

CENTERSTAGESM

Artists from Abroad in American Communities

ON TOUR JUNE-DECEMBER 2014



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





Transfixing Hyper Folk from Peshawar

A big dose of **Agidir Funk**

Riveting Contemporary Dance

from Casablanca and Ho Chi Minh City.

Indie Rock from Lahore

Crowd wowing **Morocc'n Roll**

Avant Soundscapes from Hanoi



Cover photo credits: (small photos, left to right) Arabesque by De Trace; Tri Minh's Quartet courtesy of Hanoi Sound Stuff Festival; Khumariyaan by Iman Shahid; Fleur d'Orange by Jean Berry; (large photo) Hoba Hoba Spirit by Kim Mattai Leland

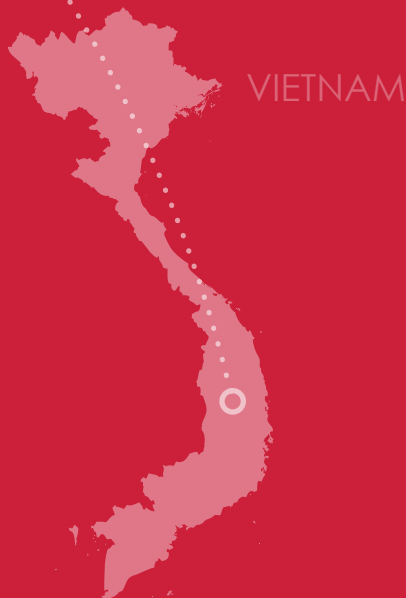


PAKISTAN

Center Stage tours **contemporary performing artists** from abroad whose explorations of the new, and revitalizations of the traditional, are compelling and true reflections of the societies in which they live.

Join Us!

From **June through December 2014**, seven outstanding ensembles from **Morocco, Pakistan,** and **Vietnam** will make independent month-long tours in the U.S.



VIETNAM

“The artists are outstanding. Framing this as cultural exchange/diplomacy was a very effective strategy.”

–Jacob Yarrow, Programming Director
Hancher Auditorium, University of Iowa



The Artistic Director of Center Stage 2012 ensemble Compagnie de Danse Jean-René Delsoin teaches a dance class at Virgo Prep Academy in Wilmington, NC.

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



[facebook.com/CenterStagePage](https://www.facebook.com/CenterStagePage)



twitter.com/CenterStageUS



[youtube.com/CenterStageUS](https://www.youtube.com/CenterStageUS)

“When you hit that positive interaction with the audience, 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.”**

—Ali Hamza, rock band noori (Lahore, Pakistan)
Center Stage 2012 ensemble

In 2012, Center Stage

- Visited **49** communities in **27** states & Washington, DC
- Hosted **61** artists in **10** ensembles from 3 countries: Haiti, Indonesia & Pakistan
- Booked **113** performances — indoors & out, ticketed & free
- Planned **380** educational, community, & artist-to-artist activities
- Traveled **34,400+** miles cumulative tour miles
- Connected with **63,000+** U.S. audience members, participants, and students
- Reached **100,000+** viewers of web-based content & social media channels
- Placed **1,000,000+** media impressions (online and print): interviews, features, photo essays, & reviews. Outlets included *The Washington Post*, *The Boston Globe*, *MTV Iggy*, *The Huffington Post*, *Rolling Stone Indonesia*, *Voice of America*, *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *NPR*, & *BBC radio*.

In 2014, Center Stage tours will take place between June and December.



HO CHI MINH CITY, VIETNAM

Arabesque

Seven dancers conjure agrarian cycles and rural rituals in *The Mist*, a contemporary work of **exceeding beauty**. Exploring the nuances of Vietnamese life, this striking company draws on current modern and ballet techniques. "*The Mist captures with a new language, the rhythms of our beloved Vietnam, the central place of rice, and the simple everyday rituals that are at the heart of our culture.*" (*TuoitreOnline.com*)

U.S. DEBUT

- **AVAILABLE** July-August or October-November 2014
- **ARTIST WEBSITE** www.Arabesque.com.vn
- **TRAVELERS** 11 (7 dancers, artistic director, technical director, U.S. production and company managers)
- **VENUE** proscenium stage with fly house (preferred), sprung floor, marley and soft goods; typical dance light plot; live and recorded sound; studio for rehearsal/warm up required



Photo by Siriso Selame

CASABLANCA, MOROCCO

Fleur d'Orange

Riveting solo movement by choreographer-dancer Hind Benali and a live-recorded sound score trace the complexities of Morocco in *IDENTITY*, a new work made for Center Stage. **“At the forefront of the contemporary dance scene in Morocco”**

(Morocco: Globalization and its Consequences), Benali explores her personal past and African roots, the limits and freedoms of Morocco's history and current practices, the multivalent layers of culture and religion, and the lives of her elders.

