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DANCE, MUSIC AND STREET ART MAKE SPIRITS SOAR

Shoof, Ensemble Al Nabolsy, The Whirling Dervishes of Damascus (Syria/Tunisia/France)

WHITE SPIRIT

AUSTRALIAN EXCLUSIVE

‘Mixing dance and singing Sufis with street art, the result is a sensory and spiritual wonder’. Nova

Perth audiences will be the only people in Australia who will get to share the thrilling collision of Sufi music and mysticism meet street art in the Perth festival exclusive *White Spirit*.

Ensemble Al Nabolsy & the Whirling Dervishes of Damascus bring their uplifting melodies, enriched by spellbinding dance moves, directly from war-torn Syria’s Umayyad Mosque.

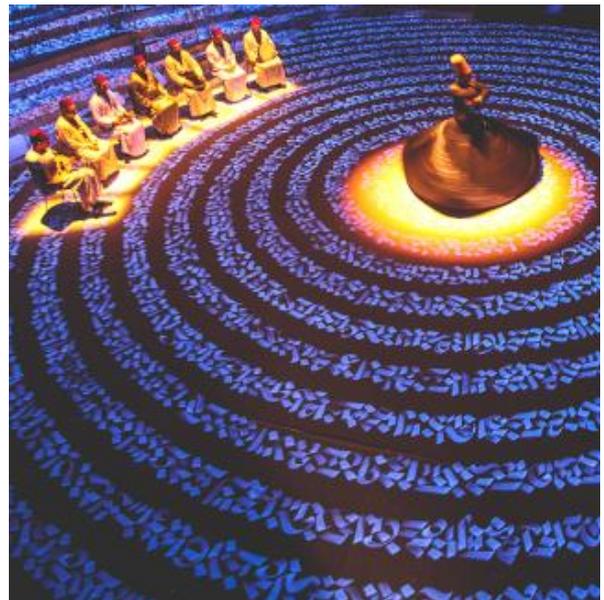
Led by the stirring voice of **Noureddine Khourchid**, the son of a Syrian Sufi sheik, seven singers perform exquisite invocations, songs of praise and Sufi poems as three Whirling Dervishes hypnotically spin on the stage.

This sublime musical experience is made thrillingly vivid as the stage comes alive with illuminated calligraphy painted by Tunisian street artist Shoof.

Shoof’s striking brushstrokes, inspired by Arabic calligraphy, provide a dazzling backdrop to the ritual music and movement of *White Spirit*.

Trance, music and visual art come together for a spiritual spectacle as exciting as it is enchanting.

The 2018 Perth Festival program is spun together with ritualistic magical moments from across the world.



For the Sufis, the quest for the divine can be attained through a trance, through a repetition of the same leitmotiv which is sung and danced and which expresses the soul’s burning desire to return to its original source.

Perth Festival Artistic Director Wendy Martin says: ‘As with the Tao Buddhist performers of Taiwan’s *Beyond Time* who open our Festival, the Whirling Dervishes of Syria’s *White Spirit* bring our Festival to a close by reminding us in the most compelling way that human harmony can transcend all division.

‘It is an absolutely astonishing collision of the contemporary and the traditional as the extraordinary singing and ritual dance are animated by the street-art “calli-graffiti” of Shoof’s live paintings projected onto the stage and performers.’

PERTH FESTIVAL

9 FEBRUARY –
4 MARCH 2018

Founder



Principal Partner



WHAT: WHITE SPIRIT

WHERE: His Majesty's Theatre

WHEN: Sat 2 – Sun 3 Mar, 7.30pm

TICKETS: Adult \$36 - \$69, Friends \$44- \$62, Concession \$47 - \$56, Students \$16 - \$25

BOOKINGS AND FESTIVAL INFO: 08 6488 5555 – perthfestival.com.au

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Perth Festival

Founded in 1953 by The University of Western Australia, Perth Festival is the longest running international arts festival in Australia and Western Australia's premier cultural event. The Festival has developed a worldwide reputation for excellence in its international program, the presentation of new works and the highest quality artistic experiences for its audience. For 64 years the Festival has welcomed to Perth some of the world's greatest living artists and now connects with hundreds of thousands of people each year.

Wendy Martin is the Artistic Director 2016–19.

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