

KAAI
THEATER



MOUSSEM
NOMADIC
ARTS CENTRE

Bashar Murkus/Khashabi Theatre & Oyoun Theatre
New Middle East

02/05/17 – 20:30 – Kaaistudio's
theatre • in Arabic (surt. In Dutch and French)

MOUSSEM

Bashar Murkus is a promising Palestinian director who we are presenting in partnership with Mousseem. Mousseem Nomadic Arts Centre focuses on artists with a link to the Arab world. Kaaitheater is embarking upon a multi-annual collaboration with Mousseem, which will result in regular co-presentation on our programme.

CREDITS

written by

Moataz Abu Saleh

dramaturg, director

Bashar Murkus

cast

Amal Kais–Abu Saleh, Henry Andrawes

scenography

ajdala Khoury

music

Terez Sliman, Yazan Ibraheem

graphic design

Nihad Awidat

lighting design

Naame Zaknoon

technical manager

Firas Tarabshi

production

Oyoun Theatre and Khashabi Theatre

NEW MIDDLE EAST

nl/ *New Middle East* is een dialoog tussen een gemaskerde soldaat en de vrouw die hij levend begraaft. Dit gesprek tussen dader en slachtoffer neemt geleidelijk absurde vormen aan. Het stuk uit 2013 is een gefictionaliseerde weerspiegeling van de Syrische (burger)oorlog én een visioen van het totalitaire geweld dat het Midden-Oosten in zijn greep houdt.

- Bashar Murkus is één van de stichters van Khashabi Theatre in Haifa. Voor *New Middle East* werkte hij samen met Oyoun Theatre op de Golan, een deel van Syrië dat in 1967 door Israël bezet werd.

fr/ *New Middle East* est un dialogue entre un soldat masqué et la femme qu'il enterre vivante. Petit à petit, cette conversation entre le bourreau et sa victime adopte une tournure absurde. Ce spectacle de 2013 est à la fois un reflet fictionnel de la guerre (civile) en Syrie et une vision de la violence totalitaire qui maintient le Moyen-Orient sous son emprise.

- Bashar Murkus est l'un des cofondateurs du Khashabi Theatre à Haïfa. Pour *New Middle East*, il a travaillé avec l'Oyoun Theatre du Golan, une partie de la Syrie qu'Israël occupe depuis 1967.

en/ *New Middle East* is a dialogue between a masked soldier and the woman that he is burying alive. This conversation between the perpetrator and the victim becomes increasingly absurd. The 2013 piece is both a fictionalised representation of the Syrian (civil) war and a vision of the totalitarian violence that is gripping the Middle East.

- Bashar Murkus is one of the founders of Haifa's Khashabi Theatre. For *New Middle East* he collaborated with Oyoun Theatre in the Golan Heights, a part of Syria that was occupied by Israel in 1967.

ABOUT BASHAR MURKUS

Bashar Murkus is a Palestinian playwright and director and founding ensemble member of the Khashabi Theatre in Haifa. Through collective research he develops new plays that both reflect and engage with the regional Palestinian community. His work has been seen in Palestine, France, Belgium, Tunisia, Lebanon, and Morocco. As writer/director, his plays include *Parallel Time*, *The Belli Belli Bel*, *Whips*, *Sitt Bel Uffeh*, and *The Year of Snow*. Recent productions as director include: *Bye Bye Gillo* by Taha Adnan, *The Conference of the Birds* by Farid ud-Din Attar, and *A New Middle East* by Motaz Abu Saleh. Murkus studied theatre at the University of Haifa, where he now teaches acting and directing.

ABOUT KHASHABI THEATRE

Khashabi Ensemble (Khashabi in Arabic means 'wood' or 'stage') was created in 2011 by a group of young Palestinian theatre professionals in Haifa, seeking to challenge the traditional forms of art in the community. After three years of homelessness, time has now come for the group to establish its own space: the Khashabi Ensemble Theatre. The new theatre will be located in an old building in the historic Wadi Salib area of downtown Haifa, from which the majority of Palestinian residents were forcibly expelled in 1948 and which until today is the target of ongoing Judaisation.

By developing this space, where young Palestinian theatre professionals and artists are free to create, experiment and perform, Khashabi Ensemble Theatre aims to generate a new artistic movement that can challenge existing norms, empower the local community, and preserve and reinvent the idea of Palestinian identity. It is a space where Palestinian artists can develop new, alternative forms of theatre and arts, challenging the cultural, social and artistic status quo, and where a novel artistic ideology can be born, based on the ideals of cooperation, experimentation and mutual support.

Through its productions, performances and workshop, Khashabi Ensemble Theatre wishes to introduce theatre and the arts to a wide range of new audiences, many of whom have never been exposed to it before. Ultimately, it aims to use theatre and the arts as a vehicle for reviving Palestinian identity and promoting social change in the Palestinian community in Israel.