

EGYPT**SEPTEMBER 20 | 5 PM | HALI GAL****"Freedom Gas Bomb"**

Arabic, with introduction in Kurdish

Direction: Ahmed Sameer
Group|Theater: Creation Group Alexandria
Playwright: Ahmed Sameer
Source Material: adapted from Brian Friel's "The Freedom of the City"
Performer: Mohamed Al Sayed, Essam Hafez, Abeer Aly Mohamed
Puppet Player: Ahmed Adel Bassyouny, Mohamed Khamis
Scenography: Ibrahim Awad
Music: Ahmed Elalfy

Duration: 60 min

Synopsis

"Freedom of the City" was performed for the first time in Dublin in 1973. The original text from Brian Friel deals with a real accident, that took place in Northern Ireland in 1972, the so called "Bloody Sunday". People from the Ghetto held a peaceful demonstration, claiming their rights for better life conditions, but the royal army dealt with the demonstrators in a very violent way, causing in a blood river.

This accident is quite similar to many incidents that happened in Egypt after the 25 January Revolution in 2011. The performance "Freedom Gas Bomb" uses the similarity between the two historical events and creates two levels in the play: The upper level, which is played with puppets, represents the historical event in Ireland. The lower level, which is played by performers, represents what was happened in Egypt.

The performance tries to reveal on how military minds think. It also confirms on the difficulties in separation between what is social, economical and political. The idea of the distance between the governmental propaganda and reality is also an important question, which exposes them and tries to go in the depth of the most necessary elements in all these situations: the martyrs.

In real life, each political incidents leave martyrs, but also misleads, theories and confusion. But, what will happen, if we hear the stories from the martyrs themselves? The performance is a real desire of the team to answer to this question.

AHMED SAMIR

Ahmed Samir, born in 1988, is an actor and director based in Alexandria. He founded several independent theater groups and participated in many local and international festivals as both actor and director. His work was awarded with numerous awards, among them at the Tazawwok festival 2012 as best director for Freedom Gas Bomb. Ahmed Samir is currently studying at the theater department of the Alexandria



CREATION GROUP ALEXANDRIA

The Creation Group Alexandria was founded in 2005 and is dedicated to all cultural and artistic activities, especially theater, and their role in building a future. It aims to foster positive social values for children and adults.

GERMANY SEPTEMBER 22 | 8 PM | FINE ARTS INSTITUTES THEATER HALL**"Taxi – Triptych of Violence"**

German, with Kurdish supertitles and simultaneously translation

Concept

and Direction: Judith Al Bakri, Jochen Strodthoff
Group|Theater: Hunger & Seide, München
Playwright: Judith Al Bakri
Performer: Judith Al Bakri, Jochen Strodthoff
Composition|Music: Thomas Meadowcroft
Film: Alexander Riedel, Bettina Timm
Space|Lighting: Michael Bischoff
Costumes: Michael Wagner
Assistance: David Heiligers, Stefanie Fleckenstein

Duration: 90 min

Synopsis

TAXI revolves around questions of violence and takes its audience on an intimate journey through family histories. How does practiced and experienced violence continue to affect following generations? To which extent biographies nowadays are marked by the sediment experience of the past?

In their work, HUNGER&SEIDE explore contemporary urban environments with a particular focus on the multilayered dynamics of ongoing social change. Within TAXI, urban space is reflected as a setting of violence, a vivid scene of history and as a place where international biographies connect and intertwine. A dense netting, simultaneously shaping and shaped by the people who live there today and back then.

HUNGER&SEIDE transform the theatrical space into a subterranean parking lot of human relationships. Sculptured by a personal approach, family histories are retraced and interwoven to disturbing actualities of modern lives. The performers' grandparents each experienced violence, as much during World War II in Europe as during the revolutionary events in Iraq back in 1958. In TAXI, past and present meet and merge within a story of a taxi driver and a woman. Strangers, still rooted in the past, deeply affected by urban isolation. A play between two characters at the vacant margins of society: Both unfamiliar but intimate, a nighttime cab ride through the city takes them on an unsettling journey.

On a formal level, TAXI conflates different layers of narrative to expose a ground figure by which the story fragments are reflected and put into a wider perspective. The different narratives are tied together by the musical composition of Thomas Meadowcroft, who creates a vibrant soundscape live on stage.



