

# Program

 August 10 to 13, 2023

## 13th Orientalys Festival

### TD STAGE PROGRAM

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#### **Do You Feel Like Dancing? An Introduction to Bollywood!**

(Quebec, India)

***Thursday, August 10 | 7:00 p.m.***

The Festival's opening night shines the spotlight on India, and to kick things off, Karim Rameez's dance ensemble is inviting you to the TD stage for a fun-filled, accessible workshop on Bollywood dance! Decked out in dazzling costumes, your energetic instructors will introduce you to a world of colour and glamour, suitable for all ages.

It's an hour of graceful gestures and agile footwork—get ready to move your body in true Bollywood style!

#### **Veils of Bollywood / Garden of Possibilities**

(Quebec, India)

***Thursday, August 10 | 8:00 p.m.***

The 13th edition of the Orientalys Festival opens with an eruption of colour, costumes and choreography, as we celebrate the sheer joy of Bollywood dance!

You'll get swept away in this exciting new show presented by Veils of Bollywood. Under the guidance of the talented young choreographer Karim Rameez, the dancers will take flight through a series of enchanting scenes that vividly portray the metamorphosis of a butterfly. It will be an evening of living poetry, propelled by swirling fabrics, mesmerizing gestures and captivating smiles.

Bollywood has amassed legions of fans thanks to its exhilarating blend of contemporary pop and traditional Indian dances including kathak, tawaif and bhangra, not to mention its stunning costumes!

Join us in the *Garden of Possibilities* for an ode to transformation and self-discovery and set your inner butterfly free!

## **Bollymix**

(Quebec, India)

**Thursday, August 10 | 9:30 p.m.**

Get ready for the ultimate Bollywood dance party! It's one thrilling event after another on the TD Stage, as the opening of the 13<sup>th</sup> Orientalys Festival continues its Indian extravaganza with irresistible electronic beats and adrenaline-pumping performances!

Live DJs will spin today's biggest Indian hits, immersing festivalgoers in a relentless vortex of ecstatic dance. The sounds of the tabla, sitar, and dhol will mix with hypnotic chants and a blend of Western genres including hip hop, R&B and drum 'n' bass.

The music will be brought to vivid life on stage by the unstoppable Veils of Bollywood dance troupe. With their shimmering costumes and explosive choreography straight out of a Bollywood movie, these talented dancers will take you on an unforgettable ride, serving up tradition with a contemporary flair. Don't miss this joyous celebration of Hindu culture!

## **The Grey Stars, Universal Mystery**

(Morocco, Belgium)

**Friday, August 11 | 5:45 p.m.**

Amid the dunes of the TD Stage, The Grey Stars invite you to embrace an authentic fusion experience and the divine beauty of a *lila*. Move to the beat of gnawa music and the intoxicating sounds of psychedelic rock, funk, jazz, reggae, reggada, pop and disco. Give over to transcendent ecstasy as this innovative group's soundscapes invoke a trance like no other. Traditional gnawa is

boldly reimagined with a mix of modern instruments that will free your mind and send your spirit soaring.

Sway to the rhythms of the qraqeb as you succumb to the soulful vocals of Maâlem Hicham Bilali and the alluring timbre of his guembri. There's no resisting the musical fusions inspired by this ensemble's sub-Saharan heritage.

A thrilling reinvention of gnawa music, this cultural gateway will lead to unexpected destinations, for an evening you won't soon forget!

## **DuOud, Masters of the Electric Lute**

(France, Algeria)

***Friday, August 11 | 7:45 p.m.***

Mehdi Haddab and Smadj, the unconventional musicians known as DuOud, invite you to a unique event that will defy the limits of creativity and conjure spellbinding worlds of trance and mystery.

Masters of both the traditional oud and the modern electric lute, these performers have carved out their own niche with a futuristic sound that remains tethered to the beauty of their musical heritage.

DuOud deftly infuses North African idioms with an arresting modern style. Breakbeat, techno, jazz, groove, rock guitar—it's all in the mix, resulting in moments of pure abandon that border on delirium!

Faithful guardians of tradition and fearless champions of artistic exploration, these two virtuosos spin their electronic loops into transcendent vibes. You'll be carried away to a groundbreaking and wildly unconventional dance universe!

## **Ilhan Karabacak**

(United States, Turkey)

***Friday, August 11 | 9:45 p.m.***

Witness the passion of Eastern dance as interpreted by the incredible Ilhan Karabacak. A pearl among Eastern dancers, this unique Turkish artist's fluid, magnetic movements will leave you awestruck! Combining the classical styles of baladi and raqs sharqi with contemporary tribal fusion, Ilhan Karabacak will take to the TD stage alongside the gifted Iza San and Pierre Khoury for a supercharged *pas de trois*!

Against a background of frenzied percussion, their sequined costumes spinning in whirlwinds of colour, Ilhan Karabacak and his fellow dancers will artfully explore the limits of sensuality. You'll become lost in reverie through the imaginative power of their breathtaking choreography. Get ready to be dazzled by the unparalleled talent of these exceptional performers!

## Phoenix Dance Troupe

(Quebec, China)

**Saturday, August 12 | 7:00 p.m.**

Indulge in a feast for the senses with spectacular classical dances from the Han Dynasty! You'll be transported to a bygone era as the Hua Yun Phoenix Dance Troupe enchants you with their vibrant costumes, delicate fan work and athletic prowess.

This breathtaking spectacle runs the gamut from epic group numbers to meditative moments of refined elegance, showcasing the enduring charm and power of ancient tradition. You'll be enthralled by the beauty unfolding on stage: gorgeous water sleeves, lavish jewelry and exquisite peacock dresses that epitomize Chinese grace and poise. Immerse yourself in a captivating world of artistry and uncover the cultural splendour of the Middle Kingdom!

