



Current Issue



what's inside?



Songlines podcast

• Download here



Arabic hip-hop collaboration comes to Roundhouse in London

Posted on October 7th, 2010 in **World Music**.

Lyrical Alliance is a collaboration between some of the finest hip-hop talents of the Arab world and UK and US hip-hop artists. It was conceived as part of Dash Arts Arabic Series – four major commissions stretching across two years and involving theatre, dance and music from across North Africa, the Middle East and the Arab diaspora. The series began with *Babel* at London's Sadler's Wells in May 2010, a contemporary dance work by Sidi Larbi Cherkooui, Damien Jalet and Antony Gormley.

Lyrical Alliance, the second of the commissions, culminates in a concert at London's Roundhouse on October 16, hosted by the UK's DJ MK, who has worked with Dizzee Rascal and Roots Manuva, and featuring top US hip-hop star Talib Kweli, who collaborated with Mos Def as a member of Black Star in the 90s. *Lyrical Alliance* also brings together Palestine's Tamer Nafar and Shadia Mansour, Lebanon's VJ Jana Saleh and Rayess Bek, Jordan's Samm and Algeria's Rabah Donquishoot.

The Dash Arts Arabic Series set out to celebrate Arabic cultural identity and to challenge preconceived ideas of Arabic culture through its commissions. For the *Lyrical Alliance* commission, the hip-hop emcees have taken the Mu'allaqat *qasida* (poems) as their starting point. The Mu'allaqat are seven long pre-Islamic poems from 6th century Arabia. Their name means 'the hanging poems', and they are said to have hung on or in the Ka'aba in Mecca. The *Lyrical Alliance* collaborators have used these great poems in live sessions and workshops through this year, building towards a series of major concert in the autumn 2010, including the Roundhouse event.

Following on from the *Lyrical Alliance*, the Arabic Series will also co-produce a tribute to the Arab world's greatest singer, Oum Kalthoum, with London's Barbican and bring a theatre production *One Thousand and One Nights*, directed by Tim Supple and adapted by Tim and Hanan al-Shaykh to the UK.

www.dasharts.org.uk/arabic

Tags: arabic hip-hop, roundhouse, talib kweli

Latest News

- Arabic hip-hop collaboration comes to Roundhouse in London
- OUTERINDIA residency at Rich Mix in east London brings India to the UK
- Musicport Festival hits the north east October 22-24
- Megastar Sami Yusuf releases new single for the flood victims of Pakistan
- The October 2010 Songlines podcast is now available through iTunes
- October 2010 issue of Songlines (#71) is on sale in the UK from September 3
- Indian composer AR Rahman playlist and the 10 best new releases in the October issue of Songlines (#71)
- Kershaw is back on BBC Radio 3 for new world music show