In general, the work of HUNGER&SEIDE is shaped by a collaborative working process and aims to unfold creative frictions between artistic disciplines. The projects are centered on issues of modern urban environments and identities and are characterized by a non-linear narrative structure.

JUDITH AL BAKRI & JOCHEN SCHRODTHOFF

Judith Al Bakri, born in Munich, grown up both in Germany and Switzerland, Judith Al Bakri completed her education in Performing Arts at the Hochschule der Künste Bern. Between 2005 and 2007 Al Bakri worked at Staatstheater Karlsruhe, Residenztheater München, Münchner Kammerspiele, Junges Theater Göttingen, Stadttheater Bern among others. Besides her work at the theatre, Judith Al Bakri is acting in cinema and movie productions, such as DIE WILDEN KERLE (2003). She was nominated as best female actress for the FÖRDERPREIS DEUTSCHER FILM in the feature film MORGEN DAS LEBEN (2010). Judith Al Bakri also works as an author and writer. Together with Jochen Strodthoff, in 2006 she co-founded the performance theatre company HUNGER&SEIDE.

Jochen Strodthoff grown up in Bremen, Germany. Jochen Strodthoff completed his education in acting at the Mozarteum in Salzburg, Austria. He held various engagements, among others at the Stadttheater in Ingolstadt and Göttingen. Also, he worked with the Schauspielhaus Wien, Schauspiel Frankfurt, as with various performance festivals, such as SPIELART Theater Festival, Münchner Biennale, Salzburger Festspiele, Festival für Politik im Freien Theater. In 2010, Strodthoff was awarded the FÖRDERPREIS DEUTSCHER FILM as best male actor in the feature film MORGEN DAS LEBEN (2010) which was also nominated for the DEUTSCHE FILMPREIS in 2012. In addition Jochen Strodthoff is a nominated playwright and director. Together with Judith Al Bakri, he co-founded the performance theatre company HUNGER&SEIDE in 2006.

HUNGER & SEIDE

In their work, HUNGER&SEIDE explore contemporary urban environments with a particular focus on the multilayered dynamics of ongoing social change. Since 2006 the performance collective from Munich has been working on their own projects that are centered on issues of modern urban environments and identities and are characterized by a non-linear narrative structure. In general, the work of HUNGER&SEIDE is shaped by a collaborative working process and aims to unfold creative frictions between artistic disciplines. In 2012 HUNGER&SEIDE received the George-Tabori-Award.



The participation of TAXI is kindly supported by GOETHE INSTITUTE IRAQ.

The production of TAXI was funded by:

Department of Culture and Arts, City of Munich (*Kulturreferat München*)
Fonds of Performing Arts e.V. (*Fonds Darstellende Künste e.V.*) TAXI was invited to *Starke Stücke*, Festival of Performing Arts (2008) and nominated to the pre-selection of the *Berliner Theatertreffen* in 2009.

IRAN**SEPTEMBER 21 | 5 PM | HALI GAL****"The Earth and the Universe"**

Persian, with introduction in Kurdish

Direction: Zahra Sabri
Assistant Director: Zohreh Baratloo
Group|Theater: Yase-e-Tamam Theater Group, Teheran
Playwright: Based on Masnavi-ye Manavi written by Molana (Rumi)
Source Material: adapted from some stories of Rumi's "Masnavi-ye Manavi"
Performer: Roxana Bahram, Mona Sarbandi, Fatemeh Abbasi
Music: Babak Nasiri Khah
Producer: Khalil Habiby
Public Relation: Hamid kaka Soltani

Duration: 55 min

SYNOPSIS

"The Earth and Universe" is an adaption of seven stories of life, faith, freedom, miracles, Biblical characters and more from the Masnavi-ye Manavi, the magnum opus of the Iranian poet and sufi mystic Molana Jalal ad-Din Rumi. In *A Small Green*, we meet a sweet mouthed cow; while in *Umar & The Harpist* an old harp player gets a second chance. In *The Parrot and the Merchant*, we meet a clever imprisoned parrot who feigns death to be free. In the show stopper *Moses & The Shepherd*, the prophet Moses learns from his mistakes and apologizes to a shepherd. Every story imparts a divine & important message to the enchanted audience. The puppet play has been performed at several festivals around the world and received the special prize of the jury at the Mobarak festival in Iran 2008 as well as the 1st prize in Prague 2009, and the Grand prize of the Bania-Luka festival in Poland.

