



## **Damascus Contemporary Dance Platform**

**19-23 April 2009**

**In Dar Al Assad for culture and Arts**

[www.tanween.net](http://www.tanween.net)

Organized by Tanween for Theatre Dance and In cooperation with General Association of Dar Al Assad for Culture and Arts Directorate of Theatre and Music presents **Damascus Contemporary Dance Platform**

As a continuation of the platforms organized by the regional Masahat Network, including Tanween Company for Theatre Dance / Damascus  
Maqamat for Theatre Dance / Beirut  
Royal Centre for Culture and Arts / Amman  
Saryyet Ramallah / Ramallah

Damascus First Contemporary Dance Platform (organized by Tanween Company for Theatre Dance), is an attempt to support cultural opening up by acquaintance of the new experiences in the dance field; presenting performances that represent various artistic directions, such as performances that adopt movement as a structural basis, or dance shows with a dramatic structure involved, or performances that are deeply symbolical and abstractive.

Participating troupes will have the chance to introduce their intellectual and artistic approaches through meetings organized by the platform with audience, in addition to workshops for contemporary dance techniques, movement theatre, and lighting design for dance performances.

## **Companies Participating in DCDP 2009**

### **MANCOPY DANCE COMPANY \ Denmark**

#### **About The Company:**

Mancopy© Dansekompagni is a repertory Contemporary Dance Company based in Århus, Denmark. Mancopy was founded in 2004 by Artistic Director Jens Bjerregaard - acclaimed Danish choreographer and previously Artistic Director of DanceEnsemble Urban Elves 1998-2004.

**Performing on: Sunday 19.04.2009 – Dar Al Assad for culture and Arts - Drama Theatre at 20h30**

#### **A summary a bout The Performance**

**Iconic/Ironic (40 minutes):** Nothing stands alone and everything can be reflected  
*Iconic/Ironic* is a consistent, abstract choreographic game that circles around POP ART and the use of clichés - not less my own ones!

Modern art often comes to life by promoting the classics - the icons and put them into new connections - new images of the world. Iconic/Ironic moves this game into the world of dance and will be a distorted and humorous performance.

The piece consists of choreographic fragments, that among its own interaction poses the performance. Separate fragments have references to former productions while others are new material. - Jens Bjerregaard

**Running Sculpture (20 Min):** The choreographer Lars Dahl Pedersen remakes the duet Running Sculpture with the dancers of Mancopy. The dancers will act pieces in a puzzle of dancing tableaux among pieces of unrestrained dance and sculptural views of the body.

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### **GIULIA MUREDDU COMPANY \ Netherlands**

#### **About The Company & Choreographer:**

The work of Giulia Mureddu, a dance company based in Amsterdam, is characterized by complex and multilayered performances in which theatrical, strong physical and non-conventional dance intermingle. In her choreographies the existential fundament of having a body and the different possibilities of expression do not shape the image of the body, but let the human being, trapped inside it, communicate. The work has a talking body as its signature.

**Performing on: Monday 20.04.2009 – Dar Al Assad for culture and Arts – Multi-purpose Hall – 20h30**

#### **A summary about The Performance**

**Escaping Grey (30 Min):** Escaping Grey is a choreography inspired by different aspects of ambition. Fleeshy duets and trio's melt with moments of sheer dance and disarming human expressions. Within an original scenography involving masks, fiction and reality blend.

**Mighty MatPogo (35 Min) :** No matter how far the three dancers and voice-artist Mat Pogo push themselves, there's always the risk of not succeeding. Yet failure is intrinsically

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### **Hela Fattoumi & Eric Lamoureux \ France**

#### **About The Choreographers:**

The choreographers H la Fattoumi & Eric Lamoureux , they created their own company in 1990 . From the beginning of their collaboration until now they have realised more than 20 choreographies that were presented on many different international festival in France and around the world , and they received several awards.

**Performing on: Tuesday 21.04.2009 Dar Al Assad for culture and Arts - Drama Theatre 20h30**

#### **A summary about The Performance :**

The performance EXPRESS 2 TEMPS is consecrated to the traces of memory that remain alive in us. The oeuvre is presented as a sort of journalistic report, testimony in the form of dance.

**"Express 2 temps** is closely tied to passing on/resetting the founding duet that launched us into the choreographic limelight – **Husa s**. Twenty years of rich and passionate collaboration, today bringing us to look back on our shared memories, examining the traces that remain alive in us and bringing into perspective two moments on this journey, two moments separated by twenty years."

### **SAMIR AKIKA \ Germany**

#### **About The Choreographer:**

Samir Akika: Born in Algiers in 1967, the dancer and choreographer Samir Akika grew up in Paris and studied in the USA and is now living in Düsseldorf. Not till he was 26 did he begin dancing, but at 34 he has staged four premieres and received two financial awards. His choreographic style is meant to combine the formal language of dancing with the visual medium of films, to produce a new cinematic dance-theatre.

**Performing on: Thursday 23.04.2009 – Dar Al Assad for culture and Arts – Drama Theatre - 20h30**

#### **A summary a bout The Performance :**

##### **Extended Teenage Era (ETE):**

If you've forgotten to turn off your mobile phones that's all right with us  
If you take pictures use the flash... it's good for our egos  
Please change seats if you're no happy with where you're sitting  
We would be flattered if you bootleg our performance and put it on youtube  
If you need to share ideas and comments with your neighbors, do so  
If you're just flirting: mention you know one of us, it always works  
Refrain from looking for any sense about this piece  
Tonight, there'll be no naked women on stage  
Apropos, as the blue stars indicate in the program,  
We are the B-CAST...

