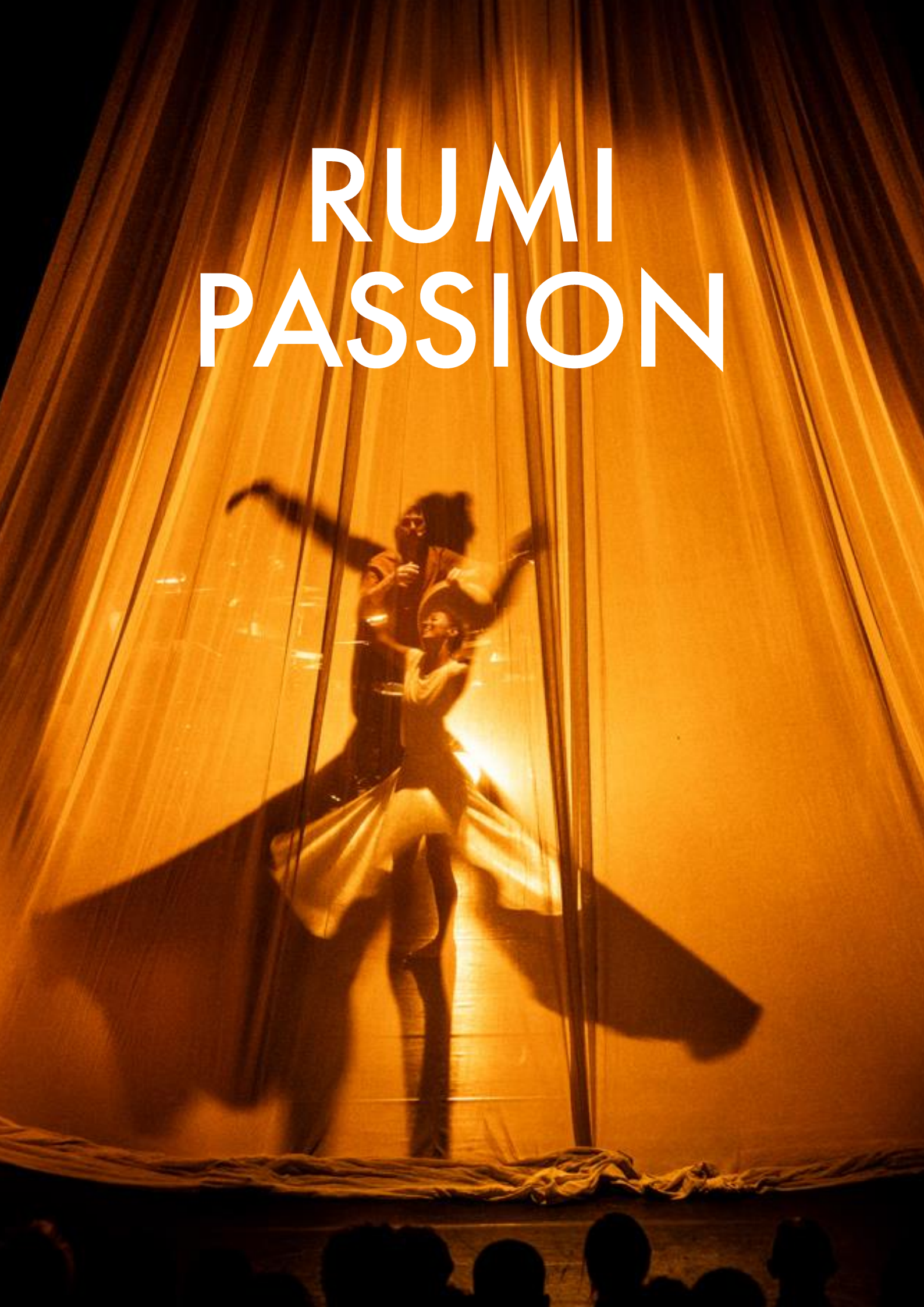


RUMI PASSION



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Music theatre: a captivating fusion of music, dance and poetry

For more than 750 years, the literary works of Persian poet and Sufi mystic Jalal ad-Din Rumi have continued to resonate. Many of his insights came through meeting his mentor Shams-e Tabrizi. As a result of that relationship, Rumi developed into a master writer. As the Shakespeare of the Arab world, his poems still capture the imagination today. Among other things, he talks about contemporary themes such as migration, mental health and tolerance.

A brand new ensemble led by Osama Abdulrasol seizes upon Rumi's life's journey and his special connection with Shams for an all-encompassing spectacle. Combined with a unique set, music, choreography and poetry.

We bring Rumi closer to the audience, letting them (re)discover his work and inner revolution. We do so with a total experience of music, dance, poetry and new compositions. Iraqi-Belgian composer Osama Abdulrasol is the driving force behind this concept and put together a musical ensemble. Complemented by a high-level artistic team, the collective brings Rumi's journey to life. In a world full of challenges, we offer a moment of reflection and togetherness, where love is the common thread that connects us all.