- **AVAILABLE** August-November 2014
- **ARTIST WEBSITE** www.fleurdorange-maroc.net
- **TRAVELERS** 5 (dancer-choreographer, composer/musician, dancer, U.S. production and company managers)
- **VENUE** intimate proscenium or black box spaces best (up to 500 seats); sound system and typical dance light plot; this is a new work – full tech rider TBA



CASABLANCA, MOROCCO

Hoba Hoba Spirit



“Sharp, vibrant and very nearly universal,” (*Washington Post*), Hoba Hoba Spirit creates its drive from the bold clack of *qarqaba* (double castanets) and rhythmic swagger of North Africa. With high-energy delivery, heavy guitars, and droll plays on words, Hoba Hoba Spirit is Morocc’n Roll — one hook-laden, “crowd-wowing” (*New York Times*), thought-provoking party.

- **AVAILABLE** mid-August through mid-October 2014
- **FACEBOOK** www.facebook.com/HobaHobaSpiritOfficielle
- **TRAVELERS** 8 (6 musicians, sound engineer, U.S. company manager)
- **VENUE** indoors or out; clubs to large halls and amphitheatres. Excellent quality sound system and backline required.
- **RECENT GIGS** Roskilde Festival, Denmark (2013), Babel Med Music, Marseilles (2013)



Photo by Ammar Shareef

PESHAWAR, PAKISTAN

Khumariyaan



With its propulsive, furious sound, Khumariyaan "The Intoxicators" has reawakened the live music scene in Peshawar, the ancient crossroads through the Khyber Pass whose contemporary culture is under attack from within and by outside factions. The lute-like rubab intertwines with the zerbaghali (goblet drum) and Pushtoon sitar. Add in driving acoustic guitars and **Khumariyaan's rolling pulse builds to frenzied intensity**. It's an addictive and accessible pleasure that's ushering in a new era for an eclipsed music.

U.S. DEBUT

- **AVAILABLE** October-November 2014
- **ARTIST WEBSITE** www.facebook.com/khumariyaan
- **TRAVELERS** 5 (4 musicians, U.S. company manager)
- **VENUE** indoors or out; some backline; excellent quality sound system required to reinforce acoustic instruments. Band travels with all of its instruments.



LAHORE, PAKISTAN

Poor Rich Boy



Discretely subversive, Poor Rich Boy, **Pakistan's underground indie-art rock phenomenon**, conjures the strangeness of everyday life. Enigmatic and layered, the band's striking vocals, atmospheric sounds, and the occasional kazoo create a crystalline sound that suggests, but rarely reveals. "Triumphant in its use of minimal vocal harmony. The production is earthy, and leaves plenty of room for the acoustic instruments to find their respective places. This is poetry, and it is presented in mixed media." (*The Cosmic Argonaut*)

U.S. DEBUT

- **AVAILABLE** June 2014
- **ARTIST WEBSITE** www.facebook.com/thepoortherichthewelloff
- **TRAVELERS** 7 (6 musicians and U.S. company manager)
- **VENUE** indoors or out; excellent quality sound system, and some backline required.



Photo: Zoom Photography

AGADIR, MOROCCO

Ribab Fusion

A **feverishly funky** sign of a new era, Ribab Fusion celebrates Morocco's Amazigh (Berber) culture as it flies from '70s-style funk to Afropop dance vibes, from slow jams to high-energy call-and-responses choruses. The one-stringed bowed *ribab* weaves all the madcap diversity together, sometimes gritty, sometimes soothing as a well-played sax. It's **a jazzy mix that wows technically and sets people celebrating**. "Different age groups gathered around the main stage. Some danced to its tunes, while others swung to their sounds. A very successful opening night." (*Ahram Online*)

U.S. DEBUT

- **AVAILABLE** Fall 2014
- **ARTIST WEBSITE** www.ribab-fusion.com
- **TRAVELERS** 9 (7 musicians, producer, U.S. company manager)
- **VENUE** indoors or out; clubs to large halls and amphitheatres. Excellent quality sound system and backline required.



