A FACE FROM JERUSALEM

Canaan Ghoul

A Jerusalem Voice Carving Its Path



Born in the Silwan neighborhood in 1992, Canaan Ghoul grew up in Jerusalem in an environment burdened with a heavy history and complex circumstances; yet these very conditions have shaped his character and artistic path. He realized early on that music could be a space of resistance and identity, and that the oud could turn everyday details into a clear message.

Shaped by Jerusalem's streets and quarters, Canaan has moved between Palestinian cities and villages, the calm of the countryside and the bustle of the city. In Silwan, Battir, and near Damascus Gate, his style began to form. On the sidewalk of Al-Zahra Street, he played the oud for the first time in public, and from there he embarked on a journey that exposed him to a wide audience. He is appreciated and esteemed as an authentic artist who stands firm despite all challenges.

Having graduated from Al-Salla'a School in Jabal Al-Mukabber, Canaan continued his studies at Birzeit University and Hebrew University. But he considers his true education to have come from the living Palestinian heritage and from direct engagement with people and the city. Blending academic knowledge with field experience, he has developed a musical style that expresses present-day Jerusalem through contemporary sounds that are deeply rooted in history. His project "Oud 'Addiarak" (Return to Your Homeland) has presented performances in alleyways and public squares, while his project "Andalusiya" aims to instill a love of music and heritage in children through structured yet simple teaching.

Canaan has faced difficult economic conditions; he worked in construction and distributed newspapers, yet he never abandoned his dream of choosing music as his profession and personal path. Over time, he has built a respected reputation within the Jerusalem art scene. His message to young people is clear: Start with what you have, carve your own path, and remember that perseverance is stronger and more important than circumstances.