

AZADOOTA

Kid's programme

Introduction

- Robin introduces the band and explains that Azadoota means Freedom.
- Robin explains that he is Assyrian from Iraq, he grew up in Iraq and migrated to Australia when he was a teenager.
- Robin explains that Assyrians are a minority Christian group in Iraq (97% of Iraqis are Muslim), and that Assyrian culture dates back to the Ancient Assyrians who were one of the most powerful empires of the ancient world.
- Robin explains that Assyrians speak Assyrian, but because the official language of Iraq is Arabic, they speak Arabic as well, and they will be performing songs in both Assyrian and Arabic.

Assyrian Songs

- The Deer Hunter – start with a traditional Assyrian song, about a guy who goes hunting but is so impressed with the beauty of the deer he's about to kill that he decides to become vegetarian.
- Plitla – Robin's father was an Assyrian pop star back in Iraq in the 60's, and this was one of his biggest hits.
- Dora and Habaniya – these songs talk about the towns that Robin was born in and grew up in, and about how hard it is when you have to leave the home that you love.

Traditional Assyrian Higgeh dancing

- Robin introduces the song Today is the Day, and explains some of the traditions that surround an engagement and a wedding.
- Robin teaches the students how to do the Higgeh dance.
- The students dance the Higgeh while the band plays Today is the Day.

Arabic song and dance

- Robin explains that the band will now do some songs in Arabic.
- Robin introduces the song One Million, and tells the story about the song.
- Robin shows the students how to do the Bedouin Dance.
- The students do the Bedouin Dance while the band plays One Million.
- Baghdad – Robin explains that we are thankful for the opportunities we have here in Australia, and our hearts go out to our friends who are struggling with the current turmoil in Baghdad.

Assimilation

Robin talks about Australia as a multicultural nation – using the band members as an example. Robin talks about cultural tolerance and about breaking down ethnic barriers. He explains how multiculturalism has influenced Azadoota's music - the use of English lyrics, Latin rhythms, etc.

The band finishes with some "hybrid" songs:

- Busama
- Chimbala
- Yoniya

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