

CENTERSTAGE<sup>SM</sup>

## Artists from Abroad in American Communities

**ON TOUR JULY-DECEMBER 2018**



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

An initiative of the U.S. Department of State's  
Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs  
Produced by the New England Foundation for the Arts

Catalyzed by intense upheavals, Egyptian and Ukrainian artists are animating their nations' personal, social, and public spheres.

With creativity as a gathering point for discourse, they are challenging themselves, their communities, and the millennia-old cultures they celebrate, to renew and to change.

**DINA ELWEDIDI** Giza, Egypt

**KURBASY** Lviv, Ukraine

**MOHAMED ABOZEKRY & KARKADÉ** Cairo, Egypt

**TEATR-PRALNIA with CCA DAKH** Kyiv, Ukraine

**YOUSRA EL HAWARY** Cairo, Egypt

Cover photo credits (top row, L-R): Dina Elwedidi photo by James Duncan Davidson; Mohamed Abozekry & Karkadé photo courtesy of the band; Kurbasy photo by Oliia Dmytriv; Youssra El Hawary photo by Tamer El-Said; Teatr-Pralnia with CCA Dakh photo by A. Mantach (large photo)



**“Rivetingly fresh.”**

—Earshot Jazz Festival (Seattle, WA)

Center Stage creates opportunities for **in-depth exchange** among artists, presenters, and the public, creating alliances for exploration – and mutual understanding.

Since 2012, Center Stage has welcomed important new voices into our national cultural dialogue, **enlarging our world**, and sharing diverse global perspectives directly with communities in the U.S. and, via real time virtual interactions, with fans and allies abroad.

## Join Us!

### July-December 2018

Host one of these five outstanding ensembles during their independent month-long tours in the U.S.

“Center Stage artists are **amazing ambassadors** who create wide open spaces for **communities to connect.**”

—Helena Presents (Helena, MT)



Jagwa Music (Season 3, Tanzania) at Le Poisson Rouge in New York, NY  
Photo by William Farrington

Center Stage strengthens presenting organizations by increasing their capacity to host international work.

Through performances, workshops, discussions, artist jams, and community gatherings, Center Stage ensembles engage with audiences and share their experiences onstage, offstage, and online.

## Engage.

Contact  
Lisa Booth & Deirdre Valente  
Lisa Booth Management, Inc.  
+1 212.921.2114  
artslbmi@msn.com

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“Center Stage creates a **fabric of connection** and friendship that cannot be underestimated.”

– Celebrity Series of Boston

## By the numbers

### Since 2012, Center Stage...

- Visited **85** communities in **34** states and Washington, DC
- Hosted **154** artists in **24** ensembles (**17** made their U.S. debuts) from Algeria, Haiti, Indonesia, Morocco, Pakistan, Tanzania, and Vietnam.
- Scheduled **227** performances — indoors and out, ticketed & free
- Planned **642** educational, community, and artist-to-artist activities
- Traveled **91,000+** cumulative tour miles
- Connected with **141,000+** U.S. audience members, participants, and students
- Garnered **tens of millions** global media impressions (online and print)
- Engaged **millions** more people around the globe through social media and online content

**In 2018, Center Stage tours will take place between July and December.**



GIZA, EGYPT

## Dina Elwedidi

Channeling the heritage and contemporary identity of Cairo, Dina Elwedidi delivers “transcendent performances.” **(AL-AHRAM)** **A sophisticated musical innovator,** her richly ornamented and detailed compositions, generous arrangements, bell-clear voice, and charismatic stage presence have established her as a **global cultural force.**

“Elwedidi’s songs reflect different temperaments and styles, from jazz to folk and underground rock, a combination that can’t be labeled under one category. **She is shaping a new musical genre** that has emerged in the wake of the Tahrir Square Revolution.”  
**(EURO NEWS)**

**AVAILABLE** mid-July through mid-October 2018

**TRAVELERS** 9 (7 musicians, sound engineer, U.S. company manager)

**VENUE** Large clubs, concert halls, amphitheatres, festival stages; indoors or out. Excellent sound system and backline required.