ZAHRA SABRI

Zahra Khyali Sabri, born in Tehran in 1966, is a director, stage designer, puppet designer and puppet maker. She received her B.A. of Stage Designing from the Islamic Azad University in 2000. In 1990 she formed the multi award winning theater group Yase-e-Tamam.

YASE-E-TAMAM THEATER GROUP

The multi award winning Theater Group "Yase-e-Tamam" was formed in 1990 by Iranian director and puppet designer Zahra Sabri. The company has performed in theaters and festivals around the world including Iran, Spain, France and Lebanon. In 2009 they won the 1st prize at the Prague International Puppet Theater Festival.

ITALY**SEPTEMBER 23 | 8 PM | CITADELLE****"PERSAe"**

Italian, Kurdish, English, French, Greek with Kurdish introduction

Direction: Fabio Tolledi
Assistant Director: Ivano Gorgoni
Group | Theater: Astràgali Teatro, Lecce
Playwright: Fabio Tolledi
Source Material: based on "The Persians" by Aeschylus and "Four Hours in Chatila" by Jean Genet
Cast | Performer: Gaetano Fianza, Lenia Gadaleta, Francis Leonesi, Iula Marzulli, Eleonice Mastria, Manuela Mastria, Antonio Palumbo, Roberta Quarta, Fatima Sai, Serena Stifani, Simonetta Rotundo and Delvin Muhssin (Erbil)
Musician: Canio Fianza
Duration: 60 minutes

SYNOPSIS

The multi-lingual performance "Persae", written and directed by Fabio Tolledi, is based on Aeschylus' tragedy "The Persians" and on Jean Genet's "Four hours in Chatila". The subject of the tragedy "Persians" by Aeschylus (472 b.C.), is a historical event - the defeat of the Persians by the Greek coalition, in Salamis.

Two fronts, two armies, standing the one against the other. Aeschylus chooses to tell the story on the defeated's side, assuming the point of view of the defeated. The assumption of the "defeated's sight" allows the confrontation with the otherness- not exclusively with an enemy otherness.

The bodies of the Persians, defeated, slaughtered in the sea, all lost. "Persae", persi, perdis, lost. "Persae", the performance, is a reflection on conflict as a principle of destruction, on frontiers as principles of separation of the individuals, on migration. Migrant people that cross frontiers to escape from war, from poverty, migrant bodies getting lost in the sea/frontier.

FABIO TOLLEDI

Fabio Tolledi is theatre director, playwright and artistic director of Astràgali Teatro, a theatre founded in 1981 in Lecce (Italy). Since 1992, he directs all the performances and training activities of Astràgali Teatro company. He is President of the Italy Centre of the International Theatre Institute and Vice-President of the CIDC (Cultural Identity and Development Committee) of ITI. He collaborates with the teaching of "Sociology of Religions" at the University of Salento. In the last years, he has been project director of the many international projects promoted by Astràgali and supported by the European Union and by other international organisations, realising artistic collaborations with



theatres, cultural institutions, universities, artists from Albania, Kosovo, Cyprus, France, Great Britain, Greece, Turkey, Malta, Jordan, Palestine, Spain, Syria. His performances have been played all over Europe and the Mediterranean countries.

Tolledi's work has been focusing on the direction of intercultural theatrical workshops and performances with team of actors and actresses of different nationalities, and realising joint multilingual and site-specific performances. Very numerous are his directions and stagings, which deal with a reflection and practice about diversity, conflict and the overcoming of ideological and physical frontiers.

ASTRÀGALI TEATRO

Astràgali Teatro was established in Lecce in 1981. Since 1992 it is directed by Fabio Tolledi.

Astràgali Teatro is recognised by the Italian Ministry of Culture as an innovation theatre company. It is founding member of the Italian Centre of the International Theatre Institute of UNESCO. It is member of Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures and of European Cultural Foundation.

Since long Astràgali Teatro has been working all over Europe and the Mediterranean area implementing international projects (among the many, it was Leader of 7 projects supported by the European Union "Culture Programme") with artists, theatres, universities in Greece, Cyprus, Turkey, Palestine, Jordan, Syria, Albania, Kosovo, France, Belgium, Great Britain, Spain. Its actions aim to practice the possibility of a multi-language theatre, emerging from the encounter of different languages and experiences, standing against the idea of frontier and separation as principles of conflict.

