

CENTERSTAGESM

Artists from Abroad in American Communities

ON TOUR JUNE - DECEMBER 2012



www.centerstageUS.org

An initiative of the U.S. Department
of State's Bureau of Educational
and Cultural Affairs



Sufi-rock bands from Lahore ... a comedy trio from Karachi ... master Haitian troubadours ...puppetry and hip-hop collectives from Yogyakarta ... power-house contemporary dance companies from Port-au-Prince and Padang ...





PAKISTAN

Acclaimed at home but little-known to many Americans, 10 performing arts ensembles will travel to the U.S. between June and December 2012.

Each ensemble will make an independent month-long tour and visit four to seven communities in one to two U.S. regions.



INDONESIA

Engage your community in cultural diplomacy as citizen diplomats. Artists from Haiti, Indonesia, and Pakistan are ready to share their art and culture and discover America through experiences with your community.

Geographic Reach

Center Stage aims for geographic reach, focuses primarily on small and mid-size cities, and seeks to support presenting organizations which may not otherwise have the capacity to host international work.

All tours begin in Washington, DC with an orientation and performance on the Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage.

Exchange is key

Minimum half-week and maximum full week residencies are sought (no single performance engagements).

The mix of activities should include events such as hosted meals, sightseeing, jam sessions with local artists, and attending performances, as well as master classes, workshops, and student and public performances.

Logistics & Marketing

Lisa Booth Management, Inc. provides scheduling, logistics, management, and contextual assistance.

All ensembles will travel with a U.S.-based company manager. Many of the artists are proficient in English; translators will be provided when necessary. We encourage you to involve native language speakers of any group you host from the early planning stages.

Excellent marketing, public relations, and contextual materials will be provided to complement and boost national and local efforts.

International and domestic travel, visas, logistics, and staffing are substantially underwritten.

Presentation Fees

Estimated presentation fees for all groups: \$15,000 per week; \$8,000 for a half-week residency. Host presenters also provide venue, technical, box office and front of house costs for performances and activities, local coordinating costs, local marketing and promotional expenses, and artist hospitality (receptions, sightseeing costs, etc.).

Host organizations will help document and evaluate this new program.

Interested?

Contact Lisa Booth Management, Inc. at 212.921.2114 or artslbmi@msn.com.



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www.centerstageUS.org



ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN

Arieb Azhar



Defying easy categorization, Arieb Azhar's mesmerizing baritone "encompasses about all the emotions life has to offer" (*PRI*). He leads a quartet of musicians in an eclectic mix of urban and folk-based songs grounded in Sufi and other humanist poetries from across Eurasia. **A world class troubadour** whose sets pays tribute to Irish balladeers, Croatian gypsies, Punjabi traders, and ancient Sanskrit texts.

AVAILABLE	June 2012
ARTIST WEBSITE	www.arielbazhar.com
TRAVELERS	Five (four band members, one company manager)
VENUE	indoors or outside, typical concert set-up for reinforced acoustic sound



photo by Frederic Dupoux

PÉTION-VILLE, HAITI

BÉLO



BÉLO has been hailed as **Haiti's musical ambassador to the world**. A socially conscious singer-songwriter with a sophisticated sound, BÉLO and his band deliver a high-energy mix of jazz, worldbeat, rock, reggae, and Afro-Haitian traditional rhythm known as Ragganga. "BÉLO's versatile guitar work and slightly raspy, soulful voice have made a fan of me."

(Conde-Nast Traveler)

- AVAILABLE September-October 2012
- ARTIST WEBSITE www.sonicbids.com/beloayiti
- TRAVELERS Seven (five band members, one sound engineer, one company manager)
- VENUE indoors or outside, typical concert set-up; some backline required



PÉTION-VILLE, HAITI

Compagnie de Danse Jean-René Delsoin



Delsoin's outstanding, **vibrant dancers and drummers** embody choreography that captures Haiti now – raw and refined, spiritual, powerful, and precarious. “From Raboday to Nago, passing through Congo and the Yanvalou, corporeal rhythms and expressions worked in harmony to transform everything into beauty.” (*Le Nouvelliste/Haiti*)

AVAILABLE	Fall 2012
ARTIST WEBSITE	www.jeanrenedelsoin.com
TRAVELERS	10 (eight dancers and musicians, one production, one company manager)
VENUE	proscenium stage; sprung floor with marley cover; typical dance light plot; live and recorded sound



courtesy of Jogja Hip Hop Foundation

YOGYAKARTA, INDONESIA

Jogja Hip Hop Foundation

Indonesia's foremost crew stands in the cultural cross-hairs, rapping across language and other borders. Hailing from one of Indonesia's artistic well-springs, Yogyakarta, this sharp Javanese collective promotes tolerance and pluralism with wit and hooks that meld global and indigenous trance rhythms, Indonesian pop and gamelan music, and ancient Javanese poetry and literature.

