

AGENDA

LEBANON

MUSIC

Giselle Jackson



**Edde Sands, Byblos**  
July 2, 10 p.m.  
+961 3 720 718  
American soul, jazz and blues diva plays the first concert of a two month summer residency in Lebanon. Well worth checking.

**Tatiana Primak Khoury**  
Balamand University, Balamand  
July 2, 7:30 p.m.  
+961 6 930250  
Ukrainian-born and National Conservatory of Kiev-trained pianist Tatiana Primak Khoury performs a classical program at Balamand University.

**Gnawa Diffusion**  
Musichall, Beirut  
July 3, 8 p.m.  
+961 3 807555  
French fusion reggae, ragga, jazz and oriental music band, Gnawa Diffusion, play Musichall as part of the summer Cabaret du Monde and Generation Musique series of concerts organized by Elefteriades Productions and the French Cultural Center in Lebanon.

TURKEY

MUSIC

**Istanbul Rock Republic Open Air Festival**  
Sariyer, Istanbul  
July 1-3  
+90 (0) 212 251 58 97  
Major Music Promotions presents the first Istanbul Rock Republic Open Air Festival, staged in a huge area surrounded by trees in Sariyer, central Istanbul. Three days of music featuring performances by both local and famous international bands. Overkiller, Slayer and In Flames headline over the weekend, supported by leading Turkish bands, including Alev. There are camping facilities and plenty of space, so pack your bag and join thousands of fans in the sunshine.



A man runs through a gap in the separation wall before its final closure near Jerusalem in the West Bank in 2004.

# Larry Towell: Shooting from the heart

Magnum photographer captures 11 years of life under occupation in new exhibition

Olivia Snaije  
Special to The Daily Star

PARIS: Tucked away on a pretty side street in Paris, an art nouveau building houses the Henri Cartier-Bresson Foundation. It is distinctly unsettling and instantly sobering to walk into this beautifully renovated former artist's atelier and visit the current exhibition of photographs by Larry Towell entitled "The Walls of No Man's Land: Palestine."

The black-and-white images taken by the Canadian photographer in the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem, over a period of 11 years, are so powerful that it is a relief to step out of the first gallery room and draw a deep breath before going into the second.

Towell has been documenting Palestinians in pictures since the end of the first Intifada in 1993. While much of his previous work focused in-depth on subjects such as landlessness, families and farming, the Magnum agency photographer also spent many years in Central America where conflict was rife. Prior to his first visit to the Middle East, Towell says he knew very little about the situation but that one day, in the early 1990s, he saw a home video on Canadian television made by an Israeli soldier who was questioning the role of the army as an occupier.

"A light went on in my head. I'd been photographing conflict in Central America as well as the culture of resistance. I wanted to see this [Israel/Palestine] for myself," he says.

Dr. Eyad Sarraj, a Palestinian psychiatrist and founder of the Gaza Community Mental Health Program took Towell under his wing and began to show him around refugee camps.

Towell remarks: "I thought the situation was hell on earth, but now that so much time has



In the Muslim Quarter, East Jerusalem, 1993.

passed, I realize how much better it was then than it is today. Now it's hell with the temperature rising."

He returned to the area over the next decade, each time staying for about a month. In 2003 Towell was awarded the inaugural Henri Cartier-Bresson photography prize, which allowed him to complete his project on the Palestinians and the construction of Israel's "security fence." The exhibition is the result of this project and a perfect example of how art can make a compelling and moving political statement.

Towell's pictures, some taken with a panoramic camera, others with a wide angle lens, capture moments in Palestinians' lives: stoic activity in a refugee camp after an Israeli raid has reduced it to rubble,

distress and hopelessness at a morgue in the early morning, the determination with which teenagers arm their slingshots, but also Israeli peace activists demonstrating with Palestinians along the separation wall.

Towell, who is also a poet and a folk musician, made soundtracks to accompany his photographs, which plunge the visitor even more deeply into another world.

"I always try to personalize a story, to make it meaningful ... by trying to bring [people] to the place, to the situation with the sights and the sounds which are all a part of the process."

Besides sounds recorded in the street, Towell's voice recounts what he sees, for example, "shadows of soldiers become giants on stilts," and registers the comment of a Pales-

tinian "See that village on the hill that used to be there? It used to be mine."

A glass case in the second floor gallery contains collages by Towell and children's homemade slingshots abandoned after a demonstration.

In his work Towell has always been guided by the desire to be part of a process of change and to share his experiences. His photographic journey through Palestinian lives follows the political events beginning in 1993.