Get ready to embark on a mythical journey as the Hua Yun dancers, singers, musicians and acrobats conjure a magical realm of dragons, lions and the phoenix!

## Planet Rai (Two-Part Outdoor Concert)

*Amine TGV followed by Hakim Salhi*

(Algeria, France, Quebec)

**Saturday, August 12 | 8:45 p.m.**

### **PART 1: Amine TGV**

To kick off this incredible evening of rai music, the Orientalys Festival is proud to present Amine TGV in a performance of irresistible love songs. You'll be beguiled by Amine's enchanting melodies and ardent lyrics as he explores every aspect of love, from the fiery intensity of newfound romance to the poignant melancholy of heartbreak. This talented vocalist weaves together words and music to create moments of pure, unadulterated joy.

Having nurtured a deep passion for rai from a young age, Amine TGV follows in the footsteps of the legendary singer Cheb Hasni. He regularly appears on international stages, spreading love through the power of music in Dubai, Italy, Spain and France. In his North American festival debut, Amine TGV will take to the TD Stage with a performance showcasing the breadth of his extraordinary talent.

Amine's heartfelt singing is sure to ignite the flame of love in his audience. Prepare to be swept off your feet by this modern troubadour!

### ***PART 2: Hakim Salhi***

As the sun sets on Planet Rai, the music will continue far into the night with Hakim Salhi! This exceptionally talented chaabi and rai singer, dancer and choreographer has garnered a devoted following spanning multiple generations. His contagious energy and catchy melodies have enthralled audiences throughout a long and distinguished career. Blending Western electronic pop with traditional Algerian rai, Hakim Salhi consistently surprises with the freshness and originality that define his songs. Singing in both Arabic and Berber, his passionate voice and compelling stage presence captivate audiences from all walks of life.

A performer for over twenty years, Hakim Salhi is a true veteran of the rai scene. He has helped elevate the genre to new heights of popularity with appearances on numerous international stages. His ultimate achievement came in 2023, when he was appointed to the Algerian National Council of Arts and Letters, cementing his legacy in Algeria's cultural landscape.

A world-class artist, Hakim Salhi attributes his success to his background as a Sahrawi, those brave and resilient people of the Western Sahara. Prepare for an electrifying performance that will launch Planet Rai's audience into orbit!

## **One Night in China: Jade Dragon Culture Show**

*In partnership with the Montreal Chinese Culture & Arts Foundation*  
(Quebec, China)

***Sunday, August 13 | 5:30 p.m.***

Certain countries guard timeless mysteries that never cease to fascinate! Against the backdrop of the setting sun, the enchanting wonders of the Middle Kingdom will come to life on the TD Stage. From the Han dynasty to the present day, you'll discover a myriad of ancient traditions handed down through the millennia over countless generations.

Featuring an impressive lineup of seven performing arts ensembles, this extraordinary production will seamlessly blend classical dance and traditional music in a breathtaking display of artistic

brilliance. You'll thrill to the unmistakable sounds of the erhu, pipa and guzheng and the majestic voices of singers from the Beijing Opera, as sumptuous costumes, exquisite makeup and powerful singing transport you to the heart of an operatic epic.

It's a veritable parade of remarkable Chinese artists! From graceful umbrella dances and jaw-dropping acrobatics to virtuosic vocal performances and elegant qipao gowns with gorgeous modern touches—this Night in China has something for everyone!

## **Horizons of the East**

(Mongolia, Afghanistan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia, Thailand, United States, Quebec)

***Sunday, August 13 | 7:30 p.m.***

The Orientalys Festival is thrilled to present its inaugural original production! Artists from a multitude of Eastern countries, including Tunisia, Morocco, Mongolia, Thailand and Afghanistan, will come together to portray an epic tale, narrated by the talented slammer Yanis Benyou. Follow the adventures of our modern-day traveller on a quest to uncover the infinitely diverse cultures of the East.

This timeless story will delve deep into the heart of various traditions, taking the audience on a journey of discovery to lift the veil of myth and legend. Join our noble hero as he reveals lost worlds and distant memories, with music that dazzles and beguiles. The TD Stage will be transformed into an extraordinary meeting ground of civilizations, showcasing a fascinating array of artistic marvels from across the East.

This spellbinding spectacle of music, dance and storytelling will be brought to life by talented artists from the Orientalys Lands of the East. Follow this Silk Road to the farthest reaches of an ancient heritage and experience the mystery of a world both strange and familiar, where culture is the binding force that unites and inspires!

## **Ishtar Connection (Closing Night Concert)**

(France, Iraq)

***Sunday, August 13 | 9:30 p.m.***

Sitting proudly at the crossroads of time-honoured Eastern traditions and the modern world, the 13th edition of the Orientalys Festival will close with a performance by the incredible Ishtar Connection. Led by singer and oud player Fawzy Al-Aiedy, this Franco-Iraqi group

will deliver a vibrant tribute to Arabic songs from the Middle East and the Maghreb, showcasing an exhilarating blend of diverse styles.

From funk to tango, with a touch of Romani influences, Ishtar Connection's heady groove builds a musical bridge between East and West. Traditional songs, modes and rhythms intertwine in a captivating fusion of acoustic sounds and electronic beats. These arrangements by a master of Eastern music and three talented young musicians produce a seemingly impossible lyrical alchemy that is truly irresistible!

The name Ishtar Connection pays homage to the goddess who figured prominently in the Sumerian and Mesopotamian pantheon for over three millennia. A symbol of duality and contrasts, she embodies an eternal, mythical East that embraces the unconventional. Iconic songs made famous by Samira Tawfiq, Fairuz, Sabah Fakhri, Hedi Jouini, and others, will crackle with infectious energy at this highly anticipated closing night event!