

NEW SOUNDS
FROM THE GOLDEN AGE OF
ARABIC MUSIC AND DANCE

Zikrayat



**For Immediate Release
September 29, 2008**

Contacts:

Sami Abu Shumays (Music Director, Zikrayat)
917-972-4557 abushumays@hotmail.com

Robin Dameshe Shumays (Dance Director, Zikrayat)
718-679-3650 info@zikrayatmusic.com

Faisal Zedan 626-419-5971 derbakki@yahoo.com
www.zikrayatmusic.com
www.faisalzedan.com

Zikrayat Hosts San Francisco-Based Percussionist Faisal Zedan for Performances and a Master Class

Alwan For the Arts

Friday, Oct. 17, 8:00pm (Performance—\$15)

Monday, Oct. 20, 7:00pm-9:00pm (Masterclass—\$40/\$35adv)

Contact: Amir ElSaffar 718-354-9816 elsaffar@gmail.com

16 Beaver Street, 4th Floor, New York, NY 10004

www.alwanforthearts.org

The Secret Theatre

Friday, October 17, 11:30pm (\$10)

Contact: Richard Mazda 718-392-0305 info@secrettheatre.com

44-02 23rd Street, Long Island City, NY 11101

www.secrettheatre.com

Rakkasah East Middle Eastern Dance Festival

Sat., Oct. 18, 4:15pm; Sun., Oct. 19, 12:15pm (\$15 each day)

Contact: Shukriya 510-724-0214 rakkasah@att.net

Ukrainian Cultural Center

135 Davidson Ave., Somerset, NJ 08873

www.rakkasah.com/east

Barbès

Tuesday, October 21, 8:30pm (\$10 suggested)

Contact: Olivier Conan 347-422-0248 barbes@earthlink.net

376 9th Street, Park Slope, Brooklyn, NY 11215

www.barbesbrooklyn.com





Faisal Zedan Joins Zikrayat for Middle-Eastern Dance Festival

A master percussionist in the Syrian classical tradition, as well as a quintessential dancer's drummer for Egyptian Raqs Sharqi (Belly-Dance), Syrian-born **Faisal Zedan** plays Riqq (tambourine), Derbakki (Tabla—goblet drum), and Tar (frame drum) with equal mastery, offering fellow performers and audiences a dazzling combination of virtuosity, subtlety, power, delicacy, assuredness, and humility. Visiting from California, he joins NYC's Zikrayat in a series of concerts and a workshop, surrounding their headlining performance at the 2008 **Rakkasah East Middle Eastern Dance Festival in Somerset, New Jersey, Saturday and Sunday October 18 and 19**. Guest dancers Jaida, Mariyah, Jehna, Nabila Nazem, Indra Lazul, and Amani Jabril perform to Zikrayat's exciting repertory of dance music from the "Golden Age" of Egyptian film, alongside Zikrayat's own company dancers premiering a new choreography by leader Dameshe—featuring Yowalka, and Sherine and a Saidi performance with Zikrayat alum, Nahara.

Featured musicians are vocalist Salah Rajab, accompanied by Sami Abu Shumays (Zikrayat's musical director), on violin and vocals, Dimitri Mikelis on oud and accordion, and Bridget Robbins on nay.

Performances in New York—Manhattan, Queens, and Brooklyn

Zikrayat's performances in New York City highlight the versatility of Faisal's playing, introducing him for the first time to New York's audience.

The late-night performance (**11:30pm on Friday, October 17**) at the **Secret Theatre** will be a three-way dialogue among friends, with a heavy emphasis on improvisation, and the contemplative and virtuosic sides of Arabic music—featuring the trio of Faisal Zedan, Sami Abu Shumays, and Dimitri Mikelis.

At **Barbès, (7:00-8:30pm, Tuesday October 21)** Bridget Robbins will round out the quartet, which will perform highlights from Zikrayat's repertory of vocal and instrumental music from the "Golden Age" of Egyptian Cinema, as well as classical pieces and improvisations.

And at **Alwan, (8:00pm, Friday, October 17)**, vocalist Salah Ragab and dance director Dameshe will join the instrumental quartet in an eclectic concert presentation, including exciting belly-dance numbers and a preview of their performances at Rakkasah, in addition to a selection of classical pieces.

Master Class at Alwan for the Arts

Faisal will lead a two-hour workshop (**7:00-9:00pm, Monday, October 20**) geared toward intermediate and advanced percussionists. He will focus on three major topics: the physical aspects of technique and the proper use of the hands; the stylistic aspect, touching on the three major styles of left-hand movements; and the musical aspect, including distinctions between traditional and modern styles of playing, the proper use of ornaments, and rhythmic changes in Arabic songs—with examples provided by violinist Sami Abu Shumays. \$35 for advance registration (if interested, contact Sami Abu Shumays at abushumays@hotmail.com), \$40 at the door.

About Faisal Zedan and Zikrayat

Currently based in the San Francisco Bay Area, **Faisal** is a founding member of the ensembles Kan Zaman and Youm it-Talata, a former member of the UCLA Near East Music Ensemble, and a member of Eliyahu & Qadim, Stellamara, and Aswat. He teaches workshops and private lessons around the world, and is a regular instructor at Kosmos Camp. **Zikrayat** is a NYC-based ensemble of Arab musicians and dancers that performs rare gems from the "Golden Age" of Egyptian Cinema, along with original compositions and well-known standards, in engaging stage productions that evoke the atmosphere of classic film from the period of the 1940's-70's

| WWW.ZIKRAYATMUSIC.COM | INFO@ZIKRAYATMUSIC.COM | 917-972-4557 |