

Amira Chebli™ A Ma Place



Foundland Collective™ Wish You Were Here!



Monira Al Qadiri™ The Trans-Pacific Plant



Nadiah El Shazly™ + Bledarte™



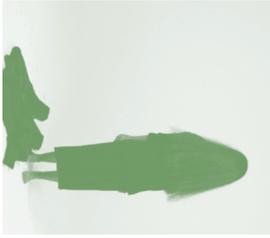
Sorour Darabi™ Farcié



Souk Seesions™ Glitter™ + DJ Dzirī™



Maryam Tafakory™



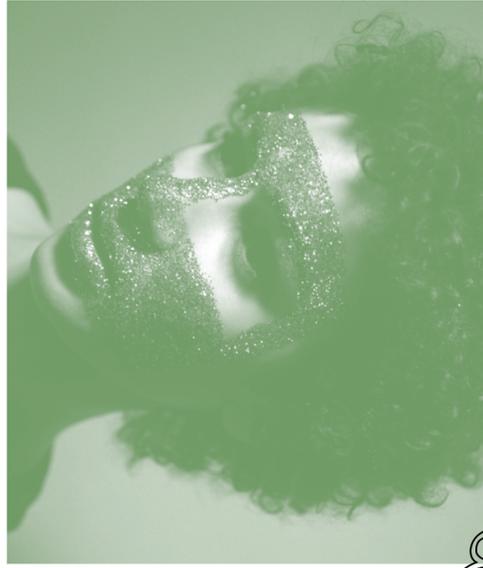
BOIBAND™



Margo van de Linde™ Improvised Feminism



Deena Abdelwahed™



Bosaina™



Nur™



Antonia Baehr™ EXIT



Danya Hammoud™ O.T.



BAM! Ploof, zofff, rssshhhhh, tschh, wssshhh, tashshsweeshh. Are you already familiar with Tashweesh? If it doesn't ring any bells, it is an Arabic word: an onomatopoeic sound of background noise during a telephone conversation or on the radio, the din that you hear in a large group of people. From tashweesh to... feminism!

If we think of feminism today, we hear a multiplicity of sounds, a brouhaha in which we can make out Intersectional! #MeToo! Queer! Black Lives Matter! Women's March! Decolonize! Intergenerational! Headscarf! Post-binary! In this mishmash of opinions, loud protests and movements, Beursschouwburg and the Goethe Institute invite you to the ten-day multidisciplinary arts festival: Tashweesh. The focus lies not simply on a European definition of feminism, but wants to create a bridge between a broad palette of feminist voices from the Middle East, North Africa and Europe. We take a close look at the usual dichotomy and stereotypes about gender and reveal that the narrow polarization between the West and Arabic Muslim societies does not correspond to reality. During our performances, small talks, reading groups, screenings, concerts and hedonistic club nights, together we will create an answer to what can currently be seen as 'the norm', finding common ground beyond the supposed cultural frontiers. We'll be talking about headscarves, gender conformity, public space and activist strategies, and we will question our canon. No more background noise: just safe space!

beursschouwburg with Goethe-Institut Brüssel

17 • 27 OCT

- Nikita Dhawan (IN/AT/DE)
- Engagement (BE)
- Soraja Eismann (DE)
- Dina Makram-Ebeid (EG)
- Salma El Tarzi (EG)
- Malika Hamidi (FR)
- Johanna M. Keller (DE/EG)
- Maryam Tafakory (IR/UK)
- Sorour Darabi (IR/FR)
- Tucké Royale (DE)
- Foundland Collective (S/AS)
- BOIBAND (DE)
- Sara Shaarawi (EG)
- Amahl Khotiri (JO)
- Just for the record (BE)
- Bledarte (BE)
- Monira Al Qadiri (LB)
- Glitter (MA)
- DJ Dzirī (BE)
- Mona Moon (DE)
- Hana Miletić (BE)
- Margo van de Linde (NL)
- Samira Saleh (NL)
- Mira Hamdi (TN)
- Jacinta Nandi (UK/DE)
- Miss Elli (BE)
- Laisse Les Filles Tranquilles (BE)
- Noms Peut-Être ! (BE)
- Nadab El Shazly (EG)
- Mounir Samuel (NL)
- Maryam Kamal Hedayat (IR)
- Danya Hammond (LB)
- Amira Chebli (TN)
- Deena Abdelwahed (TN)
- Soumaya Phéline (BE)
- Saddie Choua (BE)
- Nadje Sadig Al-Ali (JO)
- Rachida Aziz (BE)
- Antonia Baehr (DE)
- Nur (EG)
- Bosaina (EG)