"When the Oslo treaty was signed I jumped onto a plane to document what I naively thought would be the creation of a new country and the end of a historical conflict that had become the toothache of the world. I'm a fairly positive guy so I thought this would be a positive thing to photograph. ... I also felt I could contribute something to recorded history because this place was all about history. From Sunday school class to television news, this place had it all."

Instead, Towell found himself documenting settlements, invasions, the dismemberment of the Palestinian infrastructure, suicide bombings and the construction of the separation wall.

"How can you compare suffering?" he asks. "I was in Gaza just before the U.S. invasion of Iraq when Ariel Sharon knew there would be no media around and was committing nightly tank raids into the Jabalia Refugee Camp and a lot of people were being killed."

Every situation was equally depressing and made him angry, says Towell. "Seeing a teenage soldier [at a checkpoint] humiliating a man his (or her) grandfather's age ... being in the Palestinian villages around Bidu and seeing the farmers cut off from their olive groves and put in this big open-area prison. ... I was also at the sight of a bus bombing in Jerusalem. I only saw the

wreckage and the hoses washing away the blood. Then Sharon towed the bus to Abu Dis to place it up against the wall as a statement. I thought that was depressing. The wall will only inflame the hatred and cause deeper resentment and humiliation. Maybe the saddest thing is the hatred and humiliation."

Out of the violence came a few rays of hope which Towell captured on his recent trips when he spent time working with Israeli peace activists.

"It was inspiring to see young Jewish Israelis protesting on the route of the wall along with Palestinian farmers."

Towell unquestionably succeeds in bringing the Palestinians' plight to the rest of the world with his photographs. It's interesting to note the comments in the exhibition's visitor's book: "Very chilling to see but I was heartened by the Israeli-Palestinian demonstrations. We need to see more and hear more," wrote one American.

"I hope this exhibition and many others like it will change the situation in the Middle East," wrote Nathan from Tel Aviv, Israel.

Dr. Eyad Sarraj, in Gaza, had this to say about Larry Towell: "He is not only an exceptional photographer equipped with a rare eye for humanity but a unique human being with an extra sensitive soul. ... I see in his photos the pain and the joy, the sadness and the excitement, the shining hope and the gloom of despair. I see in his photos myself and all human beings."

**"The Walls of No Man's Land: Palestine"** runs until August 6, 2005 at the **Henri Cartier-Bresson Foundation** in Paris. The photographs from the exhibition are published by Textuel and distributed in the Middle East by Le Seuil. For more info [www.henricartier-bresson.org](http://www.henricartier-bresson.org)

STAR SCENE



John Waterbury, Gladice Morro, Nadim Cortas and Sana Nasrallah



May Khoury, Sara Waterbury and Aida Abboud



Carla Hair Suleiman Haroun and Hanadi Saad



Peter Heath and Martha Hill

## AUB School of Nursing celebrates centennial anniversary

BEIRUT: The 100th anniversary celebrations of the School of Nursing at the American University of Beirut were held at the university's Issam Fares Hall last Thursday under the patronage of President **Emile Lahoud**.

Marking the special day was the opening day of the Centennial Nursing Conference entitled "100 Years of Nursing Education at AUB: Pioneering Achievements and Global Vision," featuring addresses from AUB President **John Waterbury** and President of the Order of Nurses in Lebanon, **Elie Aaraj**. The keynote speech came from **Christine Hancock**, the President of the International Council of Nurses.

The day was also marked by the groundbreaking ceremony for the New School of Nursing Building to be constructed at AUB.

HOROSCOPE

**Aries (Mar. 21 - April 19)**

Try not to lose your cool. An adviser will give you the right guidance about a concern that's been bothering you. Tempers could get out of hand today.

**Taurus (April 20 - May 20)**

You will have a problem dealing with groups. Chances to express your ideas and beliefs can bring popularity as long as you're not arrogant or smug.

**Gemini (May 21 - June 21)**

Money that comes in quickly, goes out the same way. Things will be emotional with your mate. Today will be hectic so make sure you plan ahead.

**Cancer (June 22 - July 22)**

You will have problems with coworkers if you are too extreme about doing things perfectly. You'll feel much better when your slate is clean again.

**Leo (July 23 - Aug. 22)**

If you've been under stress and worrying about older members of the family, it's time to come to terms with the situation. Your lover will be annoyed with you.

**Virgo (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)**

Those who have been too demanding should be put in their place or out to pasture. Use your quick wit to win points with old and friends and new enemies.

**Libra (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)**

Renovations to your domestic scene will pay high rewards. Your lover may not understand your needs so you must figure out a way to communicate them.

**Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)**

You will want to complain about the injustice that is going on. It's time to take off and have some recreation. Do not lend any money to friends.

