The World Dance Day Festival in Lebanon

hosted by the
Lebanese American
University (LAU)
Byblos, Campus

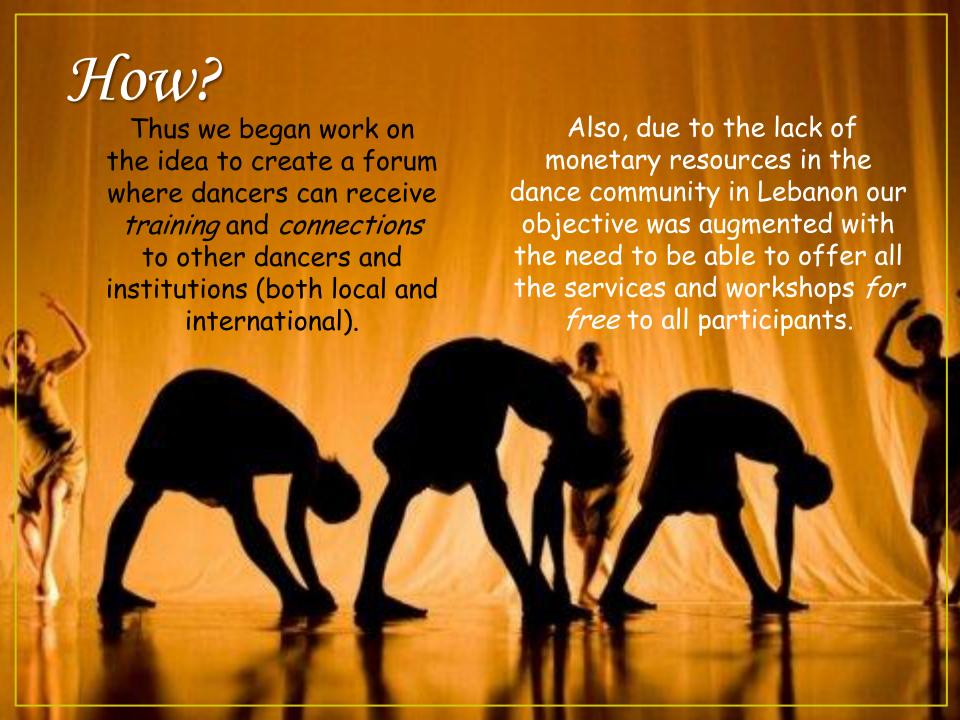
in Partnership with Byblos Municipality



Who are we?

We are a group of people (Dancers, Dance enthusiasts, Supports of the Arts, Educators and so on) who are concerned with Dance and its situation in Lebanon and ultimately its exposure to dance abroad.





Why Byblos?

First, Byblos's proximity to a large educational institution (LAU) which is a supporter and encourager of the arts in Lebanon.

Second, the Byblos
Municipality is a vigorous
entity which greatly
supports the arts and
cultural activities.

Third, the location (away from the crowds and noise of Belrut) lends itself to a week of festivities and educational activities and also allows for people who do not live in Beirut (close to several other festivals and events) to have dance opportunities and benefit.

Fourth and finally, historically speaking,
Byblos is a point of interaction and
development. We think it can continue to
be so now and in the future.

I-Background information





International Dance Day (World Dance Day) is celebrated on <u>April 29th</u>. The holiday was introduced in <u>1982</u> by the International Dance Committee of the UNESCO International Theatre Institute. The date was suggested by Pyotr Gusev to commemorate the birthday of <u>Jean-Georges Noverre</u>.



Among the goals of the Dance Day are to increase the awareness of the importance of dance among the general public, as well as to persuade governments all over the world to provide a proper place for dance in all systems of education, from *primary* to *higher*.

As we mentioned previously, Our goal is to enhance the dance awareness of the Lebanese Dance public by offering a string of workshops, performances and activities which people (dancers and non-dancers) can attend and/or participate in. We strive to make this a yearly event in Byblos with the first year to be April 2011.

II- Mission of the World Dance Day Festival in Lebanon (WDDFL)

The Mission of the Festival is to:

- Enhance public understanding and appreciation of the art form (dance) and its cultural and historical significance.
- Provide a sound scientific/aesthetic base for professional education and training of young dancers and a forum for integrating and disseminating information on dance education.
- Expose Lebanese dancers/choreographers/teachers to international work through
 workshops which are practical as well as lecture based. These workshops will be taught by
 international artists from Europe, United States, Canada, Russia and other countries as well.
- Encourage and support the creation of new dance works by both established and emerging choreographers in Lebanon and the Middle East.
- Preserve our Lebanese dance heritage through continued presentation of classic works, as well as through archival efforts.
- Build wider national and international audiences for Lebanese dance and dance in general.
- To enhance public awareness of the area of Byblos and its artistic, historic and geographic importance.
- Draw the attention of the government to the need for emphasis, attention and focus on arts education.
- Highlight the need for a higher educational institute where local talents can graduate with a high level of dance expertise, thus allowing for less need of foreign talent.

III- Vision



The vision of the WDDFL is committed to serving the needs of dance, dancers, choreographers and professionals in dance-related fields (in Lebanon and the Middle East). As the needs of the field change and grow, the Festival's program will be expanded and altered over the years to help accommodate these regions as best needed. WDDFL programs are developed based on the previously mentioned mission statement.



EDUCATION: Professional training programs for dancers, choreographers, and teachers.

Academic Sessions which last 5-10 days (attracting students from different areas of Lebanon and other Middle Eastern Countries) where local and foreign artists come to teach students.

 Dance Professionals Workshop (both intensive and extended) where artists come from Abroad to teach other professionals in Lebanon. PERFORMANCES: Series of residencies and performances by major established companies as well as emerging artists from around the world.

- A 5-10 day event where workshops and performances are given at LAU Byblos.
- One big event to take place at the end of the festival period (Grand Gala).







V-Specifics for the 2011 Festival

Dates:

April 3rd will be the official opening ceremony and the close of the ceremony will be **April 9th**. The closing will be a grand concert.

Offerings:

Workshops will be offered by local and foreign artists. Concerts will take place at different times and locations throughout the week.

2011 Organizers/Sponsors:

LAU School of Arts and Sciences (Byblos Campus), Byblos Municipality, Dancewear.