TASHWEESH

FEMINIST VOICES FROM THE MIDDLE EAST, NORTH AFRICA & EUROPE SPEAK OUT AND PERFORM DURING THE MULTIDISCIPLINARY 10-DAY TASHWEESH FESTIVAL.

Opening lecture w/ Nikita Dhawan IN/AT/DE & Engagement BE

LECTURE, WE 17/10, 20:30, GOUDEN ZAAL, FREE

We aim our sights towards the importance of feminist alliances that cross borders.

There is growing attention to transnational feminist networks, to solidarity across borders. There is a living hope that citizen movements that transcend borders can tackle worldwide gender violence and stimulate gender equality. But this collective struggle for equality and worldwide attention to vulnerability can unintentionally also serve, or be overrun by, the political agenda of a neoliberal system.

Nikita Dhawan, professor of political theory and gender studies and director of the

Gender Studies: Identities – Discourses – Transformations research platform at the University of Innsbruck gives a critical opening lecture about the opportunities and limitations of global sisterhood from a post-colonial perspective.

Engagement is a movement that tackles sexism and abuse of power in the Belgian art world. This collective – comprising a growing group of performers – is creating a link in drawing attention to cross-border behaviour at the local level, as well as beyond (language) frontiers.

w/ Rósa Ómarsdóttir & Sirah Foighel Brutmann

Big talk on blind spots and double agendas in feminist debates

DISCUSSION, GOUDEN ZAAL, TH 18/10, 19:00, FREE ON RESERVATION

Feminism is a ubiquitous topic of conversation, from heated discussions about burkinis on beaches in the south of France or the ban on minors wearing headscarves, to worldwide condemnation of sexual violence during the New Year celebrations in Cologne. Looking closer at these examples, one starts to perceive a certain double agenda of the debate in society: women's rights are instrumentalized to spread resentment against 'Islam', 'the Arab community', or 'the migrants'.

This discussion evening touches on sensitive issues, the right to sexual self-determination and access to public space and aims to find ways to discuss these issues beyond harmful dichotomies.

w/ Sonja Eismann (DE) is a publicist, journalist, founder of Missy Magazin and author of Hot Topic: Popfeminism Today.

Dina Makram-Ebeid (EG) is an assistant professor, writing about work, social equality and social movements, with a special focus on Egypt.

Malika Hamidi (FR) is a PhD in sociology, specialized in Islam-feminism in Europe, and author of Un féminisme musulman, et pourquoi pas?

Salma El Tarzi (EG) is a celebrated documentary maker, visual artist, essayist and activist from Cairo. Moderated by Johanna M. Keller (DE/EG), cultural programme director for the MENA region at Goethe-Institut Cairo.

Maryam Tafakory IR/UK

AUDIOVISUAL LECTURE, GOUDEN ZAAL, TH 18/10, 20:30, 9/6 EURO

Are there no women's voices in post-revolutionary cinema in Iran?

In this audiovisual lecture, Maryam Tafakory speaks about the absence of female voices in post-revolutionary cinema in Iran. Born in Shiraz, Tafakory now works in London as an artist and filmmaker. Partly in the form of a

performance, she now examines her own work in terms of (self-) censorship, femininity, rights of transition, poetry and religion. On Tafakory's screen, all the boundaries between the personal and the political vanish right before our eyes.

Small Talk w/ Sorour Darabi IR/FR & Tucké Royale DE

BEURSCAFÉ, FR 19/10, 19:00, FREE

Trans works, trans life.

