



Traffic by Toméo Vergès in El Badrasheen (Giza) as part of Urban Visions Program

D-CAF Urban Visions program brings contemporary dance performances out of the theatre and into public spaces in Downtown Cairo from 4–7 April 2013

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The D-CAF Urban Visions Program brings contemporary dance out of the theatre and into non-traditional venues and outdoor spaces, reaching out to audiences in locations not usually associated with dance. Generously supported by the European Union in Egypt, the Urban Visions Program kicked off this year in Hadaeq el Nil in El Badrashin, Giza, on 29th March and the Ahmed Bahaa el Din Culture Center in El Doweir Village in Assiut on 30–31 March*. Urban Visions moves to Cairo on 4 April, where audiences will be treated to four days of dance performances in the streets around the Stock Exchange (Borsa) and the Kodak Building.

Urban Visions is the first contemporary dance program of its kind to bring leading international performers and choreographers, alongside their fellow Egyptian dancers, to governorates outside of Cairo. According to Ahmed El Attar: “With our Urban Visions program, D-CAF is striving to bring world-class, contemporary dance pieces out into public spaces in Egypt, reaching into people’s daily lives and encouraging them to ‘stumble on’ and enjoy, a piece of contemporary dance that they might not otherwise have the opportunity to see.”

Headlining the rich line-up of local and international artists participating in Urban Visions, is leading French choreographer, Toméo Vergès. Vergès will participate with two site-specific performances delivered in collaboration with Egyptian dancers. On 5th April Toméo Vergès will show a work entitled ‘Traffic’ where male and female performers are literally showed cased in a shop window on 11 Mahmoud Bassiouny street. Here they can be seen mechanically executing the gestures and movements of traffic police. Inspired by the mechanical routine of traffic ladies in North Korea, “Traffic” explores how power is used to regulate chaos.

On 6–7 April, artist Sandrine Maisonneuve (France) and Egyptian dancers will perform “Que de Bonheur (?)”, a work that explores the restrictions of a self imposed routine. This work takes dance out of the traditional theatre space and will be performed in – and specifically adapted to – the non traditional confines of a flat in the heritage venue Hotel Viennoise, in Downtown Cairo. Three female performers use clockwork-like movements to express a routine that straitjackets them, but which when repeated and transformed eventually arrives at the possibility of freedom.

Taking place in outdoor spaces not normally associated with contemporary dance, three very different dance performances will be shown in the streets around the Stock Exchange (Borsa) on 5th April. These performances will then be shown, again, on 7 April in the area around Kodak Building. They include the Dutch The100Hands dance company, who combine acrobatic skills with capoeira practices, and collaborate with Egyptian performers in the piece “Line Engravers”. In this performance, the dancers express the idea of carving lines through creative and simple movements.

In the contemporary dance piece, “Balance,” Egyptian artists Sonic and Mohamed Tiger portray an attempt to escape a distressing nightmare through jerky and incomplete movements that seek fluidity and completion. Also on 5 April, Egyptian contemporary dance group “Hackers Crew” will entertain audiences with their energetic hip-hop performances. The award-winning group of nine dancers, who starred in a Nokia commercial, comes back to the streets where they first began rehearsals.

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Then, on 6 April, Jasper Džuki Jelen and Mojra Vogelnic-Škerlj of The100Hands company will present “In the Midst of Confusion” that explores ideas on how to resolve differences and come closer, a reflection that extends itself to audiences.

Also as part of the Urban Visions program, D-CAF is proud to present the renowned British company Bootworks, who come to Cairo for the very first time with their internationally acclaimed production “The Incredible Book-Eating Boy”. This piece sees audiences inside a “black box,” where theatre takes place around them, performed to one child and a parent at a time in a one-of-a-kind theatrical experience. A five-minute piece about “Hussein” who has a voracious appetite for books will be performed on 5-6 April in Arabic, with some performances on 6 April in English.

The Urban Visions program closes on 7 April with Egyptian dancer, Dalia El Abd’s dance “Back to Front” that takes place at the Hotel Viennoise. Observing the female body as an obsessive object of sexuality, the performance explores how things that appear dissimilar may in fact be interdependent.

*Urban Visions program will also present “The Colors of the Revolution” exclusively to audiences in Hadaeq el Nil in Giza, and Ahmed Bahaa El Din Cultural Center in Assiut. In this play by Egypt’s Al Khayal Al Shaabi group the color grey wreaks havoc in the plans of painters who want to depict the dreams of a village. The travelling theatre company, which uses everyday materials that are simple and easily recognizable to stimulate creativity and imagination, will also facilitate a workshop with children from the village.

Urban Visions Sponsor



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