a razor, he cut an incision in the shape of a cross, exposed the bone of the skull, and rubbed it with salt. The woman died on the spot. I then asked, 'Have you any further need of me?' They said no, and I returned home, having learned much that I had never known about the medicine of the Franj."

Written originally in French by Lebanese scholar Amin Maalouf, this is an interesting recollection of colonial imperialist barbarism from the eyes of shocked and awed victims, one that rings even more truly and harshly in light of 21st century American and Israeli policy. As with the Zionist state, nobody was spared the ravages of the (fundamentally white supremacist) Farang, those who lived in the Holy Land were brutalized regardless of creed.