Sorour Darabi (performance artist) and Tucké Royal (singer with Boiband) lead the way for our Small Talks series! Carolina de França moderates the dialogue between these

two performers who explicitly thematize the post-binary – beyond the stereotypical split between man and woman. How do they interweave their post-binary thinking into their artistic practices and their lives?

Foundland Collective SA/SY

Wish You Were Here!

LECTURE PERFORMANCE, GOUDEN ZAAL, FR 19/10, 9/6 EUR

Early migration from the Middle East to the USA, in text, image & music

Lecture performance? Foundland Collective opens our eyes to this format with powerful texts, images, sound fragments and music. These have all been found in the Alixa Naff collection of the Smithsonian Museum (Washington D.C.), the world's largest archive

on early migration from the Middle East to the USA. The Foundland Collective is a transdisciplinary research platform founded by Lauren Alexander (Cape Town) and Ghalia Elsrakbi (Damascus). Today, they are operating from Amsterdam and Cairo. Come immerse yourself in their wonderfully refined cultural narrative.

BOIBAND DE

CONCERT, ZILVEREN ZAAL, FR 19/10, 22:00, FREE

Impossible to label. And that's the point.

Boy with an 'i' stands for questioning masculinity as penis talent, for the breaking of the voice, for accepting pregnant daddies and for the fleetingness of the West', claim these

German gender heroes. Queer, trans, pop, indie, punk, super-tough and full-on frontal emotions with a solid layer of production over the top. Purebred activists and fantastic musicians. This Must Be Seen!

A programme by Beursschouwburg & Goethe-Institut Brüssel in collaboration with Nedjma Hadj Benchelabi

Reading Group w/ Sara Shaarawi EG & Amahl Khouri JO

WITTE FOYER, SA 20/10, 17:00, FREE ON RESERVATION

Amahl Khouri and Sara Shaarawi are two prominent writers about theatre. Sara Shaarawi is an Egyptian writer and performer who is primarily active in the UK. Amahl Khouri is a queer and trans mestizo/amestha, a documentary theatre maker from Jordan.

In this Reading Group session, they exchange

ideas about writing within the contemporary theatrical canon and within the Arabic MENA region. Both authors read fragments from their respective work, from She He Me by Amahl and Niqabi Ninja by Sara. This is followed by a conversation about writing, theatre and feminism. Moderated by Nedjma Hadj Benchelabi

Small Talk w/ Just for the record BE & Bledarte BE

BEURSCAFÉ, SA 20/10, 19:00, FREE

Intersectional feminism from two Brussels collectives.

Two women-only collectives that work according to an intersectional feminist method (read: stand strong together against various discriminating factors at the same time) speak

out in our cafe. JFTR strives for better gender representation in the writing of history. Bledarte decolonises our brains, and culture is their instrument! Moderator Carolina de França also leads the discussion here – 100% Brussels Small Talk!

DOUBLE BILL Sorour Darabi IR + Monira Al Qadiri LB

PERFORMANCE, GOUDEN ZAAL, SA 20/10, 20:30, 14/11 EUR

SOROUR DARABI (IR) *FARCI.E*

Farci.e shows how language can be experienced as a strangling corset of established gender norms.

What happens when you have been raised in a 'neutral' language (a language that has no gender differentiations) and arrive in a country where everything has a gender? How can we speak about identity when a language already determines what is male or female?

The young Iranian artist Sorour Darabi was confronted with this when he/she arrived in Montpellier to study dance. Farsi, Darabi's mother tongue, has no masculine or feminine forms, and it is of no interest – in any case grammatically – whether it is a man or a woman who is speaking (the word for gender is جنسیت jenssiat', which means 'material'). French, on the other hand, constantly forces her/him to distinguish male from female, even in the search for his/her language of movement.

Accepting a word becomes a physical ordeal.

With charming impertinence, Darabi rebels against this violent form of authority. Farci.e is an androgynous solo that flirts with the limits of gender, an almost wordless monologue in which Sorour Darabi savours a language all her/his own.

MONIRA AL QADIRI (LB)

THE TRANS-PACIFIC PLANT

About masculinity between Beirut and Brussels.

