

Artists from Abroad in American Communities

ON TOUR JULY-DECEMBER 2016



www.centerstageUS.org

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

Produced by the New England Foundation for the Arts

Hard-grooving reggae, rai & rock from
cosmopolitan Oran

Tranced-out diwan sounds from Algiers,
gathered under a big musical tent

Gritty, intimate theater **confronts**
the destiny of today's Algeria

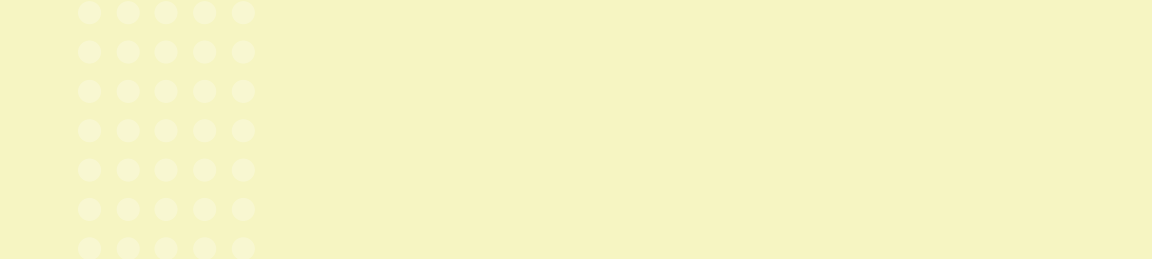


Gogo power channeled by Tanzania's
charismatic musical scion

A renewed taarab **reinvigorates**
Zanzibar's syncretic signature sound



Top Left, Democratoz, Photo Courtesy of Democratoz; Top Middle, Rajab Suleiman & Kithara by Werner Graebner; Top Right, Istijmam by Chris Van Goethem; Bottom, Msafiri Zawose, Photo Courtesy of Msafiri Zawose



Center Stage is among the most ambitious programs to bring contemporary international performing artists into direct contact with people across a wide range of American communities, and to share these experiences globally.

“Center Stage artists are **amazing ambassadors** who create wide open spaces for **communities to connect.**”

—Helena Presents (Helena, MT)

Join Us!

From July through December 2016, five outstanding ensembles from Algeria and Tanzania will make independent month-long tours in the U.S.

“**Rivetingly** fresh.”

—Earshot Jazz Festival (Seattle, WA)

noori by Mohammed Omer



Center Stage introduces Americans to artists of high artistic quality from nations and cultures we too seldom have access to, and supports presenting organizations, increasing their capacity to host international work.

Through performances, workshops, discussions, artist jams, and community gatherings, Center Stage ensembles engage with audiences in the U.S. and share their experiences globally onstage, offstage, and online.

Engage.

**Contact Lisa Booth
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“Art can be — and should be —
a transformational force across the globe.”

—John Kerry, U.S. Secretary of State

By the numbers...

Center Stage programs in 2012 and 2014

- Visited **70** communities in **32** states and Washington, DC
- Hosted **101** artists in **17** ensembles from Haiti, Indonesia, Morocco, Pakistan, and Vietnam
- Booked **164** performances — indoors and out, ticketed & free
- Planned **538** educational, community, and artist-to-artist activities
- Traveled **62,000+** cumulative tour miles
- Connected with **85,000+** U.S. audience members, participants, and students
- Garnered **tens of millions** global media impressions (online and print)
- Engaged **millions more** people around the globe through social media and online content

**In 2016, Center Stage tours will take place
between July and December.**



ORAN, ALGERIA

Democratoz



Democratoz lays down hard-grooving **reggae, rai & rock** with all the ecstasy and defiance of young North Africa. Hailing from Oran, Algeria's cultural nexus, the group digs back into the city's best-loved pop form, rai, and makes **dance floor-filling** calls for social change in the bargain.

"With its **galvanizing set**, Democratoz **electrified the crowd**, which had gathered en masse from the four corners of the desert to be here, much to the surprise of the local authorities, and festival organizers." **(LA LIBERTÉ/ALGERIA)**

U.S. DEBUT

AVAILABLE mid-July-to mid-September 2016

TRAVELERS 8 (7 musicians, 1 U.S. company manager)

VENUE Indoors or out; clubs to large halls and amphitheatres. Excellent quality sound system and backline required.

