

NESMA

Dance

Nesma

presents

Enta Omri

« You are My Life »

A homage to Oum Kalthoum

Created in partnership with the
Arabesques Festival, Montpellier, France



ARABESQUES
RENCONTRES DES ARTS DU MONDE ARABE
10 ANS D'AUDACE

“The Star of The Orient”

Umm Kulthum (1904–1975, Egypt), singer, film star, and 20th-century icon, entertained audiences from all strata of Arab society with her musical renditions of famous poems. Renowned for the beauty of her voice, she was also celebrated for her power to convey the significance of their words. Enta Omri is Umm Kulthum’s most well known song, composed by Mohamed Abded Wahab.

*“My heart, don’t ask where the love has gone
It was a citadel of my imagination that has collapsed”*

El Atlal (The Ruins)

Nesma *Direction and choreography*

A Spanish Dancer and a Choreographer, Nesma discovered Arabic music and dance participating in shows created with her brothers for television. She was captivated and became initiated in oriental dance in Madrid and then Paris. She lived in Cairo from 1993 to 1998, where she deepened her knowledge of the culture and traditions of Egypt, while perfecting her artistic technique. She had enormous success with more than 3,500 shows on the most famous stages of Cai-

ro. She then worked with the Egyptian National Ballet “Reda Troupe” where she met the master choreographer Mahmoud Reda, becoming one of his greatest collaborators.

In 1998 she moved to Spain and founded her own school as well as the prestigious dance company Al-Andalus Danza. Her knowledge and her extensive experience have made her a recognised and much loved and sought after artist all around the world.

Ahmed Abdel Fattah *Musical direction and arrangements*

Ahmed Abdel Fattah is one of the finest accordion players in Cairo, and a renowned arranger, composer and sound engineer. He started his musical career by playing with renowned singers like Soad Mohamed, Warda, Hani Shaker and accompanying famous

dancers such as Nagwa Fouad or Nahid Sabry. In 1985 he joined the Royal Arabic Orchestra of Oman and in 1995 he moved back to Cairo to run his own music studio.

His collaboration with Nesma dates back to 1998.



Dance

Refined and expressive, respectful and contemporary, Nesma expresses in her choreographies the famous “Tarab”, a sentimental ecstasy invading the soul and which Oum Kalthoum was the queen.

The Work

“Enta Omri” is a dance and music creation paying heartfelt and moving homage to the majestic diva of Arabic music, Umm Kulthum, marking the 40th anniversary of her passing.

In this performance Nesma tells the artistic journey and life of the singer. The spectacle, presented with the Al-Andalus Dance Company and The Cairo Arabic Music Ensemble, is based on theatrical foundations: the wonderful musical accompaniment, the screening of archive footage and the elegant and moving dances, evoke on the stage the image and emotions which Umm Kulthum has engraved on the collective memory of the Arab world.

In this new creation, Nesma expresses all the passion which she feels for Arabic music and the classic songs of Umm Kulthum. Her passion for oriental dance was born from this music while she was still an adolescent, and it moved her soul from the first time she heard it.

On her arrival in Cairo she started to imbibe the music of Umm Kulthum to the point where she knew the songs by heart. When she had flowered into one of the star dancers on the Cairo scene, she became a remarkable interpreter of the songs of Umm Kulthum.

Nesma is renowned for her elegance and her artistic sensitivity in the interpretation of Egyptian music. In this work she combines her experience as a solo dancer, which she acquired in Cairo, with her choreographic skills developed in the large scale works she has produced in Europe (“From the Nile to the Guadalquivir”, “Dreams of Al-Andalus”).

From this she has developed a new form of dance, at the same time refined, sentimental and contemporary, drawing from the sources of her art to express on the stage the famous “Tarab”; a kind of emotional ecstasy which invades the soul on hearing wonderful music.

Music

Nesma Al-Andalus Dance Company

Enta Omri

Mohamed Abdel Wahab / Ahmed Shafiq Kamel 1964

Ya Sabah El Kheir

Mohamed Al-Qasagby / Bayram Al-Tounsy 1947

Ha Ablouh Boukra

Riad Al-Sonbati / Ahmed Ramy 1940

Gadedt Hobak

Riad Al-Sonbati / Ahmed Ramy 1952

Fakkarooni

Mohamed Abdel Wahab / Moahmed Abdel Wahab 1966

Ghannili Chewiaia Chewiaia

Zakariya Ahmed / Bayram Al-Tounsy 1945

Hayyart Qalby

Riad Al-Sonbati / Ahmed Ramy 1961

Lessa Faker

Riad Al-Sonbati / Abdel Fattah Mostafa 1960

Al Reda Wel Noor

Riad el Sonbati / Taher Abu Fasha

Ain El Ochak Saalouni

Zakariya Ahmed / Bayram Al-Tounsy 1945

Daret El Ayam

Mohamed Abdel Wahab / Maamoon Al-Shennawi 1970

El Atlal

Riad Al-Sonbati / Ibrahim Nagi 1966

Artistic Team :

- Performers
 - Nesma
 - 4/6 female dancers
 - 4 musicians (kanoun, nay, violin, perc.)
- Direction & choreographies : Nesma
- Music Arrangemens : Ahmed Abdel Fattah
- Lightning desgn : Lola Barroso
- Costumes : Nesma
- Video screening : Eric Godfroid
- Production director : Eric Godfroid

Duration of the show : 1h20 (no interval)

Touring team :

- 9 to 11 artists (Spain & Europe)
- 1 lightning operator (Spain)
- 1 tour manager (Spain)

Nesma Productions

Madrid . Spain

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