Monira Al Qadiri^{1a} is fascinated by conventional and unconventional masculinity. She was born in Senegal and studied fine arts in Japan because she wanted nothing more than to become a (male!) manga character. She first mounted the stage with a performance about this history (creepy male doll of herself included). For the Tashweesh Festival she will create a new lecture performance about the role of gender in Beirut and Brussels.

Souk Sessions Glitteroo MA + DJ Dziri BE

CLUB NIGHT, ZILVEREN ZAAL, SA 20/10, 22:00, FREE

Arabic classics transformed into club bangers.

More than just a marketplace, the souk is a meeting place. And the Souk Sessions are the best party in Brussels where East and West dance together. For a few years now, the Moroccan party pioneer Glitter has already had Paris bouncing to a mix of Chaabi

and techno-futurism. Founder and resident DJ of the Souk Sessions, Sara Dziri completes the evening with her signature mix of minimal techno, acid house and Berber beats. Tonight, desert sands are drifting among the Brussels cobblestones.

Small talk w/ Mona Moon DE & Hana Miletić BE

BEURSCAFÉ, WE 24/10, 19:00, FREE

Yes we can.

Beursschouwburg artist-in-residence/visual artist Hana Miletić and cultural scholar/slam poet Mona Moon both have outspokenly

feminist working methods. These unique ladies engage in dialogue about their respective (successful) practices. Carolina de França also moderates today's Small Talk.

Margo van de Linde NL Improvised feminism

CONVERSATION/PERFORMANCE, WITTE FOYER, WE 24/10, 19:00, 9/6 EUR

An apparently simple conversation about an apparently complicated theme: feminism.

The Dutch actress and singer Margo van de Linde, who grew up in America, gladly calls herself a feminist. Yet she does not often admit it in conversations. She cannot exactly identify why. If feminism is such a difficult concept or territory for her, what is it like for others?

Feminism is laden with history, is clouded by theoretical texts, and leads to widely

diverse opinions. Sharing our opinions brings risks. What if someone realizes that we have not actually read everything that Simone de Beauvoir or Sojourner Truth actually wrote? What happens if we think something that deviates from the norm (and what actually is the norm)? Uncertainty stops us from speaking out, when it is precisely that – avoiding the subject – that keeps sexist tendencies afloat. Improved Feminism is an alternative place

of learning, an intimate circle of no more than 12 people in which a conversation is engaged for which personal experience and knowledge

form a basis. Two actresses lead the whole in an almost invisibly defined path by way of improvisation and a good joke.

Slam Night

POETRY SLAM, BEURSCAFÉ, WE 24/10, 20:30, FREE

No slam like feminist slam.

Personal, sophisticated and sinuous texts by six women who bombard us with new perspectives. As MC, the seasoned, engaged word artist Samira Saleh (NL) takes the Tashweesh Slam Night under her wing. Known for her work for Mama's Open Mic in Antwerp, she is

representing our country at Next Generation Speaks, a pioneering slam project in San Francisco. Saleh brings with her Mona Moon (DE), Mira Hamdi (TN), Jacinta Nandi (UK/DE), Margo van de Linde (NL) and Miss Elii (BE) – so many relevant voices with strong feminist leanings!

Small talk w/ Laisse Les Filles Tranquilles BE & Noms Peut-Être ! BE

BEURSCAFÉ, TH 25/10, 19:00, FREE

Guerrilla, super smart & stylish.

The Small Talk with the people behind Laisse les filles tranquilles (and who is not familiar with their not-to-be-missed stickers?) and

Noms Peut-Être ! will begin with their expertise in both online and offline feminist guerrilla activism.

Margo van de Linde NL Improvised feminism

CONVERSATION/PERFORMANCE, WITTE FOYER, TH 25/10, 19:00, 9/6 EUR

See above

Nadah El Shazly EG + Bledarte BE DJ SET

CONCERT, ZILVEREN ZAAL, TH 25/10, 20:30, 15/12 EUR

Avant-jazz an Egyptian tradition? It is now.