AVAILABLE	August-November 2012
ARTIST WEBSITE	www.hiphopdiningrat.com
TRAVELERS	Eight (six crew members, one videographer, one company manager)
VENUE	indoors or outside; some DJ, projection, and backline equipment required

PADANG, INDONESIA

Nan Jombang

The island of Sumatra is home to this family of artists whose work is a compelling mix of Minangkabau performing arts traditions (drumming, dance, martial arts), spiritual practice, and contemporary movement. **Percussive, persuasive, and vital modern dance.** Soundscape created live by the dancers in performance.

AVAILABLE	Summer 2012
TRAVELERS	Eight (five dancers, one artistic director, one production, one company manager)
VENUE	proscenium and black box stages; sprung floor with marley cover; typical dance light plot



photo by Jawad Zakariya

LAHORE, PAKISTAN

noori



noori, one of Pakistan's top pop bands, helped define Sufi-rock. Led by charismatic brothers Ali Noor and Ali Hamza, noori delivers **a great rock and roll show with a distinctive subcontinent kick.** "As one of the leading names in Pakistan's music industry, noori is often credited for revitalizing rock music for Pakistan's youth."

(Coke Studio, Pakistan)

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| AVAILABLE | June-July 2012 |
| ARTIST WEBSITE | www.nooriworld.net |
| TRAVELERS | Eight (five band members, one sound engineer, one manager, one U.S. company manager) |
| VENUE | indoors or outside, typical concert set-up; some backline required |

photo by Indra Wicaksono



YOGYAKARTA, INDONESIA

Papermoon Puppet Theatre



In a country with world-renowned puppetry traditions, the **young, expert artists** of Papermoon are extending the form with their **mixed-media productions**, and creating works that imaginatively explore identity, society, and Indonesia's recent past.

On tour: *Mwathirika*, set in 1965, the infamous Year of Living Dangerously, when thousands of Indonesians were jailed and murdered. A history of the lost, and the lost history of a nation. Puppetry workshops for all ages available.

AVAILABLE	August-September 2012
ARTIST WEBSITE	www.papermoonpuppet.com
TRAVELERS	Nine (seven performers, one production, one company managers)
VENUE	intimate, well-equipped proscenium stage (250-300 seats maximum)



photo by Benjamin Struelens

PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI

Ti-Coca & Wanga-Nègès

Masters of Haiti's acoustic twoubadou (troubadour) tradition, Ti-Coca and his band are **“a loose-limbed, rootsy treat.”** (*BBC News*)

Revered internationally, Ti-Coca describes his music as “very Haitian in the rhythm, the words, the feeling. It’s dance music you can find in the streets, the beaches, private parties. It’s very tasty and easy to dance to. Lyrics can be critical of society, they often are. But this music is first made to share a moment of pleasure between people.”

AVAILABLE	tba: June or October 2012
TRAVELERS	Six (five band members, one company manager)
VENUE	indoors or outside; typical sound set-up; some backline required



KARACHI, PAKISTAN

Very Live



No cliché is safe! **Up to the minute sketch comedy, political commentary and satiric mirth** (in English) from a trio of cut-ups: Saad Haroon (Pakistan's reigning jester), Danish Ali (the doe-eyed, goofy sidekick), and guitarist Amin Arif. Portrayed this way: "Most likely to shoot out rapid-fire gags. Least likely to run out of news material."
(The Guardian, UK)

AVAILABLE	November 2012
ARTIST WEBSITE	www.saadharoon.com
TRAVELERS	Four (three funny guys, one company manager)
VENUE	all kinds; minimal tech; small sound package



photo by Nida Rehman

LAHORE, PAKISTAN

Zeb & Haniya



This **acclaimed singer-songwriter duo** paved the way for many female musicians active on the Pakistani music scene today. Original songs and newly interpreted tunes from Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Central Asia carve a space for music that transcends national boundaries.

“There is poetry in the air when Zeb & Haniya take the stage with earthy and sultry glory.” *(Arab Times)*

- AVAILABLE September-October 2012
- ARTIST WEBSITE www.zebandhaniya.com
- TRAVELERS Eight (six band members, one manager, one company manager)
- VENUE indoors or outside; typical sound set-up; some backline required



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Lisa Booth Management, Inc.
212.921.2114 or artslbmi@msn.com

U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs promotes mutual understanding between the United States and other countries through international educational and exchange programs. Through its Cultural Programs Division, the Bureau supports a variety of cultural exchange programs that support U.S. foreign policy, foster America's artistic excellence, and demonstrate America's respect and appreciation for other cultures and traditions. www.exchanges.state.gov

Based in Boston, **New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA)** provides leadership and resources that benefit artists, the public, arts funders, and policymakers throughout New England, nationally and internationally. NEFA was established in 1976 as one of six regional arts organizations designed to cultivate the arts regionally and strengthen the national arts infrastructure. www.nefa.org

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