



THEATRE (CONTEMPORARY/INTERNATIONAL)

Arab Arts Focus Edinburgh Showcase presents

# The Second Copy: 2045

EDINBURGH FRINGE PREMIERE

A thought-provoking and humorous conceptual performance art work set 28 years in the future which interrogates the dynamics of contemporary art today

Written, performed and directed by Youness Atbane

Part of the Arab Arts Focus Edinburgh Showcase

Red Lecture Theatre, Summerhall, 4 - 27 August 2017 (not 7, 14 or 21), 10:15 (11:00), PG

*"It is a cloth which is going to become a flag which is going to become art, then a dynamic, an identity, a policy, a film, a choreography and finally a history."*

**It's 2045 and the end of the conflicts which have shaken the world.** Most of Morocco's artists have been killed but their archive remains. In a new documentary, Moroccan artist Youness Atbane is interviewed on the history of Moroccan art production from the millennium to 2015, turning this into the subject of his performance. Atbane creates a fictional archive to analyse the present from a distance and question the link between objects, documentary and fiction.

**Youness Atbane said of *The Second Copy 2045*:** *"My solo project was born as a response to a new oriented freedom of speech for Moroccan audiences and government which followed the Arab revolution. This has given us a conservative freedom of speech. I understood when this happened that we needed to open up the discussion to clarify the meaning of what contemporary art is in a country like mine.*

*"I started to analyse the field of contemporary art in Morocco and the MENA region between 2000 and 2015 to ask hard questions about society - this was done in a very discreet way via artist initiation.*

*"In this performance I try to talk about this dynamic and the role of the artist in a society like mine. I talk about it in a fictional way in the future to give clarity for audiences.*

*"It's important to be able to put the performance in a new context like the fringe festival to encourage that exchange with the audience and I see it as a challenge to take onboard the opinion of a new audience."*

**Youness Atbane was born in Safi and lives and works between Casablanca and Berlin.** His current artistic practice is centred on the body performance and visual arts, opening his research towards the possible connection between these practices. His artistic practice is centred around a critical and burlesque relationship to the field of art, its actors and its geopolitics. He focuses on the inability of communication which is used to visualise reality, the dissonance between form and content and the dysfunctions of language. In short, the lack of clear references is key elements in the work.

## Company

Written, performed and directed by Youness Atbane

**Web and social media links:** @ArabArtsFocus | [www.atbaneyouness.com](http://www.atbaneyouness.com) | [www.aaf.orientproductions.org](http://www.aaf.orientproductions.org) | #AAFE | #SecondCopy | #ArabLiveArt

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## 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

#### ***The Second Copy 2045***

Red Lecture Theatre, Summerhall, 1 Summerhall, Edinburgh, EH9 1PL

4 - 27 August 2017 (not 11 or 12) | 10:15 (11:00) | £12 (£10)

Previews: 2 and 3 August | 10:15 (11:00) | £8

Box office: 0131 560 1581 | [www.summerhall.co.uk](http://www.summerhall.co.uk)