Photo by Sebastien Casell

HANOI, VIETNAM

Tri Minh's Quartet

Sophisticated, versatile, and lithe, Tri Minh's Quartet binds electronica, acoustic instruments, and traditional motifs in a program of collaborative and improvised works. *Sounds From Hanoi* opens a window onto one of the world's unsung contemporary music scenes. "Like other trailblazers of his generation, Minh is using his creativity, connections and education to forge **an artistic identity that is unmistakably global – yet uniquely Vietnamese.**" (*Vietnam Investment Review: Timeout*)

U.S. DEBUT

- **AVAILABLE** Fall 2014 (September/October preferred)
- **ARTIST WEBSITE** www.hanoisoundstuff.vn
- **TRAVELERS** 5 (4 musicians, U.S. company manager)
- **VENUE** intimate indoor venues with excellent acoustics (100-500 seats); excellent quality sound system; piano (grand preferred); some backline required.

CENTER STAGE PRESENTERS IN 2012

Academy of Music, Northampton, MA
Akron International Friendship,
Akron, OH
American Dance Festival, Durham, NC
Ann Arbor Summer Festival,
Ann Arbor, MI
Asia Society, New York, NY
Asia Society Texas Center, Houston, TX
Bay Chamber Concerts, Rockport, ME
Boothbay Opera House, Boothbay
Harbor, ME
Bucknell University, Weis Center for
the Performing Arts, Lewisburg, PA
Casita Maria Center for the Arts
and Education, The Bronx, NY
Central College, Pella, IA
Coker College, Hartsville, SC
Colorado Mountain College,
Breckenridge, CO
Connecticut College, New London, CT
Dance Place, Washington, DC
Dancing in the Streets, The Bronx, NY
Dartmouth College, Hopkins Center
for the Arts, Hanover, NH
Everett: Company, Stage, and
School, Providence, RI
Fall for Dance, City Center,
New York, NY
FirstWorks, Providence, RI
Friars Club, New York, NY
¡Globalquerque!, Albuquerque, NM
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
Juniata College, Halbritter Center for
the Performing Arts, Huntingdon, PA
The Kennedy Center, Washington, DC

Lafayette College, Williams Center for
the Arts, Easton, PA
(Le) Poisson Rouge, 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
New England Foundation for the Arts,
Idea Swap, Worcester, MA
Old Town School of Folk Music,
Chicago, IL
One Longfellow Square, Portland, ME
Portland Performing Arts Festival,
Portland, ME
Portland Ovarions, Portland, ME
The Raymond F. Kravis Center for the
Performing Arts, West Palm Beach, FL
REDCAT, Los Angeles, CA
Richmond Folk Festival, Richmond, VA
River to River Festival (Lower
Manhattan Cultural Council),
New York City, NY
Rockingham Arts and Museum
Project, Bellows Falls, VT
Roots Cultural Center, Providence, RI
Scottsdale Center for the Performing
Arts, Scottsdale, AZ
Silvermine Arts Center,
New Canaan, CT
Small Town Concert Series, Chester, CT
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 Arts and
Lectures, Santa Barbara, CA
University of Denver, Denver, CO
University of Florida Performing Arts,
Gainesville, FL
University of Houston, 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
Upright Citizens Brigade, New York, NY
Yerba Buena Center for the Arts,
San Francisco, CA

Center Stage brings cultural diplomacy to Main Street America. It introduces performing artists from abroad to American communities, and **invites Americans to engage with contemporary artists from around the world** — on stage and off.

ENGAGE WITH CENTER STAGE

Geographic Reach

Center Stage focuses on small and mid-size cities (but includes major markets), and **supports presenting organizations** which may not otherwise have the capacity to host international work.

Each ensemble's independent tour travels to four to seven communities around the country, 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 in all communities; (no single performance engagements).

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

A strategic approach to **marketing, promotion, and social media** draws artists, host presenters, community members, fans, and audiences together to boost **access, engagement, and visibility**.

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

Holistic Approach

Lisa Booth Management, Inc. provides tour scheduling, residency planning, artist care, travel arrangements, visa assistance, production and backline coordination, promotion, on-tour staff, and 24/7 tour oversight. Ensembles travel with a U.S.-based company manager (who serves as translator when needed) and production support.

Presentation Fees

International and domestic travel, visas, logistics, and staffing are **substantially underwritten**. Center Stage manages federal and state tax requirements.

Fees for all groups: \$15,000 per week; \$8,000 for a half-week residency. Host presenters also provide 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.



CENTERSTAGESM



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.

Contact: Adrienne Petrillo, Program Manager, Presenting & Touring
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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, promotion, on-tour staffing and 24/7 oversight.

Contact: Lisa Booth (President) and Deirdre Valente (Vice President)
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