Photo: Andriy Kyschchun

LVIV, UKRAINE

## Kurbasy



Lviv, the eons-old Carpathian Hub, holds Ukraine's cultural core. Around this nucleus, spheres of tradition and innovation spin, collide, and reform. Culture is a cosmic living organism for Kurbasy, whose folk-based multimedia performances vibrate in **tight vocal harmonies**, resonant lyrics, culturally unique instruments, and **phantasmagoric visual imagery**.

Kurbasy's sonic-theatrical explorations of Ukraine's rich trove of calendar songs, lullabies, and legends, trace contemporary connections to an archaic past.

"Spring is summoned, the summer season is celebrated, wedding ceremonies are sung, and life stories told. **Kurbasy envelops us in magical-musical charm.**" ([LOCALCOMPASS.DE](http://LOCALCOMPASS.DE))

U.S.  
DEBUT

**AVAILABLE** June through November 2018

**TRAVELERS** 9 (6 musicians, sound and lighting designers, U.S. company manager)

**VENUE** Indoor spaces best with capacity for video projections. Excellent sound system.



CAIRO, EGYPT

## Mohamed Abozekry & Karkadé



**Mohamed Abozekry combines limitless virtuosity** with an unbridled imagination. An oud master still in his mid-twenties, Abozekry's ambitions – to musically interpret the world around him and de-exoticize his instrument – mark him as a polymath of forms. "I never move backwards, but in a circular motion and return to the place I started with more experience."

With Karkadé, Abozekry evokes the hibiscus tea found everywhere in Cairo. He convenes Egypt's popular and classical music traditions, Sufi calls, and secular poetry to musically describe a path to an Arab world turned towards the future.

Abozekry "has a **stunning command of his instrument**, as well as an open ear for other forms." (**PASTE MAGAZINE**) Karkadé is "an epic, enlightened, and abounding musical journey." (**TÉLÉRAMA**)

**AVAILABLE** June through mid-September 2018

**TRAVELERS** 6 (5 instrumentalists, U.S. company manager)

**VENUE** Listening rooms, concert halls, and recital spaces with excellent acoustics; sound reinforcement may be required.





Photo by A. Mantach

KYIV, UKRAINE

## Teatr-Pralnia with CCA Dakh



Conflicts rage in online propaganda. Malware worms its way into vital systems. External actors precipitate an icy hot international stalemate. Thousands take to the streets demanding transparency and change.

*TseSho?/What's That?* is a super-charged puppet cabaret of real time events and Facebook feeds, iconic Ukrainian poetry, catchy vamps, and improvised action. **Rambunctious and audacious**, the piece questions through the intense lens of childhood. Who are we in a time of sensationalized information and deceptive surfaces? Where is our place in our world and in history? What's That?

A production of the **breakthrough** Teatr-Pralnia with Ukraine's leading contemporary hub, CCA Dakh, directed by **theatrical disruptor**, Vlad Troitsky.

U.S.  
DEBUT

**AVAILABLE** October through November 2018

**TRAVELERS** 10 (5 performers, director, video, light, and sound staff, U.S. company manager)

**VENUE** Clubs, black box and mid-size proscenium stages (capacity 100-800).



CAIRO, EGYPT

## Yousra El Hawary

**Yousra El Hawary's** socially-aware, personal, and original music innovates as much in content as it does in style. In the half-decade since she became a slyly defiant sensation in the aftermath of the Egyptian revolution, El Hawary continues to be **a bellwether of everyday life**. With charismatic charm, her lithe compositions capture the stories of Cairo, and the charged alchemy of the Mediterranean basin that fuels her **distinctive and soulful sound**.

**“Perfect, easy magic.** I’m totally hooked on music by this folkie-ish, indie-ish, chanson-ish singer/songwriter from Egypt armed not with a guitar, but ... an accordion.” **(NPR'S ALL SONGS CONSIDERED)**

U.S.  
DEBUT

**AVAILABLE** July through September 2018

**TRAVELERS** 8 (6 musicians, sound designer, U.S. company manager)

**VENUE** Indoors or out; concert halls, festival stages, and clubs.

Excellent quality sound system to enhance acoustic instruments and vocals; some backline required.

