

# The Doctor's Wife

I met Alan and Hazel Kerr in 2006 and decided to make this film to shine a light on their selflessness and dedication. After visits to Palestine in 2007, 2008 and 2009, I was due to return in 2010 when I was struck down by a rare autoimmune condition which left me paralysed. Fortunately, Tamara Azizian was able to lead the project in my absence. I made it back in 2012, but being in a wheelchair made life very difficult and it was only with the warmth and support of the Palestinian people that I was able to carry on with the film. In 2013, tragedy struck again when my 22 year old son died, and I shut down for a year.

The project was re-energised in 2016 when I made two arts documentaries in Palestine. I used this time to do further filming of The Doctor's Wife. I began to put the film together in 2023, finally completing it in March 2025.

The film shows the humanity of everyday Palestinians, as told through the eyes of a retired New Zealand heart surgeon, his wife and two committed female film makers who were told in 2006 that no one cares about Palestine, sick Palestinian children or old people. They were wrong. We cared very much and maybe you do, too.

Dr Alan is now 90 and Hazel is 86. They are the most wonderfully humble humans. Their work over 20 years is nothing short of inspiring.

I've tried to highlight social issues through documentary filmmaking for 25 years but have always struggled to obtain financial backing and this project was no different. We provided most of the funding for the film ourselves but its completion was made possible by generous donations of time and money by a small number of donors.

The method of distribution of the film is unconventional. We provide the film for free to members of the public who are prepared to organize screenings in halls, sports clubs, churches, cinemas and private venues. We meet the reasonable cost of these venues where there is a hire fee. There is no charge for admission to community screenings of the film because we don't want cost to stop people from seeing it.

Donations are not required, but many film-goers are moved to offer them and they are accepted with gratitude. 50% of any koha received go to Heart Surgery for Palestinian Children (NZ), a charity set up by Alan and Hazel to enable medical teams to travel to Palestine. The other 50% is given out of respect for the filmmaker and this money helps us to fund further screenings. It is also possible to make donations directly to the film maker or tax deductible donations directly to HSPC(NZ). Details are on the website.

We hope that you enjoy the film and let others know about it.

Paula Whetu Jones



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