RECENT GIGS Beirut & Beyond, Lebanon (2014), Karama 4 Human Rights Film Festival, Jordan (2013)



ALGIERS, ALGERIA

Ifrikyia Spirit

In Algeria, cultures of city dwellers and Arabic speakers, Amazigh villagers and Saharan oases, Al-Andalus and French colonials meet, separate and recombine. **Ifrikyia Spirit** stakes its expansive musical tent where West African instruments are welcomed and enjoined with global sensibilities.

“**Eclectic and elemental**, Ifrikyia Spirit is “**a stand-out** with a unique sound at the melting point of new composition and instrumental abundance, with messages of peace and inter-African solidarity, all rooted in the rituals of the *diwan*.” (ALGERIE PRESSE SERVICE)

U.S.
DEBUT

AVAILABLE Fall 2016

TRAVELERS 8 (7 musicians, 1 U.S. company manager)

VENUE Indoors or out; clubs to large halls and amphitheaters. Excellent quality sound system and backline required.



ORAN, ALGERIA

Istijmam

Istijmam, a collaborative of theater makers, moves outward from the manifestos of Brecht and Grotowski to **repopulate the halqa, Algeria's town square**, and renew populist traditions of improvisation and physical interaction.

Et'teffeh/The Apples foregrounds the repression and sectarian schisms that consumed Algeria during the Dark Decade of the 1990s. The play is performed by a trio led by Rihab Alloula and written by her father, theater director and playwright Abdelkader Alloula, who was assassinated in 1994. Remounted here, this gritty, intimate production, **full of dark humor and barbed observation**, bears witness to Algeria's shadowed past and confronts the complex destiny of the present day.

U.S.
DEBUT

AVAILABLE September 2016

TRAVELERS 7 (3 actors, director, stage manager, administrator, 1 U.S. company manager)

PRODUCTION 75 minutes; performed in a mix of Arabic and English.

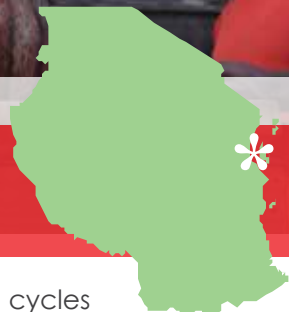
VENUE Contained spaces, black boxes, and studios preferred; intimate proscenium stages ok (capacity 100-500).



Photo Courtesy of Msafiri Zawose

BAGAMOYO, TANZANIA

Msafiri Zawose



Charismatic gogo scion **Msafiri Zawose** is widening cycles of tradition, honoring and expanding the pioneering work of his father, musical icon Hukwe. **“There is something truly magical about this sound”** from Central Tanzania (*WFMU*).

With its buzzy, bowed zezes, tempered *limbas* (thumb pianos), xylophones, and tuned *ngomas* (drums), topped by outstanding vocals, Msafiri’s band pitches to the edges of a groove before turning for home. “Zawose fuses the musical traditions of his ancestors with a modern twist to create a **sound that truly embodies today’s African experience.**” (*THE CITIZEN, TZ*)

AVAILABLE Summer-Fall 2016

TRAVELERS 7 (6 musicians, 1 U.S. company manager)

VENUE Indoors or out; clubs to large halls and amphitheatres. Excellent quality sound system and engineers to amplify a range of acoustic instruments and vocals; some backline required.

RECENT GIGS Sauti Za Busara, Zanzibar (2015, 2013), LEAF, NC, Barbès, NYC, and Old Towne, Chicago (2012), WOMAD Abu Dhabi (2010)



ZANZIBAR, TANZANIA

Rajab Suleiman & Kithara



Taarab music has defined Zanzibar's aural landscape for over a century, renowned for its lush mix of Arabic and western instruments, diva-worthy vocalizations, and allusive Swahili lyrics. The venerable and syncretic form is **ambitiously renewed** by **Rajab Suleiman & Kithara**. This lean and nimble group has uncovered the form's essential origins and is creating new musical conversations with its East African neighbors, historic Arabic cultural partners, and allied Western forms.

"A dazzling album. **Gloriously and richly acoustic, with deft real-time interplay and magnificent singing.**" (**CHICAGO READER, 2015**)

AVAILABLE Fall 2016

TRAVELERS 9 (8 musicians, 1 U.S. company manager)

VENUE Concert halls, festival stages, seated parties. Excellent quality sound system to enhance acoustic instruments and vocals and some backline required.