“Brilliant, engaging, and **enthusiastic artists.**”

– Bucknell University  
Weis Center for the Performing Arts (Lewisburg, PA)

**Center Stage is among the most successful programs to bring contemporary international performing artists into direct contact with people across a wide range of American communities, and to share these experiences globally. Twenty-four ensembles have toured across the U.S. since 2012.**

In 2018, Dina Elwedidi (Egypt), Kurbasy (Ukraine)\*, Mohamed Abozekry & Karkadé (Egypt)\*, Teatr-Pralnia with CCA Dakh (Ukraine)\*, and Youssra El Hawary (Egypt)\* will join

Arabesque (Vietnam)\*  
Arieb Azhar (Pakistan)\*  
BÉLO (Haïti)  
Compagnie de Danse  
Jean-René Delsoin (Haiti)\*  
Democratoz (Algeria)\*  
Fleur d'Orange (Morocco)  
Ifrikyia Spirit (Algeria)\*  
Istijmam (Algeria)\*  
Jagwa Music (Tanzania)\*  
Jogja Hip Hop Foundation  
(Indonesia)  
Hoba Hoba Spirit (Morocco)  
Khumariyaan (Pakistan)\*

Nan Jombang (Indonesia)\*  
noori (Pakistan)\*  
Papermoon Puppet Theatre  
(Indonesia)\*  
Poor Rich Boy (Pakistan)\*  
Rajab Suleiman & Kithara  
(Tanzania)\*  
Ribab Fusion (Morocco)\*  
Sanam Marvi (Pakistan)  
Sounds of Kolachi (Pakistan)\*  
Ti-Coca & Wanga-Nègès (Haiti)  
Tri Minh's Quartet (Vietnam)\*  
Very Live (Pakistan)\*  
Zeb & Haniya (Pakistan)

\* U.S. Debut

# Engage with Center Stage

## **New Visions, New Voices**

Center Stage tours contemporary performing artists whose explorations of the new and revitalizations of the traditional reflect the dynamic and complex the societies in which they live.

Each ensemble's **independent month-long tour** travels to four to seven communities around the country, and generally begins in Washington, DC, with a performance on The Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage, broadcast live via webcast.

## **Exchange is Key**

Minimum half-week and maximum full week residences (generally no single performance engagements).

Residency activities may include hosted meals, sightseeing, jam sessions with local artists, and attending performances, as well as master classes, workshops, and student and public performances.

## **Local, National, Global**

Dynamic **marketing, promotion,** and **social media** strategies draw artists, host presenters, community members, fans, and audiences together to boost **access, outreach,** and **visibility.**

Extensive **press coverage and online engagement** invite many more into the worldwide conversation.

“These artists **strike the perfect balance** of informed and inquisitive, gracious and generous.”

- Dartmouth College, Hopkins Center (Hanover, NH)

## **Comprehensive Approach**

Lisa Booth Management, Inc. provides tour scheduling, residency planning, artist care, travel arrangements, production and backline coordination, on-tour staff, and 24/7 tour oversight.

Center Stage manages visas and federal and state tax requirements. Publicity is coordinated with rock paper scissors ([www.rockpaperscissors.biz](http://www.rockpaperscissors.biz)).

Ensembles travel with a U.S.-based company manager (who serves as translator when needed) and production support.

## **Presentation Fees**

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

Fees for all groups: \$20,000 per week; \$11,000 for a half-week residency. Host presenters also provide venues, technical, box office and front of house services for performances and activities; local coordinating costs; local marketing and promotion; and artist hospitality (receptions, sightseeing, etc.).

## **Interested?**

### **Contact**

**Lisa Booth & Deirdre Valente**

**Lisa Booth Management, Inc.**

**+1 212.921.2114**

**[artslbmi@msn.com](mailto:artslbmi@msn.com)**

# Thank You!

**Center Stage would not be possible without the generous support, expertise, and talent from people across the country and around the globe. Our extended network includes:**

## ADVISORS

### Alicia Adams

Vice President Dance & International Programming  
The Kennedy Center  
Washington, DC

### Bill Bragin

Executive Artistic Director  
Abu Dhabi Arts Center at  
New York University  
Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates  
Co-Director  
globalFEST  
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### Robert Browning

Independent Producer and Former  
Executive & Artistic Director  
World Music Institute  
New York, NY

