

CENTERSTAGE<sup>SM</sup>

## Artists from Abroad in American Communities

ON TOUR JUNE - DECEMBER 2012



[www.centerstageUS.org](http://www.centerstageUS.org)

An initiative of the U.S. Department  
of State's Bureau of Educational  
and Cultural Affairs



**Sufi-rock bands from Lahore** ... a comedy trio from Karachi ... master Haitian troubadours ...puppetry and hip-hop collectives from Yogyakarta ... power-house contemporary dance companies from Port-au-Prince and Padang ...





PAKISTAN

Acclaimed at home but little-known to many Americans, 10 performing arts ensembles will travel to the U.S. between June and December 2012.

Each ensemble will make an independent month-long tour and visit four to seven communities in one to two U.S. regions.



INDONESIA

**Engage your community in cultural diplomacy as citizen diplomats.** Artists from Haiti, Indonesia, and Pakistan are ready to share their art and culture and discover America through experiences with your community.

### **Geographic Reach**

Center Stage aims for geographic reach, focuses primarily on small and mid-size cities, and seeks to support presenting organizations which may not otherwise have the capacity to host international work.

All tours begin in Washington, DC with an orientation and performance on the Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage.

### **Exchange is key**

Minimum half-week and maximum full week residencies are sought (no single performance engagements).

The mix of activities should include events such as hosted meals, sightseeing, jam sessions with local artists, and attending performances, as well as master classes, workshops, and student and public performances.

### **Logistics & Marketing**

Lisa Booth Management, Inc. provides scheduling, logistics, management, and contextual assistance.

All ensembles will travel with a U.S.-based company manager. Many of the artists are proficient in English; translators will be provided when necessary. We encourage you to involve native language speakers of any group you host from the early planning stages.

Excellent marketing, public relations, and contextual materials will be provided to complement and boost national and local efforts.

International and domestic travel, visas, logistics, and staffing are substantially underwritten.

### **Presentation Fees**

Estimated presentation fees for all groups: \$15,000 per week; \$8,000 for a half-week residency. Host presenters also provide venue, technical, box office and front of house costs for performances and activities, local coordinating costs, local marketing and promotional expenses, and artist hospitality (receptions, sightseeing costs, etc.).

Host organizations will help document and evaluate this new program.

### **Interested?**

Contact Lisa Booth Management, Inc. at 212.921.2114 or [artslbmi@msn.com](mailto:artslbmi@msn.com).



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**[www.centerstageUS.org](http://www.centerstageUS.org)**



ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN

## Arieb Azhar



Defying easy categorization, Arieb Azhar's mesmerizing baritone "encompasses about all the emotions life has to offer" (*PRI*). He leads a quartet of musicians in an eclectic mix of urban and folk-based songs grounded in Sufi and other humanist poetries from across Eurasia. **A world class troubadour** whose sets pays tribute to Irish balladeers, Croatian gypsies, Punjabi traders, and ancient Sanskrit texts.

|                |                                                                          |
|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| AVAILABLE      | June 2012                                                                |
| ARTIST WEBSITE | <a href="http://www.ariebazhar.com">www.ariebazhar.com</a>               |
| TRAVELERS      | Five (four band members, one company manager)                            |
| VENUE          | indoors or outside, typical concert set-up for reinforced acoustic sound |





photo by Frederic Dupoux

PÉTION-VILLE, HAITI

# BÉLO



BÉLO has been hailed as **Haiti's musical ambassador to the world**. A socially conscious singer-songwriter with a sophisticated sound, BÉLO and his band deliver a high-energy mix of jazz, worldbeat, rock, reggae, and Afro-Haitian traditional rhythm known as Ragganga. "BÉLO's versatile guitar work and slightly raspy, soulful voice have made a fan of me."

*(Conde-Nast Traveler)*

- |                |                                                                              |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| AVAILABLE      | September-October 2012                                                       |
| ARTIST WEBSITE | <a href="http://www.sonicbids.com/beloayiti">www.sonicbids.com/beloayiti</a> |
| TRAVELERS      | Seven (five band members, one sound engineer, one company manager)           |
| VENUE          | indoors or outside, typical concert set-up; some backline required           |



PÉTION-VILLE, HAITI

## Compagnie de Danse Jean-René Delsoin



Delsoin's outstanding, **vibrant dancers and drummers** embody choreography that captures Haiti now – raw and refined, spiritual, powerful, and precarious. “From Raboday to Nago, passing through Congo and the Yanvalou, corporeal rhythms and expressions worked in harmony to transform everything into beauty.” (*Le Nouvelliste/Haiti*)

|                |                                                                                                     |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| AVAILABLE      | Fall 2012                                                                                           |
| ARTIST WEBSITE | <a href="http://www.jeanrenedelsoin.com">www.jeanrenedelsoin.com</a>                                |
| TRAVELERS      | 10 (eight dancers and musicians, one production, one company manager)                               |
| VENUE          | proscenium stage; sprung floor with marley cover; typical dance light plot; live and recorded sound |





Courtesy of Jogja Hip Hop Foundation

YOGYAKARTA, INDONESIA

## Jogja Hip Hop Foundation

**Indonesia's foremost crew stands in the cultural cross-hairs,** rapping across language and other borders. Hailing from one of Indonesia's artistic well-springs, Yogyakarta, this sharp Javanese collective promotes tolerance and pluralism with wit and hooks that meld global and indigenous trance rhythms, Indonesian pop and gamelan music, and ancient Javanese poetry and literature.

