PRESS RELEASE

The Emirati-French Cultural Programme Continues with TRANCE-FORMS
A theatre master-class concluding with the production of a groundbreaking theatrical performance titled ‘I Am My Language’

Abu Dhabi, January 31, 2017: Abu Dhabi Tourism & Culture Authority (TCA Abu Dhabi), the French Embassy and the Institut français have collaborated with the French National School of Dramatic Arts in the context of an Emirati-French Cultural Programme with a concentrated Theatre Training, titled TRANCE-FORMS. This performing arts project will conclude with four theatrical shows titled ‘I Am My Language’, taking place on 25, 26, 27, and 28 February, 2017, at Manarat Al Saadiyat on Saadiyat Island, Abu Dhabi. This project seeks to pave the way for the emergence of an experimental and innovative theatrical group in the UAE.

TRANCE-FORMS entailed the training of UAE-based actors and comedians by professionals from the French National Academy of Dramatic Arts, in Abu Dhabi and Paris that ran through November 2016 to January 2017. Following an open-call audition, this master class unraveled in three phases: an intensive training at Manarat Al Saadiyat in Abu Dhabi, followed by training sessions at the French National School of Dramatic Arts in Paris, concluding with the theatrical production of ‘I Am My Language’ at Manarat Al Saadiyat on Saadiyat Island, Abu Dhabi. Participants were chosen after auditions and a rigorous selection process that took place in October, 2016, where the judging panel comprised French and Emirati theatre experts. The open call resulted in bringing together a combination of actors and performers from different backgrounds and countries, like Kyrgyzstan, Jordan, Armenia, Syria, Palestine, USA, Morocco, Columbia, France and the UAE. Designed to provide a unique opportunity for talent across the country, TRANCE-FORMS aims to profile a novel generation of theatrical performers in the UAE, through this artistic production.

HE Mohammed Al Mubarak, Chairman of TCA Abu Dhabi said: “TRANCE-FORMS consisted of three integrated phases that constituted the presentation of a holistic performance, combining movement and sound to reflect several humanistic expressions. The idea behind the ‘I Am My Language’ performance is to question both our relationship to art, our emotions when confronted with beauty, and explore our common origins through universality and humanism, through a conversation between civilisations and the contemporary world. From a methodical point of view, the performance will focus on several artistic disciplines such as theatre, dance, music, and poetry, connecting a variety of languages and cultural backgrounds for the creation of a common scenic dialogue. It is part of our mandate, in the Abu Dhabi Tourism & Culture Authority, to foster a cultural atmosphere for the
growth of local talent and programmes with such profound creative expressions, which would assume the capacity to reflect the flourishing artistic spirit in Abu Dhabi to the rest of the world.”

His Excellency Michel Miraillet, Ambassador of France to the United Arab Emirates declared: “Culture plays a key role in the very close and diverse relationship between France and the UAE. This project, which is part of the Emirati-French Cultural program - In dialogue with the Louvre Abu Dhabi, was designed to bring together the best of the French theater tradition, that dates back to the 17th century, with a new generation of talented UAE-based artists. This genuine cooperation aims at nurturing new talents who reflect the country they live in: multicultural, open-minded, and talented. Through an innovative artistic process, it has achieved the creation of a pioneering theater troupe that explores universality beyond the diversity of languages, illustrating once more the shared commitment of France and the UAE to peace and tolerance.”

The research team was inspired by the cosmopolitan multiple talents, and the common youthful energy they observed in the auditions. Correspondingly, the performance will encapsulate the evolution of Abu Dhabi as a city, and the UAE as a country, through portraying the universal concepts of youth, memory and love. This will be achieved through an assembly of dances, music, poems, life stories and recitals from both Arabic and French classical literature.

The multidisciplinary course is directed by Marcel Bozonnet, who entered the Comédie-Française in 1983, and became the director of the French National School of Dramatic Arts from 1993 to 2001. Subsequently, he was appointed Director of the Comédie-Française in 2001, before establishing his own company ‘Les Comédiens-Voyageurs,’ in 2007. Marcel Bozonnet is currently an associate-artist at the National Dramatic Centre (Theatre of the Union in Limoges city) and is part of the Academy’s teaching staff. The performance is also being directed by Caroline Marcadé, who was a soloist member of the Opera of Paris Theatre Research Group, from 1973-1980. In 1979, she formed the Caroline Marcadé troupe, which in 1999 became the Elan Noir-Théâtre Evadé troupe - in which she staged many choreographic creations. Since 1985, she has worked as a choreographer in over 100 theatre and opera shows. In 1993, she designed the “Body and Space” department within the French National School of Dramatic Arts where, along with her students, she creates numerous plays. Today, Caroline Marcadé is a director and professor at the French National School of Dramatic Arts, with several published and staged plays.

Tickets for the show will soon be available on 800tickets.com

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ABOUT ABU DHABI TOURISM & CULTURE AUTHORITY (TCA Abu Dhabi)
Abu Dhabi Tourism & Culture Authority conserves and promotes the heritage and culture of Abu Dhabi emirate and leverages them in the development of a world-class, sustainable destination of distinction, which enriches the lives of visitors and residents alike. The authority manages the emirate’s tourism sector and markets the destination internationally through a wide range of activities aimed at attracting visitors and investment. Its policies, plans and programmes relate to the preservation of heritage and culture, including protecting archaeological and historical sites and to developing museums, including the Louvre Abu Dhabi, Zayed National Museum and Guggenheim Abu Dhabi. TCA Abu Dhabi supports intellectual and artistic activities and cultural events to nurture a rich cultural environment and honour the emirate’s heritage. A key authority role is to create synergy in the destination’s development through close co-ordination with its wide-ranging stakeholder base.
http://tcaabudhabi.ae/en

THE CNSAD OF PARIS / FRENCH NATIONAL ACADEMY OF DRAMATIC ARTS
The Conservatoire National Supérieur d’Art Dramatique (CNSAD) is an institution of higher education under the supervisory authority of the French Ministry of Culture. Its main mission is to provide specialised instruction in theatre arts. This teaching includes the theoretical knowledge and practical mastery needed to work as an actor. Rich in a two century-long experience, the CNSAD is deeply steeped in French theatre and culture.

ABOUT THE CULTURAL DEPARTMENT OF THE FRENCH EMBASSY/INSTITUT FRANÇAIS IN THE UAE
The Institut Français in the United Arab Emirates is the cultural department of the French Embassy. It is responsible for promoting French creation, thought and language, as well as fostering bilateral exchanges and cultural, artistic, educational, academic and scientific partnerships between France and the UAE. It is involved in a vast range of activities, including: organization of and participation in exhibitions, lectures, shows and fairs, film festivals, concerts, dance and theatre shows; training of teachers of French as a foreign language; promotion of French higher education; support for French cultural industries and institutions in their development projects in the UAE, strategic guidance of the Alliances françaises and monitoring of French schools in the UAE.
www.institut-francais.com