### Rachel Cooper

Director, Cultural Programming &  
Performing Arts  
Asia Society  
New York, NY

### Asad Jafri

Global Arts Producer

## CENTER STAGE PRESENTERS 2012-17

Academy of Music –Northampton, MA  
Akron International Friendship –Akron, OH  
Alabama Asian Cultures Foundation –  
Birmingham, AL  
American Dance Festival –Durham, NC  
AMP Concerts –Albuquerque, NM\*  
Ann Arbor Summer Festival –Ann Arbor, MI  
Arts Brookfield –New York, NY  
Asia Society –New York, NY\*  
Asia Society Texas Center –Houston, TX  
The Back Room –Berkeley, CA  
Baryshnikov Arts Center –New York, NY  
Bay Chamber Concerts –Rockport, ME  
Boothbay Opera House –Boothbay  
Harbor, ME  
Bossa Bistro/Multiflora Productions –  
Washington, DC\*  
Brooklyn Academy of Music –Brooklyn, NY  
Buckman Performing and Fine Arts Center  
–Memphis, TN  
Bucknell University, Weis Center for the  
Performing Arts –Lewisburg, PA\*  
Bumbershoot Festival –Seattle, WA  
The Capitol Theatre –Yakima, WA  
Cedar Cultural Center –Minneapolis, MN  
Celebrity Series Boston/World Music  
CRASHarts–Boston & Cambridge, MA  
Central College –Pella, IA  
City Center, Fall for Dance –New York, NY  
Coker College –Hartsville, SC  
College of Saint Benedict & Saint John's  
University –St. Joseph, MN  
Colorado Mountain College –  
Breckenridge, CO  
Connecticut College, On Stage  
–New London, CT\*  
Dance Place –Washington, DC\*  
Dancing in the Streets & Casita Maria  
Center for the Arts and Education  
–The Bronx, NY  
Dartmouth College, Hopkins Center  
for the Arts –Hanover, NH  
Denmark Arts Center –Denmark, ME  
Duke University, Duke Performances  
–Durham, NC  
Earshot Jazz Festival –Seattle, WA  
Everett: Company, Stage, and School  
–Providence, RI  
FirstWorks –Providence, RI\*  
Flynn Center for the Performing Arts  
–Burlington, VT\*  
Friar's Club –New York, NY  
¡Globalquerque! –Albuquerque, NM\*  
The Grammy Museum – Los Angeles, CA  
Great Plains Regional Puppet Festival  
–West Liberty, IA  
Grinnell College –Grinnell, IA

Hambridge Creative Hive/Colony Square  
–Atlanta, GA  
Helena Presents/Myrna Loy Center for the  
Performing and Media Arts –Helena, MT  
Hibernian Hall –Roxbury, MA  
Howard University – Washington, DC  
Huntington Arts Council –Huntington, NY\*  
Indiana University –Bloomington, IN  
Indo-American Association of Houston  
–Houston, TX  
Inner-City Muslim Action Network  
–Chicago, IL  
International Festival of Arts & Ideas  
–New Haven, CT  
Irving Arts Center –Irving, TX  
Johnson County Community College  
–Overland Park, KS  
Joshua Tree Music Festival  
–Joshua Tree, CA\*  
Juniata College, Halbritter Center for  
the Performing Arts –Huntingdon, PA  
Kelly-Strayhorn Theater –Pittsburgh, PA  
The John F. Kennedy Center for the  
Performing Arts –Washington, DC\*  
Lafayette College, Williams Center for  
the Arts –Easton, PA  
La MaMa ETC –New York, NY  
(Le) Poisson Rouge/Ariz Inc.,  
New Sounds - New York, NY\*  
Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts  
–New York City, NY\*  
Madison World Music Festival  
–Madison, WI\*  
The Markaz/Pico Union Project  
–Los Angeles, CA  
Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts  
–North Adams, MA  
Monkeyhouse Dance –Somerville, MA  
Old Town School of Folk Music  
–Chicago, IL\*  
Outside the Box Festival –Boston, MA  
Pinkerton Academy, Stockbridge  
Theatre –Derry, NH  
Portland Performing Arts Festival/One  
Longfellow Square –Portland, ME  
Portland Ovarations –Portland, ME\*  
REDCAT –Los Angeles, CA  
The Raymond F. Kravis Center for the  
Performing Arts –West Palm Beach, FL  
Reggae on the River Festival  
–Garberville, CA  
Richmond Folk Festival –Richmond, VA  
River to River Festival (Lower Manhattan  
Cultural Council) –New York, NY  
Rockingham Arts and Museum Project  
–Bellows Falls, VT  
Rockwood Music Hall –New York, NY

