

## **Characters and summary of plot – Ghosts**

### **Characters in Ghosts**

Director: **Kamel Al-Basha**

Assistant Director: **Georina Asfour**

#### Characters in Ghosts

**Salwa Nakkara**, widow

**Jameel Khoury**, son and artist

**Mahmod Awad**, holy man

**Hanan Hellow**, in service of widow

&

**Makram J. Khoury**, carpenter

**PNT Production 2006**

### **Summary of plot**

Al-Saida (played by Salwa) is the widow of a man of high esteem in the community. The marriage was an unhappy one for her, but she did everything in her power to conceal the fact that her husband was an alcoholic who lived a depraved life at the manor. Her husband had a daughter, Gina (played by Hanan), by a servant at the house, and a son, Al-Jameel (played by Jameel), by his wife. Gina is now Al-Saida's servant, while Al-Jameel was sent abroad as a child to protect him from his home surroundings. Gina thinks she is the daughter of Jacob (played by Makram), a carpenter who is now finishing work on a children's home to be opened the next day in memory of Al-Saida late husband. After this the carpenter wants to take Gina to the neighboring town to help him start a public house for sailors. Gina and Al-Saida are both opposed to this. Gina imagines being able to go to Europe with Al-Jameel, a painter who has come home from Europe in order to be present at the opening of the children's home.

The holy man (played by Mahod), who in charge of the financing of the home, has also come for the opening. When young, Al-Saida was in love with and wanted to leave her husband for him, but he rejected her and sent her home.

The night before the ceremony the home in memory of Al-Saida burns down. The holy man has insisted that the home should not be insured, and now he is afraid for his reputation as a clergyman and financial manager. He comes to a secret agreement with Jacob, by which the latter takes the blame for the fire and in return funds for running the home are to be invested in Jacob's projected "sailors' home" in the town.

Al-Jameel tells his mother that he is suffering from severe sickness. He is afraid of becoming a helpless invalid, and hopes that Gina will be willing to help him to take an

over-dose of morphine in the last stage of his illness. But when Gina realizes that he is ill, and in fact is her stepbrother, she leaves the country to make her own way in the town. Al-Saida tells her son of his father's true nature, and that he has inherited the disease from his father. It is now up to her to decide whether she is willing to help her son by giving him the over-dose of morphine. The play ends as the sun rises and Al-Jameel has succumbed to the last stage of his illness.