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)**

Visit friends you don't get to see that often. Deep discussions may only lead to friction. Your mate may be distressed if you refuse to make a commitment.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)**

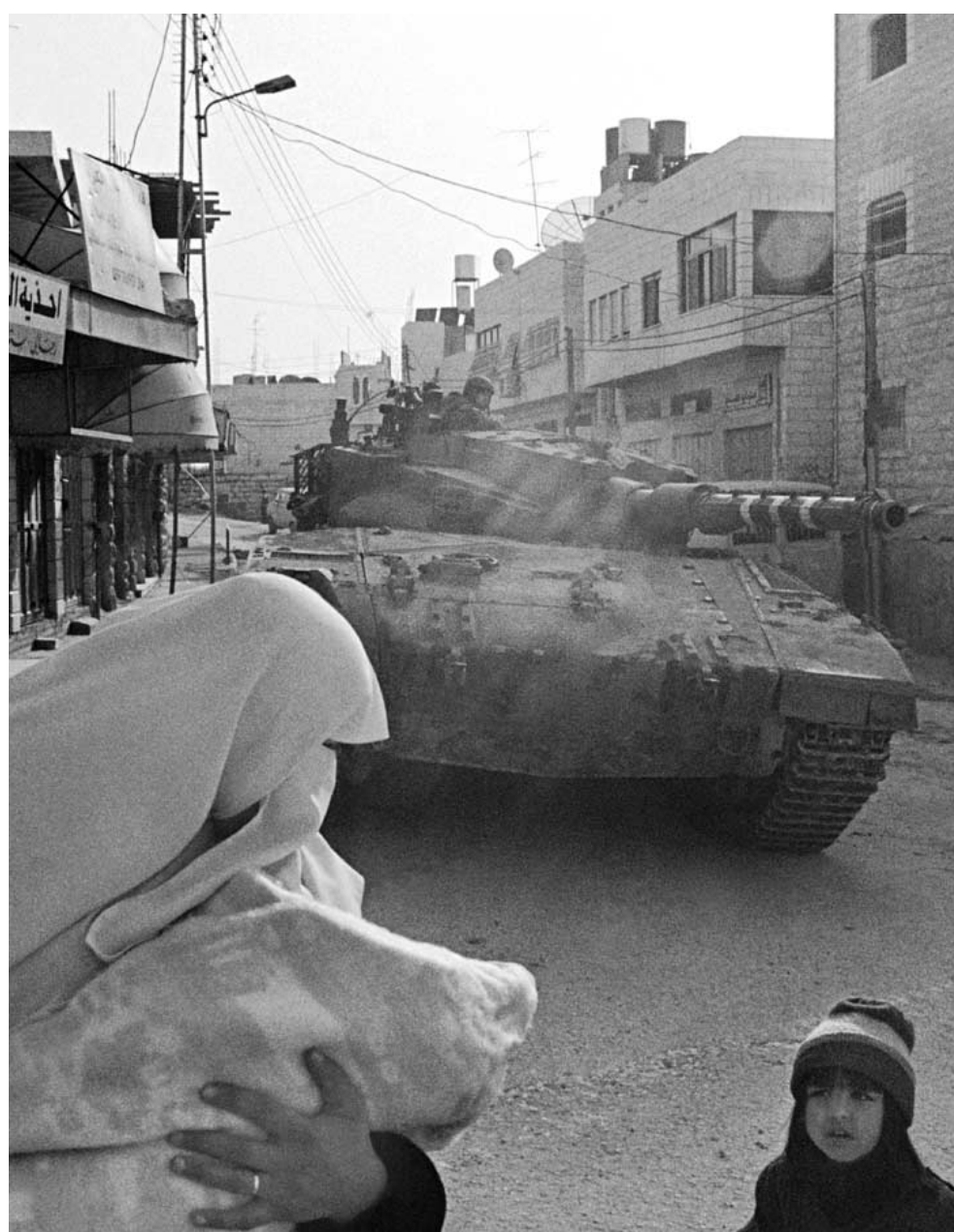
Don't overspend on luxury items. Minor accidents could cause trauma and major setbacks. You mustn't be so trusting. Now is a good time to speculate.

**Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)**

Don't let your love of good times cloud your judgment, especially if money is involved. You will communicate easily and should be able to develop new friendships.

**Pisces (Feb. 19 - Mar. 20)**

You'll meet new friends if you try new activities. Don't get involved in secret affairs or underhanded involvement's. Invite friends over for a visit.



A Palestinian woman clutches a baby before curfew in Hebron, West Bank, 2003.

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