



THEATRE (INTERNATIONAL/DEvised)

Hanane Hajj Ali presents

Jogging

EDINBURGH FRINGE PREMIERE

A reflective, minimalist work from one of Lebanon's most prominent performers: a veiled woman jogs through Beirut, the effect on her body mirroring the changing city around her

Devised and performed by Hanane Hajj Ali

Part of the Arab Arts Focus Edinburgh Showcase

Demonstration Room, Summerhall, 15 - 23 August 2017, 11:50 (12:50), PG

"The piece lurches knowingly from sacred to profane and - more importantly - from the sublime to the banal and the mortal imponderables that wander between them." **The Daily Star, Lebanon**

Alone on a bare stage and dressed in black, Hanane, woman, wife and mother, lifts the veil on her identity in this expressionist performance. The 50-something Lebanese performer jogs every day to avoid osteoporosis, obesity, depression and anxiety. Her route takes her through her own personal space and the public spaces of Beirut, revisiting and contemplating roles, characters, desires, aspirations and disappointments along the way. The exercise brings her body a rush of adrenaline and dopamine; alternating destructive and constructive effects, mirroring an ever-changing city that destroys to build and builds to destroy.

Hanane Hajj Ali said of Jogging: "When I attended the Edinburgh Festival for the first time I was once again assured of the ability of the theatre to nest in the folds of cities as it does in the twitching of thought and the twists of the spirit. Today, through the Arab Arts Focus, I am invited to be part of this continuous labour of pain and pleasure, and to pursue the process of digging into the wounds of dust, hoping to find through the cracks of the wreckage tunnels that may lead us from the rotten warts to new births."

An actress, writer and director from Beirut, Hanane Hajj Ali has been working in theatre since she joined the The Lebanese Hakawati Theater in 1978. She has established herself as one of the most experienced theatre practitioners in the Arab world. A prolific artist, Hanane Hajj Ali has continued to make theatre and experiment with form outside the frame of reference and tradition in Lebanon and abroad, receiving local and international awards. She has performed tours and readings, and given workshops and presentations in Europe, Africa, America, Canada and the Arab world.

Hanane is one of the most prominent cultural activists in Lebanon and a founding member of several prominent Arab cultural organisations and associations including: Al Mawred Al Thaqafy, Etijahat, and Action for Hope. Her most prominent works include *Days of Tents* (Hakawati Theater), *Gibran and Al Qaeda* (Yaqoub), (Al-Shadrawi), *Genina Industrial* (Roger Assaf), *Paraffin* (Jean-Baptiste Suster), *Thabet*, *The pain of Mrs. Ghada* (Abdullah Al Kafri), *Yama Kan* (Wahid Al Ajmi), *Taht and Lenaha*, which she also wrote and directed. Hanane's work *Jogging* was also chosen among the winners of the Fox-Lebanon competition (organised by the French Cultural Center and the Zaqak group), and was considered by the newspaper Focus Liban, among the 16 best and most influential works made in 2016.

Supporters: AFAC: The Arab Fund for Arts and Culture and Heinrich Boll Stiftung: Middle East

Supported by the British Council Lebanon

Press Contact: Sharon at SM Publicity on sharon@smpublicity.co.uk and 07970 178643 or the press team at SM Publicity on fringe@smpublicity.co.uk and 07401 878154

Company

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Web and social media links: @ArabArtsFocus | www.aaf.orientproductions.org | #AAFE | #Jogging

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JVrcY0eb-jM>

NOTES TO EDITORS:

The Arab Arts Focus Edinburgh is the first showcase of contemporary Arab theatre, performance and visual art at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. Presented by D-CAF Festival (Cairo), the Tamasi collective for the performing arts and Orient productions (Egypt) in collaboration with Kenmure Productions (Scotland), the showcase will feature theatre, contemporary art, dance, talks and late night cabaret Chill Habibi with the aim to increase the visibility of Arab artists (especially those not residing in Europe), evolve different, non-reductive discourses on the Arab world and change stereotypes about the region; opening the door for mutual understanding at a time when it is needed most.

With the support of Ford Foundation, Studio Emad Eddin Foundation, British Council Egypt, Qattan Foundation and Swedish International Development Agency. In collaboration with Sundance Theatre institute and with special thanks to Lorne Campbell and Northern Stage (Newcastle).

Listings information

Arab Art Focus Edinburgh:

Hanane Hajj Ali presents

Jogging

Demonstration Room, Summerhall, 1 Summerhall, Edinburgh, EH9 1PL

15 - 23 August 2017 | 11:50 (12:50) | £12 (£10)

Box office: 0131 560 1581 | www.summerhall.co.uk

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