A possible place of meeting of thoughts, and, on the theatrical side, the never tired challenge of life in theatre, a challenge that lead Astràgali to visit theatrically, and practically as pioneers, some of the most fascinating or obsolete or forgotten architectonic and natural places in Italy and to open to a syncretic practice of cultural exchanges and crossings, above all in the Mediterranean countries.

SPAIN

SEPTEMBER 23 | 5 PM | ADMINISTRATION HALL



"Nix Tu, Simona - Born you, Simona"

Catalan, with introduction in Kurdish

Direction: Albert Mestres
Group | Theater: La Patacada, Barcelona
Playwright: Albert Pijuan
Cast | Performer: Aina Calpe
Space and Lights: Adrià Roca

Duration: 60 min

SYNOPSIS

Nix tu, Simona (Born you, Simona) by Albert Pijuan is an extraordinary play written by a very young author. A little, mentally handicapped girl tells the story of her life. The highly expressive language of this monologue allows to see through the mise-en-scène and its minimalist approach into the actoral interpretation. The result is a verbal flux with a big emotional impact that achieves to immediately pull the audience into the play. We witness the confrontation of pure innocence and goodness with the complex nets where the inhabitants of this contemporary world are trapped.

ALBERT MESTRES

Albert Mestres is a writer, translator and scene director. He has published various books of poetry, premiered his first opera in 1996 and has directed different theater plays. Presently he is professor at the Instituto del Teatro of Barcelona.

LA PATACADADA

La Patacada is a company specialized in text-based theater not conventional and not premiered yet and started in 2002. The company is also devoted to theatricalized concerts of contemporary music and poetic readings.

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PAKISTAN**SEPTEMBER 22 | PM 5 | HALI GAL****"Hum Woh Haen Jinnhay Jang Nay
Barbaad Kiya – We are the Dispossessed!"**

Urdu, with Kurdish introduction

Direction

and Choreography: Sheema Kermani
Group|Theater: Tehrik-e-Niswan, Karachi

Playwright: Sheema Kermani

Source Material: "Aurat" by Safdar Hashmi, "Trojan Women" by Euripides
"Chaddor aur Chardiwari" by Fahmida Riaz, "Medea" by Dario Fo
and Franca Rame, Julia Starzky and Kabir Das

Translation: Anwer Jafri

Cast | Performer: Sheema Kermani, Sehrish Mehmood, Aisha Maqsood,
Shazia Adnan, Mehmood Bhatti, Mohd Mohsin Ali Khan

Design and Visuals: Anwer Jafri

Duration: 50 min

Synopsis

This is a multi media performance incorporating dance, music, poetry and video with drama. It draws the audience into a discourse on the affects of loss, displacement, rape, violence and war on women and gives a peep into glimpses of the lives of women from history to the life of the woman in present day Pakistan. The performance moves between past and present and weaves a tapestry of lives of women – our lives, our stories – stories of women who are dispossessed by wars. The play opens with the 'Banjaras' singing and dancing. These are nomadic singers who carry the narrative of the play forward. They are the Chorus and also the Story tellers, weaving tales from mythology to contemporary times.

Sheema Kermani

Sheema Kermani is the founder of Tehrik-e-Niswan. She is a trained classical dancer, dance teacher, actor, director and Peace Activist. Sheema has trained in various dance forms- Bharatanatyam, Kathak, Odissi and the folk and traditional dance forms of Pakistan. She has choreographed and directed many productions of Tehrik-e-Niswan and has performed internationally. Sheema is also a well-known television personality and a Human Rights Activist.

Tehrik-e-Niswan

Since its inception in 1979, **Tehrik-e-Niswan** (Women's Movement), has consistently strived to raise awareness about women's rights in Pakistan through cultural and artistic expression, using the medium of theatre, dance, music and video productions. In spite of tremendous obstacles Tehrik has not only contributed and survived, but has also tried to help create an atmosphere of acceptability of theatre as a serious means of expression. Tehrik always tries to bring awareness of the visual elements of theatrical performance



by presenting a variety of forms and styles. It has mounted over 40 productions, translations, adaptations as well as original plays. Tehrik has performed at many Festivals both locally and abroad. Tehrik has worked with well known guest directors from abroad, for example Dr Prof Jamil Ahmed and Golam Sarwar from Bangla Desh, Juergen Zielinski from Germany and Prasanna Ramaswamy from India.

