

I HATE THEATRE I LOVE PORNOGRAPHY



A Theatre Performance
by Zoukak Theatre Company

عرض مسرحي لفرقة زقاق

co-produced by:

ibsen
AWARDS

supported by:

sundance
institute





SYNOPSIS

A ride through the hottest stories from the Middle East, catered and served specifically to satisfy the needs and expectations of our beloved English-speaking audiences.

"I Hate Theater I Love Pornography" is an investigation on current forms of corruption plaguing today's world. It uses theatricality as a tool to question how we position ourselves as artists and as individuals with regards to the multiple representations of this corruption.

The past few years have witnessed the majority of citizens of countries in the Northern Hemisphere becoming more and more afraid of cultural difference, electing extreme right-wing leaders and voting for exclusionist policies, for the prospect of being safe from "The Other". While most of the South continues to be torn by wars, destroying infrastructures and wiping out whole cultures, with real-estate businessmen waiting like scavengers for the right moment to sell and re-build. As the death of children continues to be bartered for profit, we ask ourselves how can we as theatre makers position ourselves in the middle of the obscenity of this political opportunism.

Today these same power-thirsty policy makers, war-lords and businessmen, are setting the new paradigms of the world's system of values... exclusion, marginalization, segregation, displacement, murder... specifying the worth of human bodies, through commodities, wars, and the media. In an era when people are brutally massacred and decapitated, and their deaths are broadcasted on daily news, while heroes in Hollywood zombie movies are systematically obliterating masses of the undead on television; this performance attempts to shed light on this corruption through the value we assign to our bodies, creating a parallelism between the performative body, the pornographic body and the corpse.

Language: English

Duration: 60 minutes



THE TEAM

Conceived and produced by: Zoukak Theatre Company

Directed by: Omar Abi Azar

Devised and performed by: Lamia Abi Azar, Omar Abi Azar, Hashem Adnan, Ziad Chakaroun, Khodor Ellaik, Junaid Sareddeen and Maya Zbib

Assistant Director: Rahaf Jammal, Natalie Maalouf

Light Designer and Technical Director: Nadim Deaibes

Communication: Marianne Kortbani

Graphic Design: Maya Chami

Production manager: Mohamad Hamdan

Co-produced by: IBSEN Awards

Supported by: Sundance Institute and Drosos Foundation

The first phase of this project was created in collaboration with Abdullah Al Kafri, Ahmad Ghossein, Nathalie Harb and Helle Siljeholm, at the Ibsen Theatre in Skien, Norway, in 2014.

This Project has been developed partly at IBSEN Theatre in Norway in 2014 and at Sundance Institute's Theatre Lab in Utah in 2017



PERFORMANCES

PAST AND FUTURE PERFORMANCES

- *October 2014: presentation as a work in progress at Ibsen Teater, Norway.*
- *January 2015: Performance at the International Theatre Festival of Kerala, India.*
- *June 2015: Performance at Metro al Madina, Beirut, Lebanon.*
- *October 2019: Performance within the Ibsen Awards festival in Skien, Norway.*
- *December 2020: Performances at al Madina Theatre in Beirut.*



ABOUT ZOUKAK

Zoukak is a non-hierarchical structure, dedicated to theatre practice as a social and political involvement, with a belief in theatre as a space for common reflection and in collectivity as a position against marginalizing systems. It aims at promoting theatre as a tool of personal, social and cultural development, reinforcing youths' capacities and practitioners' skills. It aims also at developing a space of encounter and dialogue for children, youths and their communities by exposing them to theatre and offering them opportunities to practice it in various forms (as spectators, participants, practitioners, etc.) providing alternative examples to the surrounding violence, exclusion and discrimination.

Along with various activities, artistic production is at the centre of Zoukak's mission. With more than 25 performances, Zoukak constantly strives to find new group work methodologies and tackles various themes; such as power structures (politics, society, religion), re-enactment, history, death and immortality, gender and sexuality, childhood and violence, among others.

Their work has been shown in various cities in the Middle East, Europe, the United States, South America, Africa and South Asia. Zoukak has received multiple international awards including the 2017 Japanese Praemium Imperial Award for young Artists and the 2017 Culture for Peace Award from the Chirac Foundation.



For more information:

management@zoukak.org / info@zoukak.org