PUBLISHED IN THE PRESS *(in Dutch)*

“In the verses of Jalal ad-Din Muhammad Rumi (1207-1273), there is something very beautiful that transcends time. (...) That ‘something’ is simple wisdom. Rumi Passion highlights that simplicity in a subtle and layered production featuring music, dance, singing, and recitation.”

****** De Standaard:** [Musical theatre ‘Rumi Passion’: totally immersed in spiritual quest of 13th-century Sufi mystic](#) (21 September)

“Ghent-based international collective pays tribute to the poet Rumi, whose verses are even tattooed on the body of Brad Pitt. (...) What generations find in Rumi is love. In times of polarization, let’s look at each other through a different lens. Let’s be open to others and start from goodness, from love.”

VRT NWS: [Ghent international collective pays tribute to poet Rumi](#) (19 September)

“The relationship between Rumi and Shams, along with the poems that emerged from it, serves as the inspiration for our composition. We interpret his work with a contemporary twist, reflecting how people view the world today. In doing so, we aim to build a bridge between the various cultures in our society.”

Het Laatste Nieuws: [Ghent collective brings performance around Persian poet Rumi: ‘Building a bridge between different cultures’](#) (13 September)

Radio 1 - [New music and dance performance in Ghent brings ode to Rumi, one of the most famous poets of the Near East](#) (19 September)

De Randkrant: [A friendship that transcends all differences](#) (November)

TRAILER ([link](#))



ON STAGE

Osama Abdulrasol (qanun, oud, composition), Farnoosh Khodadadeh (daf, vocals, poetics), Pelin Başar (ney, vocals), Shahab Azinmehr (tar, setar, vocals), Damla Aydin (cello), François Taillefer (percussion), Khaled Al-Hafez (vocals), Griet Desutter (poetics, narrator) and Işıl Bıçakçı (choreography, dance)

LIVE IN 2024-2025 *(in Belgium)*

2 November	CC De Warande, Turnhout
3 November	30 CC, Stadsschouwburg Leuven
29 November	Corso, Berchem
30 November	CC Nova, Wetteren
13 December	De Centrale, Ghent
14 December	De Centrale, Ghent
15 December	Budascoop, Kortrijk
21 December	CC Zwaneberg, Heist-op-den-Berg
15 January	CC Westrand, Dilbeek
23 January	Club Kalmthout

CONTEXT

At the end of 2023, it marked exactly 750 years since Rumi's passing. Every year, on December 17th, his death is widely commemorated throughout the Arab world and Turkey, in what is known as the 'Wedding Night'. Worldwide today, he is still considered a master poet of immense literary value. His poetry has a timeless beauty that continues to appeal. Besides his linguistic skills, he dealt with themes of tolerance, migration, identity and mental health.

This performance counts as a poetic journey, guided by the timeless words of Jalal ad-Din Rumi and Shams Tabrizi. Their narrative of love and tolerance is at the heart of our artistic work. Therefore, we not only bring the spirit of Rumi to life, but we bridge different cultures.

We create an experience that brings people together, a unique opportunity to forge deeper meanings. This performance is not just for enthusiasts of world music or poetry. We appeal to a wider community open to wonder. For (new) Europeans who have their roots in the Middle East or Turkey, we create a space where they can be proud of their heritage. This performance is a tribute to their cultural richness and an invitation to feel at home in a story of love and reconciliation.

The stream of love that runs through this performance reaches beyond artistic frameworks. It is a force that unites us, reminding us of our shared humanity and inviting us to reflect together on what is truly valuable. In a world full of challenges, we offer a moment of reflection and togetherness, where love is the thread that connects us all.

Theologian and advisor-dramaturg Jonas Slaets created a special episode for his podcast series 'Groetjes van Shambhala' (Greetings from Shambhala) as part of this performance. It features a wonderful conversation between Jonas Slaets and musician Farnoosh Khodadadeh, offering listeners deeper insight into the various facets of the performance. Ideally, every visitor to 'Rumi Passion' could listen to [this podcast episode](#) – in Dutch - either before or after the show to fully appreciate its context.

CREDITS

Concept: Filip Standaert, Osama Abdulrasol, Farnoosh Khodadadeh

Direction: Filip Standaert

Composition, qanun, oud: Osama Abdulrasol

Daf, vocals: Farnoosh Khodadadeh

Ney, vocals: Pelin Başar

Setar, vocals: Shahab Azinmehr

Cello: Damla Aydin

Percussion: François Taillefer

Vocals: Khaled Al-Hafez

Choreography, dance: Işıl Bıçakçı

Poetics, narrator: Griet Desutter

Research and poetry selection: Farnoosh Khodadadeh, Filip Standaert, Griet Desutter

Set and lighting design: Alexander Ronsse

Theologian and dramaturgy advisor: Jonas Slaets

Costumes: Inge Coleman

Management: Liselotte Vantrappen

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Photos: Geert Vandepoele

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