### **Lecture**

#### **THE LINGUAL BODY**

By *Giulia Mureddu* who are going to talk about her working methods about what she called The Lingual Body.

**On Sunday 19.04.2009 in NISAD Damascus – 12h00 – 14h00**

### **Workshop**

#### **Partnering : MANCOPY DANCE COMPANY \ Denmark**

MOVING TOGETHER, a practical and fun 2-3 hour workshop on partnering. We will in the workshop explore a range of practical tools for partnering aimed at the dancer as well as the choreographer  
The workshop is based on giving each individual participant the tools that gives them the possibility to work with a partner - An approach that adapts to very different styles of dance and approaches to the work.

**On Saturday 18.04.2009 – Dar Al Assad for culture and Arts – Training zone – 16h00 – 18h00**

#### **Layering the dancing body and the everyday body : GIULIA MUREDDU COMPANY \ Netherlands**

The body is not always a dancing body in the work of Giulia Mureddu, but sometimes also just an everyday body; a container of recognizable emotions and an independent medium to explore .During the workshop we will work on dance material, which originates from the physical transformation of a movement impulse. We will focus on a methodology of how to break patterns of movements by stimulating the analytical ability to manipulate and

fragment the movement material in several layers. This will result in a conscious and unconscious detailed use of limbs, weight, space, and often forgotten details like facial expressions, gestures and utterings of the voice. The exercises used involve a specific application of improvisation. They aim at the development of skills to combine structure and improvisation, freedom of imagination and codified language.

**On Sunday 19.04.2009 – Dar Al Assad for culture and Arts – Training zone – 16h00 – 18h00**

**The physical presence of light in dance performances and its dramaturgy : GIULIA MUREDDU COMPANY \ Netherlands**

Light is not only a support of a choreography in the work of *Roland Van Ulden*, but leads its own life, dialogues with the movement of the choreography. In the workshop we will explore how to relate technical knowledge, like properties of lamps, use of color, directions, intensity and timing of transitions, to the dramaturgical line of a scene. We will study, from-out practical examples of previous work of Roland, how to translate the idea's of the choreographer in to light, or vice-versa, how to translate the ideas of the light-designer into a choreography. In the workshop we will analyze the different steps needed for a fertile collaboration.

How to over-bridge the differences in the dynamic process of imagination between a choreographer and a light designer.

**On Monday 20.04.2009 – Goethe Institute – 11h00 – 1300**

**Transportation and its correlation with the context of creational process:**

**Hela Fattoumi & Eric Lamoureux \ France**

In order to present "Hosice, express two times", each of H la Fattoumi and Eric Lamoureux was obliged to travel in the deepest depth of their memory and body to feature Husa s duet duality which they haven't performed for many years. They had a desire to transport that play to the dancers of the troupe, Mustapha Ziane, the head of exercising, was one of them. This workshop will start with a class and then a working on the play that is going to be performed in Damascus on April 21st. The basing on referencing forms of Husa s duet duality; working on energy, stakes of rhythm; the relationship among ingredients of the space: all of them will be possible ways to palpate the wagerings of this unique work of movement.

**On Monday 20.04.2009 – Arabic Culture Center \ Kafar souse – 15h00 – 17h00**

**Impro : SAMIR AKIKA \ Germany**

The starting point of this workshop is the creativity of each individual participant. By research and improvisation each participant learns to find and create its personal movement material, which also is shared with the others with the goal of mutual enrichment.

This creative process is guided by the workshop leaders who also help and direct the participant how their material can be used, varied and composed. At the end of the workshop a result of the working process is shown. This workshop is suitable for up to 20 participants with the age of minimum 14.

**On Wednesday 22.04.2009 – Dar Al Assad for culture and Arts – Training zone – 15h00 – 1900**

**HIP HOP : SAMIR AKIKA \ Germany**

Given by: Denis „Koon B-Boying, Funkstyles, Locking and Popping, New Style Dance and floorworks

**On Thursday 23.04.2009– Dar Al Assad for culture and Arts – Training zone – 13h00 – 1500**

## Daily program ( Lectures, workshops, performances)

<b>Date</b>	<b>workshops</b>	<b>Lectures</b>	<b>performances</b>
<b>Saturday 18.04.2009</b>	Partnering Dar Al Assad Training zone – 16h00 – 18h00		
<b>Sunday 19.04.2009</b>	Layering the dancing body and the everyday body Dar Al Assad Training zone – 16h00 – 18h00	THE LINGUAL BODY NISAD Damascus – 12h00 – 14h00	Running Sculpture & Iconic/Ironic MANCOPY DANCE COMPANY \Denmark 20h30
<b>Monday 20.04.2009</b>	1 Transportation and its correlation with the context of creational process Arabic Culture Center \ Kafar souse 15h00 – 1700 2- The physical presence of light in dance performances and its dramaturgy Goethe Institute – 11h00 – 13h00		Escaping grey & Mighty Mat Pogo GIULIA MUREDDU COMPANY \ Netherlands at 20h30
<b>Tuesday 21.04.2009</b>			EXPRESS 2 TEMPS Hela Fattoumi & Eric Lamoureux \ France at 20h30
<b>Wednesday 22.04.2009</b>	Impro Dar Al Assad Training zone 15h00 – 1900		
<b>Thursday 23.04.2009</b>	HIP HOP Dar Al Assad Training zone 13h00 – 1500		Extended Teenage Samir Akika 20h30

**All performances take place at Drama Theatre and Multi-Purpose Hall - Dar Al Assad for culture and art  
(Audience talk after each performance)**