RECENT GIGS Divas du Monde at Opéra de Rennes, France (2015), TFF Roulstadt, Germany (2014), Institute du Monde Arabe, Paris (2013), Wassermusik Festival, Berlin (2012)

“It’s not about where I come from, or where you come from. **It’s about what we share.** It’s about what we share in a fundamentally human way.”

—noori (Pakistan)

NEW!

Center Stage plans to augment its performing arts program with films.

Long-form and short-form documentaries and feature films with associated contextual programs can be booked as part of a Center Stage performance residency or as standalone programming.

The aim – to provide additional access to Algerian and Tanzanian art makers and their cultural contexts.

Algiers to Zanzibar

Titles and additional information will be announced in the fall of 2015.

All programs will be available from July – December 2016.

“Brilliant, **engaging**, and enthusiastic artists.”

—Bucknell University, Weis Center for the Performing Arts (Lewisburg, PA)

Engage with Center Stage

New Visions, New Voices

Center Stage tours contemporary performing artists whose explorations of the new and revitalizations of the traditional reflect the dynamic and complex societies in which they live.

Each ensemble's **independent month-long tour** travels to four to seven communities around the U.S., and generally begins in Washington, DC, with a performance on The Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage, broadcast live via webcast.

Exchange is Key

Minimum half-week and maximum full-week residences (generally no single performance engagements).

Residency activities may include hosted meals, sightseeing, jam sessions with local artists, and attending performances, as well as master classes, workshops, and student and public performances.

Local, National, Global

Dynamic **marketing, promotion,** and **social media** strategies draw artists, host presenters, community members, fans, and audiences together to boost **access, outreach,** and **visibility.**

Extensive **press coverage and online engagement** invite many more into the worldwide conversation.

“These artists strike the **perfect balance** of informed and inquisitive, gracious and generous.”

—Dartmouth College, Hopkins Center (Hanover, NH)

Holistic Approach

Lisa Booth Management, Inc. provides tour scheduling, residency planning, artist care, travel arrangements, production and backline coordination, on-tour staff, and 24/7 tour oversight.

Center Stage manages visas and federal and state tax requirements. PR is coordinated with rock paper scissors.

Ensembles travel with a U.S.-based company manager (who serves as translator when needed) and production support.

Presentation Fees

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

Fees for all groups: \$20,000 per week; \$11,000 for a half-week residency. Host presenters also provide hotel rooms; venues, technical, box office and front of house needs for performances and activities; local coordinating costs; local marketing and promotion; and artist hospitality (receptions, sightseeing, etc.).

Interested? Contact Lisa Booth Management, Inc.
at +1 212.921.2114 or artslbmi@msn.com

Center Stage would not be possible without the generous support, expertise, and talent from people across the country and around the globe.

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San Francisco, CA

CENTER STAGE PRESENTERS:

Academy of Music,
Northampton, MA
Akron International Friendship,
Akron, OH
Alabama Asian Cultures
Foundation, Birmingham, AL
American Dance Festival,
Durham, NC
AMP Concerts/¡Globalquerque!,
Albuquerque, NM
Ann Arbor Summer Festival,
Ann Arbor, MI
Arts Brookfield, New York, NY
Asia Society, New York, NY
Asia Society Texas Center,
Houston, TX
Baryshnikov Arts Center,
New York, NY
Bay Chamber Concerts,
Rockport, ME
Boothbay Opera House,
Boothbay Harbor, ME
Bossa Bistro/Multiflora Productions,
Washington, DC
Bucknell University, Weis Center for
the Performing Arts, Lewisburg, PA
Bumbershoot Festival, Seattle, WA
Central College, Pella, IA
Coker College, Hartsville, SC
College of Saint Benedict & Saint
John's University, St. Joseph, MN
Colorado Mountain College,
Breckenridge, CO
Connecticut College, On Stage,
New London, CT
Dance Place, Washington, DC
Dancing in the Streets & Casita
Maria Center for the Arts and
Education, The Bronx, NY
Dartmouth College, Hopkins Center
for the Arts, Hanover, NH
Duke University, Duke Performances,
Durham, NC
Earshot Jazz Festival, Seattle, WA
Everett: Company, Stage, and
School, Providence, RI
Fall for Dance, City Center,
New York, NY
FirstWorks, Providence, RI
Flynn Center for the Performing Arts,
Burlington, VT