Roots Cultural Center –Providence, RI  
Samford University, Leslie Stephen Wright  
Fine Arts Center –Birmingham, AL  
Sandywoods Center for the Arts  
–Tiverton, RI  
Savannah Music Festival –Savannah, GA\*  
Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts  
–Scottsdale, AZ  
Sheldon Theatre –Red Wing, MN  
The Shrine –New York, NY  
Silvermine Arts Center –New Canaan, CT  
Small Town Concert Series –Chester, CT  
Smith’s Olde Bar –Atlanta, GA  
South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center  
–Miami, FL\*  
Tropicalia/Multiflora Productions –  
Washington, DC  
University Musical Society –Ann Arbor, MI  
University of Akron –Akron, OH  
University of California, Mondavi Center  
for the Performing Arts –Davis, CA  
University of California, Santa Barbara Arts  
and Lectures –Santa Barbara, CA  
University of Connecticut, Jorgensen  
Center for the Performing Arts  
–Storrs, CT  
University of Dayton –Dayton, OH  
University of Denver, Lamont School of  
Music –Denver, CO  
University of Florida Performing Ar  
–Gainesville, FL\*  
University of Houston/Rajput Media  
–Houston, TX  
University of Iowa, Hancher Auditorium  
–Iowa City, IA\*  
University of Nebraska, Lied Center for the  
Performing Arts –Lincoln, NE  
University of New Hampshire –Durham, NH  
University of North Carolina, Carolina  
Performing Arts –Chapel Hill, NC\*  
University of North Carolina  
–Wilmington, NC  
University of San Diego, ArtPower!  
–San Diego, CA\*  
University of St. Joseph –West Hartford, CT  
Upright Citizens Brigade –New York, NY  
Virginia Tech Center for the Arts  
–Blacksburg, VA\*  
Washington University, Edison Theater  
–St. Louis, MO  
Wellesley College –Wellesley, MA  
Wesleyan University, Center for the Arts  
–Middletown, CT  
WobeeonFest –Austin, TX  
World Music Festival Chicago –Chicago, IL  
Yerba Buena Center for the Arts  
–San Francisco, CA

\* repeat Center Stage presenter



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The U.S. Department of State's **Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA)** builds relations between the people of the United States and the people of other countries through academic, cultural, sports, and professional exchanges, as well as public-private partnerships. The State Department's cultural diplomacy programs employ the arts to advance U.S. foreign policy by sharing America's artistic excellence, demonstrating America's respect for other cultures, creating international networks, and deepening trust.

Contact: [ECA-Press@state.gov](mailto:ECA-Press@state.gov) | [www.eca.state.gov](http://www.eca.state.gov)



**The New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA)** invests in the arts to enrich communities in New England and beyond. NEFA accomplishes this by granting funds to artists and cultural organizations; connecting them to each other and their audiences; and analyzing their economic contributions. Based in Boston, NEFA serves as a regional partner for the National Endowment for the Arts, New England's state arts agencies, and private foundations. NEFA is the U.S. Department of State's primary partner for Center Stage.

Contact: Adrienne Petrillo, Program Director, Center Stage  
[apetrillo@nefa.org](mailto:apetrillo@nefa.org) | Tel +1 617.951.0010 | [www.nefa.org](http://www.nefa.org)



**Lisa Booth Management, Inc. (LBMI)** realizes contemporary performing arts projects for the widest possible public. A producer, curator, and manager, LBMI's projects have taken place in more than 400 cities in 55 countries on six continents since 1983. As general manager for Center Stage, LBMI is responsible for tour scheduling, residency planning, promotion, artist care, travel, tax, and visa arrangements, production/backline coordination, tour staffing, and 24/7 oversight.

Contact: Lisa Booth (President) and Deirdre Valente (Vice President)  
[artslbmi@msn.com](mailto:artslbmi@msn.com) | Tel +1 212 921-2114

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