|                |                                                                          |
|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| AVAILABLE      | August-November 2012                                                     |
| ARTIST WEBSITE | <a href="http://www.hiphopdiningrat.com">www.hiphopdiningrat.com</a>     |
| TRAVELERS      | Eight (six crew members, one videographer, one company manager)          |
| VENUE          | indoors or outside; some DJ, projection, and backline equipment required |

PADANG, INDONESIA

## Nan Jombang

The island of Sumatra is home to this family of artists whose work is a compelling mix of Minangkabau performing arts traditions (drumming, dance, martial arts), spiritual practice, and contemporary movement. **Percussive, persuasive, and vital modern dance.** Soundscape created live by the dancers in performance.

|           |                                                                                           |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| AVAILABLE | Summer 2012                                                                               |
| TRAVELERS | Eight (five dancers, one artistic director, one production, one company manager)          |
| VENUE     | proscenium and black box stages; sprung floor with marley cover; typical dance light plot |



photo by Jawwad Zakariya

LAHORE, PAKISTAN

## noori



noori, one of Pakistan's top pop bands, helped define Sufi-rock. Led by charismatic brothers Ali Noor and Ali Hamza, noori delivers **a great rock and roll show with a distinctive subcontinent kick.** "As one of the leading names in Pakistan's music industry, noori is often credited for revitalizing rock music for Pakistan's youth."

*(Coke Studio, Pakistan)*

|                |                                                                                      |
|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| AVAILABLE      | June-July 2012                                                                       |
| ARTIST WEBSITE | <a href="http://www.nooriworld.net">www.nooriworld.net</a>                           |
| TRAVELERS      | Eight (five band members, one sound engineer, one manager, one U.S. company manager) |
| VENUE          | indoors or outside, typical concert set-up; some backline required                   |



photo by Indra Wicaksono



YOGYAKARTA, INDONESIA

## Papermoon Puppet Theatre



In a country with world-renowned puppetry traditions, the **young, expert artists** of Papermoon are extending the form with their **mixed-media productions**, and creating works that imaginatively explore identity, society, and Indonesia's recent past.

On tour: *Mwathirika*, set in 1965, the infamous Year of Living Dangerously, when thousands of Indonesians were jailed and murdered. A history of the lost, and the lost history of a nation. Puppetry workshops for all ages available.

- AVAILABLE August-September 2012
- ARTIST WEBSITE [www.papermoonpuppet.com](http://www.papermoonpuppet.com)
- TRAVELERS Nine (seven performers, one production, one company managers)
- VENUE intimate, well-equipped proscenium stage (250-300 seats maximum)



photo by Benjamin Struelens

PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI

## Ti-Coca & Wanga-Nègès

Masters of Haiti's acoustic twoubadou (troubadour) tradition, Ti-Coca and his band are **“a loose-limbed, rootsy treat.”** (*BBC News*)

Revered internationally, Ti-Coca describes his music as “very Haitian in the rhythm, the words, the feeling. It’s dance music you can find in the streets, the beaches, private parties. It’s very tasty and easy to dance to. Lyrics can be critical of society, they often are. But this music is first made to share a moment of pleasure between people.”

|           |                                                                  |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| AVAILABLE | tba: June or October 2012                                        |
| TRAVELERS | Six (five band members, one company manager)                     |
| VENUE     | indoors or outside; typical sound set-up; some backline required |





KARACHI, PAKISTAN

## Very Live



No cliché is safe! **Up to the minute sketch comedy, political commentary and satiric mirth** (in English) from a trio of cut-ups: Saad Haroon (Pakistan's reigning jester), Danish Ali (the doe-eyed, goofy sidekick), and guitarist Amin Arif. Portrayed this way: "Most likely to shoot out rapid-fire gags. Least likely to run out of news material."  
*(The Guardian, UK)*

|                |                                                            |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| AVAILABLE      | November 2012                                              |
| ARTIST WEBSITE | <a href="http://www.saadharoon.com">www.saadharoon.com</a> |
| TRAVELERS      | Four (three funny guys, one company manager)               |
| VENUE          | all kinds; minimal tech; small sound package               |



photo by Nida Rehman

LAHORE, PAKISTAN

# Zeb & Haniya



This **acclaimed singer-songwriter duo** paved the way for many female musicians active on the Pakistani music scene today. Original songs and newly interpreted tunes from Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Central Asia carve a space for music that transcends national boundaries.

“There is poetry in the air when Zeb & Haniya take the stage with earthy and sultry glory.” *(Arab Times)*

- AVAILABLE                      September-October 2012
- ARTIST WEBSITE              [www.zebandhaniya.com](http://www.zebandhaniya.com)
- TRAVELERS                      Eight (six band members, one manager, one company manager)
- VENUE                              indoors or outside; typical sound set-up; some backline required



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**Lisa Booth Management, Inc.**  
212.921.2114 or [artslbmi@msn.com](mailto:artslbmi@msn.com)

**U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs** promotes mutual understanding between the United States and other countries through international educational and exchange programs. Through its Cultural Programs Division, the Bureau supports a variety of cultural 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.exchanges.state.gov](http://www.exchanges.state.gov)

Based in Boston, **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. NEFA was established in 1976 as one of six regional arts organizations designed to cultivate the arts regionally and strengthen the national arts infrastructure. [www.nefa.org](http://www.nefa.org)

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