



CABARET/INTERNATIONAL

Arab Arts Focus Edinburgh Showcase and Kenmure Productions present

Chill Habibi

A late night cabaret featuring an eclectic mix of theatre, comedy, dance, music and other-ness from the Arab world alongside new work and collaborations from Scottish and international artists

Part of the Arab Arts Focus Edinburgh Showcase

The Library Gallery, Summerhall, 4 - 27 August 2017 (not 7, 14 or 21), 21:30 (22:30), 18+

Artists from Egypt, Syria, Palestine, Iraq, Morocco will perform alongside established and new Scottish and international voices including David Greig, Julia Taudevin and Karl Sharro in this cabaret event complementing the showcase. 2017 has been a tough year not just for the UK, but also for the Arab world. The cabaret, which is co-curated by Sara Shaarawi and Henry Bell, is a chance to take some time out of the fringe madness, learn more about Arab work, hear some stories, have a dance, try some Arak and just chill habibi ('chill darling').

Fun, informal and very much based on the ethics of DIY and collaboration, *Chill Habibi* will provide a space for artists to engage with each other in a spontaneous sharing of their art and their worlds. Part of the Arab Arts Focus, marking 70 years of the Fringe as a place for new work and international encounters, Chill Habibi is the late night club with the best of a packed programme of Arab and international performance. Every night will be different, embracing the Scottish tradition of variety and ceilidhs and pairing it with Arab hospitality and communal spirit. There will be stories to be shared, chants to be learned and true cultural exchange to be had. There might also be Arab mezze and liquor provided. And maybe even some whiskey.

Co-producer Sara Shaarawi said: *"We want to create a fun space to explore Arab culture and art, but also for the Arab artists to experience true Scottish hospitality! Every night will be different, you might see some experimental dance from Palestine and Scottish hip hop on one night and Arab political satire and slam poetry on the next. We're hoping to bring artists together for some rapid response pieces and small collaborations, as well as keeping our options open to the chaos the Fringe might bring our way. We want to end the nights of the Arab Art Focus showcase on a lighter note, and create a space where we can celebrate both regions and have fun together."*

Sara Shaarawi is a playwright, translator and performer from Cairo who is now based in Glasgow. She has had her work performed at the Tron Theatre, The Traverse, Village Pub Theatre, Platform, and the CCA. Sara also took part in the Playwrights Studio Scotland's 2015 Mentoring Programme and the National Theatre of Scotland's Breakthrough Writers programme. Other credits include dramaturg, performing and translation for *One Day in Spring* (Oran Mor/NTS) and *Here's the News from Over There* (Northern Stage). She is also one of the recipients of the Playwrights' Studio Scotland's New Playwright's Awards this year.

Henry Bell is a writer, editor, and events organiser based in Glasgow. He has organised arts festivals with hundreds of performances and significant financial backing, coordinated international tours, and has also tried his hand at wedding planning, selling pasties, and working the spotlights at the Glasgow Pavilion. He is the managing editor of *Gutter*, Scotland's magazine of new writing, and has worked on plays with Oran Mor, The Playwrights Studio, and at the Edinburgh Fringe. He has edited a number of books including *A Bird is Not a Stone*, an anthology of contemporary Palestinian poetry in the languages of Scotland.

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

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

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). (also add Open Society Foundation and Creative Scotland once confirmed).

Listings information

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Chill Habibi

The Library Gallery, Summerhall, 1 Summerhall, Edinburgh, EH9 1PL

4 - 27 August 2017 (not 7, 14 or 21) | 21:30 (22:30) | £5

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