TURKEY

SEPTEMBER 20 | 8 PM | SHANIDAR GALLERY



"With No Compass"

Turkish, Kurdish

Concept and Direction: Özen Yula
Assistant Director: Feyzan Soykan
Playwright: Özen Yula
Cast | Performer: Deniz Atam, Beyti Engin
Costume
and Stage Design: Lütfiye Başak Özdoğan
Light: Metin Çelebi

Duration: 60 min

Synopsis

During a very warm day, two immigrants come to a museum at some place in Europe for a cooler day in the big halls. They begin to talk to each other. Then they realize that one of them is a Turk and the other one is a Serb. Then begins the expected prejudices and unexpected humanity. They talk about their history, religions, life styles, countries. We hear about their hatreds, loves, loss, beloveds. But we can never learn their names. They are just two immigrants for us and for everyone in our daily life. But in truth two humanbeings in search of being someone in another society. Then actually before we succeed to learn their names, they begin to play with an installation in the museum and change it until they become a part of it.

UGANDA**SEPTEMBER 19 | 8 PM | MEDIA HALL****"Not You My Friend"**

English, songs in Ugandan dialects, with Kurdish introduction

Concept and Direction: Jessica Kaahwa

Group|Theater: Performing Arts and Film Department, Makerere University, Kampala in collaboration with House of Praise Performing Group

Playwright: Hope Joy K. Onwenu

Cast | Performer: Vivian Bitekerezo, Mbotto Amelia Kabajungo, Katoroogo Bagonza Herman, George Kitaka, Francis Kyeyune, Olivier Namyalo

Duration: 60 min

SYNOPSIS

Our preference in choice of friends is oftentimes swat by our inborn weakness to control. Thus this denies others their right to be themselves in determining the rules of their engagement for a mutually beneficial relationship. What is healthy and unhealthy friendship? Who are we in a relationship? Whom do we want to be? Do we envision the effect of our relationship as impacting others directly and indirectly? The play, Not You My Friend is performed against a rich texture of Ugandan traditional opera with exquisite colourful music, dance and drama through which the audience is made to glimpse at the interwoven-ness of life's love tragic saga.

JESSICA KAAHWA

She possesses a long and varied career in facilitation and designing of participatory communication methodology for development. She is currently a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Performing Arts and Film, at Makerere University. Dr. Kaahwa has been the architect of a number of national initiatives that have sought to use theatre and media as a constructive force in conflict settings and for health improvement. She has and continues to experiment with theories that expand the discourse on theatre applications. Dr. Kaahwa is also an accomplished director with a number of stage productions to her credit.

Dr. Kaahwa is a great believer in "teaching by doing". Recently, she was invited to write and read the "World Theatre Day Speech" of 2011 and consequently a Special Guest at UNESCO - ITI Assembly, Paris, France (March 23, 2011).

Group

The Department of Performing Arts and Film at Makerere University is renowned as an inceptive place that gave rise to the contemporary theatre activities through out the Great lakes region (EA). It is also where the first seeds of both English and Brazilian theatre practices germinated. Each year the students conduct their practical examinations in the different communities in a festival-like atmosphere.



IRAQ-BAGHDAD

SEPTEMBER 19 | 5 PM | HALI GAL



"Summer Rain"

Arabic, with Kurdish introduction

Direction: Kadham Alnassar
Group|Theater: **has to be added**
Playwright: Ali Abdul Nabi Alaidi
Performer: Hanna Muhammed, Fadhil Abbas
Light: Muhammed Rahim
Music and Sound: Muhammed Abdulredha Alrubaiey
Decor: Saad Aziz Adulsahib
Stage Manager: Nahla Dakhil

Duration: 55 min

IRAQ-KURDISTAN REGION

SEPTEMBER 18 | 5 PM | HALI GAL

all has to be added



Accompanying Programme

- open panel discussions to the audience after every play
- 5 lectures held by different experts from various countries in the morning
- 2 additional theater performances outside of the competition
- 2 panel discussions to a special topic, which still has to be announced
- meetings with the University of Fine Arts, Artists Syndicate and theater groups to talk about future collaboration projects

Jury Members

- Ann Marie Engel, President of Svensk Teaterunion-the Swedish Center of ITI and Vice-President of the ITI World Organisation
- Zahra Khosravi, Instructor at University of Tehran, Course: Literary Schools in Theater
- Abdulrahman Bin Zaidan, Playwriter and Researcher, Dar Albaidha, Marocco
- Talaat Samen, Theatermaker, Erbil
- Fadal Jaff (Secretary of the Jury), Playwriter, Erbil