

SATURDAY  
11<sup>th</sup> OF  
FEBRUARY  
2012  
8.30 PM

INSTITUT  
DU MONDE  
ARABE

معهد العالم  
العربي

HUMAN  
RIGHTS  
WATCH

## PRESS RELEASE

*The Ara World Institute presents*

**Lamia  
Safieddine**

**DANSE**

**Lilith**

**SATURDAY 11th OF FEBRUARY 2012 at 8.30 PM**

*Under the high patronage of his excellency Mr. Boutros Assaker*

*Ambassador of Lebanon in France*

*UNESCO-Lebanon and the lebanese Ministry of Culture*



**IN THE NAME OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS**  
**In the framework of the Arab Spring's challenges**

**A UNIQUE PERFORMANCE IN THE BENEFIT OF HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH  
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE ARAB WORLD INSTITUTE**

**An Arabic contemporary dance performance with songs and music of**

*Abed Azrié, Rabih Abou-Khalil, Jacques Brel, Safy Boutella,  
Régine Crespin, Fayrouz, Khaled, Marcel Khalifé, Maurice Ravel,  
Oum Kalthoum*

“

***“My dance symbolizes woman's freedom and invincibility”***

**Lamia Safieddine**

**Lilith's demo, 2010: [www.cielamiasfieddine.com/video](http://www.cielamiasfieddine.com/video)**

**And God created... Lilith.**

**A myth and a tribute to the universal woman**

In the monotheistic mythologies, God, before creating Eve, shaped Adam and Lilith from the same soil, and made them equal in all.

Lilith, Leila in Arabic, "The Night", lived her femininity while embracing her masculinity. Adam, rejecting the woman inside of him, drove Lilith to leave him. Decayed, damned, she becomes since then the symbol of a pejorative femininity (evil, dark, earth...).

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An **audacious choreography** expressing the attraction to the character and the story of Lilith, and questioning the myth that reveals the Woman in her violence as well as in her strength, tenderness and femininity.

Lamia Safieddine's performance wants to be the reflection of this free woman whose power to bring life can move mountains and allows her to stand up after every fall, every humiliation and every oppression.

*Lamia Safieddine tries to make of the legend a collective memory brought as an echo of Lilith's power.*



## **Lamia Safieddine, choreographer, dancer**

**Sensitive since always to the cause of the emancipation of the Arab woman**

Beyond the cultural aspect, Lamia Safieddine considers dance as a commitment, a relation between earth and the origins of every being. As a young woman, she rose up against the Arab woman's condition, the confinement of the individual in religious identities and most of all against the civil war which, until 1992, mutilated and took hostage her Lebanon, the land of cedars.

The universal language of dance imposes itself to her as a privileged mean to express her rebellion and to channel her fight for a fairer and more tolerant world.

As an accomplished choreographer, she directs several performances in prestigious venues, such as **Paris' Zenith, the Café de la Danse, UNESCO, the New Morning, the Chabada, the Paul Eluard Theatre, Massrah Al Madina, Monnot...**

She has also shared the stage with several renowned artists such **Bashung, Vanessa Redgrave, Marcel Khalife, Abed Azarie, Safi Botella...**

Light : **Dominique Delapierre** - Music : **Laurence Chapellier**  
Visual design : **Daniel Ablin et Jessy Deshais**



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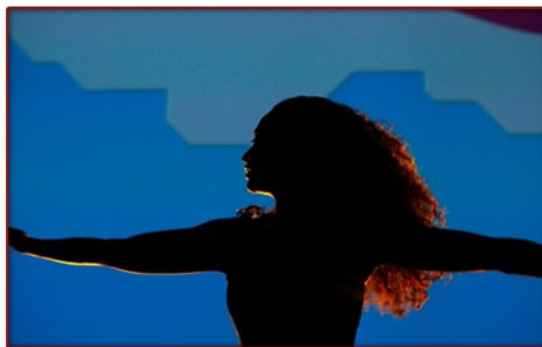
## **A performance for the benefit of Human Rights Watch Woman's Rights Division**

Paris | Human Rights Watch  
Follow Human Rights Watch on Facebook and Twitter

**Human Rights Watch** is one of the world's leading independent organizations dedicated to defending and protecting human rights. For more than 30 years, Human Rights Watch has held rigorous and objective investigations on situations where human rights are violated and denounce abuses. Human Rights Watch gives voice to the oppressed and holds oppressors accountable for their crimes.

When mass uprisings shook North Africa and Middle-East, Human Rights Watch was in the front line to investigate on abuses and influence the international community's responses, working hand in hand with local human rights' defenders mobilized for historical changes.

**The profits of Lilith's performance of the 11th of February will be for the benefit of Human Rights Watch (Woman's Rights Division).**



### **Partners**

**Arab World Institute**, which priority mission is to make known arab world's multiples realities, is glad to join this cultural event, which is also an important moment of solidarity and support to Human Rights Watch's cause, particularly for their actions in favor of Women's Rights.

**UNESCO-Lebanon and the Lebanese Ministry of Culture  
Parliamentarian Group of French-Lebanese Friendship in France  
The Lebanese Tourism Office  
Middle East  
FNAC**

### **Practical informations**

Unique performance saturday 11th of February 2012 at 8.30pm  
IMA - 1, rue des Fossés St-Bernard – 75005 Paris Métro Jussieu  
Tickets' prices : 26€ et 100€ (sponsorship price)  
Booking IMA : 01 40 51 38 38 – [www.imarabe.org](http://www.imarabe.org)  
Tickets : en vente à la FNAC – [www.fnacspectacles.com](http://www.fnacspectacles.com)

**Price : 26€  
Fnac/IMA : 23,40€  
Sponsorship price :  
100€**

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## Read in the press

"Lamia Safieddine's dance is a voyage. Her performance is a bridge and the stage is a stairway... The generosity of her performance comes from her capability of bringing different territories to cohabitate, and from leading the dance to become a cross road for exchange."

*Les Saisons de la danse*

"With Lamia Safieddine, we can really talk about contemporary Arab dance. This journey makes us dive into the multiculturalism of Arabic dance".

*Le Monde*

"Lamia Safieddine: the head and the legs. This multicultural performer, born in Guinea, raised in Morocco, Lebanon, Côte d'Ivoire, who lived in Brazil before landing in Paris, leaves no place for doubt. Bringing together in her body language and choreographies the heritage of the Orient and Occident, this young woman PhD in the sciences of education, inexhaustible and passionate, claims precise sources of inspiration".

*Le Figaroscope*

"Her movements are so graceful; you can't but stare into this perfect picture of implicit messages."

*Daily Star*

"Lamia's performance defeats the retarded spirits, sclerotic and frozen like statues. Arabic language which accompanies the harmony and the cohesion of the body with the letters of the dance and the expressions of its swings, is nothing else than Lamia's claim for her sacred right to freedom".

*As-Safir*

"An alphabet dancing the movement leads us to visual ecstasy, to the rhythm of a body shaped to become the perfect subject of expression".

*Al Akhbar*

"The Lebanese Marcel Khalife, one of the most talented composers and performers of the Orient, gives wings to the poems of Palestinian Mahmoud Darwish, one of the greatest writers of the Arab world. Lamia Safieddine, from her side, gives them both a body. Body and soul".

*Arabies (France)*

"Lamia Safieddine weaves woman's destiny with her veils... A body that dances for the one who is arriving to us from the Book of Psalms"

*Annahar May Menassa*