Friar's Club, New York, NY
 Great Plains Regional Puppet
 Festival, West Liberty, IA
 Grinnell College, Grinnell, IA
 Helena Presents/Myrna Loy Center
 for the Performing and Media Arts,
 Helena, MT
 Hibernian Hall, Roxbury, MA
 Huntington Arts Council,
 Huntington, NY
 Inner-City Muslim Action Network;
 Chicago, IL
 International Festival of Arts & Ideas,
 New Haven, CT
 Irving Arts Center, Irving, TX
 Johnson County Community
 College, Overland Park, KS
 Joshua Tree Music Festival,
 Joshua Tree, CA
 Juniata College, Halbritter Center
 for the Performing Arts,
 Huntingdon, PA
 Kelly, Strayhorn Theater,
 Pittsburgh, PA
 The John F. Kennedy Center for the
 Performing Arts, Washington, DC
 Lafayette College, Williams Center
 for the Arts, Easton, PA
 (Le) Poisson Rouge/Ariz, Inc.,
 New York, NY
 Lincoln Center for the Performing
 Arts, New York City, NY
 Madison World Music Festival,
 Madison, WI
 Massachusetts College of Liberal
 Arts, North Adams, MA
 Monkeyhouse Dance, Somerville, MA
 Old Town School of Folk Music,
 Chicago, IL
 Portland Performing Arts Festival/
 One Longfellow Square,
 Portland, ME
 Portland Ovarations, Portland, ME
 REDCAT, Los Angeles, CA
 The Raymond F. Kravis Center for
 the Performing Arts,
 West Palm Beach, FL
 Richmond Folk Festival,
 Richmond, VA
 River to River Festival (Lower
 Manhattan Cultural Council),
 New York, NY
 Rockingham Arts and Museum
 Project, Bellows Falls, VT
 Rockwood Music Hall, New York, NY
 Roots Cultural Center, Providence, RI
 Samford University, Leslie Stephen
 Wright Fine Arts Center,
 Birmingham, AL
 Sandywoods Center for the Arts,
 Tiverton, RI
 Scottsdale Center for the Performing
 Arts, Scottsdale, AZ
 Silvermine Arts Center,
 New Canaan, CT
 Small Town Concert Series,
 Chester, CT
 Smith's Olde Bar, Atlanta, GA
 South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts
 Center, Miami, FL
 University of Akron, Akron, OH
 University of California, Mondavi
 Center for the Performing Arts,
 Davis, CA
 University of California, Santa
 Barbara Arts and Lectures,
 Santa Barbara, CA
 University of Dayton, Dayton, OH
 University of Denver, Lamont School
 of Music, Denver, CO
 University of Florida Performing Arts
 Gainesville, FL
 University of Houston/Rajput Media
 Houston, TX
 University of Iowa, Hancher
 Auditorium, Iowa City, IA
 University of Nebraska, Lied Center
 for the Performing Arts, Lincoln, NE
 University of North Carolina,
 Wilmington, NC
 University of San Diego, ArtPower!
 San Diego, CA
 Upright Citizens Brigade, New York, NY
 Virginia Tech Center for the Arts,
 Blacksburg, VA
 Washington University, Edison Theater
 St. Louis, MO
 Wellesley College, Wellesley, MA
 Wesleyan University, Center for the
 Arts, Middletown, CT
 WobeeonFest, Austin, TX
 Yerba Buena Center for the Arts
 San Francisco, CA



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The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) of the U.S. Department of State fosters mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries to promote friendly and peaceful relations. We accomplish this mission through academic, cultural, sports, and professional exchanges that engage youth, students, educators, artists, athletes, and rising leaders in the United States and more than 160 countries. The Bureau supports a variety of arts-based 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.eca.state.gov



Based in Boston, the **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. Established in 1976 as one of six regional arts organizations designed to cultivate the arts regionally and strengthen the national arts infrastructure, NEFA works in partnership with, and is supported by, the National Endowment for the Arts and the six state arts agencies of New England. NEFA is the U.S. Department of State's primary partner for Center Stage.

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LISA BOOTH
MANAGEMENT, INC.

Based in New York City, **Lisa Booth Management, Inc. (LBMI)** brings contemporary performing arts projects before the widest possible public. A producer, manager and curator, LBMI projects have taken place in more than 400 cities in 51 countries on six continents since 1983. As general manager for Center Stage, LBMI is primarily responsible for tour scheduling, residency planning, promotion, artist care, travel and visa arrangements, production and backline needs assessment and coordination, on-tour staffing and 24/7 oversight.

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With Support From:



DORIS DUKE
FOUNDATION FOR ISLAMIC ART