In Cairo as well, a conservative regime almost guarantees a thriving underground. Nadah El Shazly has by now become one of the pioneers of that parallel universe of creativity. She once started out as a punk singer, but her

Ahwar (Nawa Recordings) album is avant-jazz from traditional Egyptian music, while her voice sometimes reminds us of Nico and sometimes of Björk. For the first time, she and her unique formula will be with her band on a Belgian stage.

Small Talk w/ Mounir Samuel NL & Maryam Kamal Hedayat IR

CONVERSATION, BEURSCAFÉ, FR 26/10, 19:00, FREE

Opinion makers unite! We are talking about integration!

Mounir Samuel is an Egyptian-Dutch opinion maker (for lack of a term that covers it all) who

has taken up the cause on several occasions for post-binary thinking about gender in the Netherlands, not least among those who call themselves believers.

Margo van de Linde NL Improvised feminism

CONVERSATION/PERFORMANCE, WITTE FOYER, FR 26/10, 19:00, 9/6 EUR

See above

DOUBLE BILL Danya Hammoud LB + Amira Chebli TN

DANCE, GOUDEN ZAAL, FR 26/10, 20:30, 14/11 EUR

DANYA HAMMOUD (LB) *O.T.*

An expressionist jewel of a dance that moves and devastates.

In 1926 (!!!), Mary Wigman first danced her revolutionary Hexentanz: a woman dancer turned choreographer for the first time. An embodiment of primal urges. Danya Hammoud (LB) reinterprets this expressionist pearl from the perspective of her own experience and context. She is from Lebanon, first studied theatre in Beirut and then dance in Paris. 'Through the dialogue with this Witch Dance, I could question the figure of the witch, and investigate the extreme and marginal condition of the body where contradictory powers are at work: fertility and destruction.' A powerful dance, touching in its simplicity and beauty.

AMIRA CHEBLI (TN) *A MA PLACE*

Post-revolutionary & multimedia dance from Tunisia.

The Tunisian choreographer Amira Chebli experienced the Arab Spring in her homeland from the very first moment. She later spent three months in Berlin for an event organized by the Goethe Institute. These two episodes inspired Chebli to create this solo performance about how the media is inundated with European visions of North Africa, freedom of religion and politics, and about what that means for being a woman. Video images, voices and portraits of women intermingle onstage with the physical presence of the choreographer-dancer. In this way, Chebli tells about the anonymous female body that is confused and infused with culture and memories – a dream.

Deena Abdelwahed TN LIVE SET + Soumaya Phéline BE DJ SET

ZILVEREN ZAAL, FR 26/10, 22:00, 11/8 EUR

Energetic techno from Tunisia, including social activism.

With her techno and experimental and electronics, Deena Abdelwahed is a challenging innovator in the alternative EDM scene in the Middle East. She is touring through Europe as an activist and uses her music to complain about conservatism and the growing homophobia in her home country. And she does it

with a live set full of self produced exclusives. Yes please!

Known for her fancy footwork, from house to techno Soumaya Phéline handles a dancefloor with warm basslines and mesmerizing melodies, like no one does raising a general wind of frenzy until early dawn. Always on the edge combining femininity and keen sense of groove and energy.

Reading group w/ Sadies Choua BE

WITTE FOYER, SA 27/10, 12:00, FREE ON RESERVATION

"In mijn huis en in jouw huis slurpen de zwarte draken ons bloed" "In my house and in your house the black dragons slurp on our blood."

During this Reading Group, facilitated by Flemish-Moroccan artist Sadies Choua, we delve into the poetic work of the Moroccan activist Saïda Menebhi. She died in prison, where she was held because she had lived together with her boyfriend – which was (and still is) illegal in Morocco.

More specifically, we read the letters that she

wrote from prison to her friend Aziz Laarich. In her work, she expressed her struggle on behalf of human rights and spoke of the women she met in prison. We use the work of Menebhi as a kind of documentary material in order to seek an alternative for that reality, by reading, speaking together and writing ourselves.

As Menebhi's work has not been translated into English, the source texts will be in French, Dutch and Moroccan Arabic, while the conversation itself can take place in English.

Small Talk w/ Nadje Sadig Al-Ali IQ & Rachida Aziz BE

BEURSCAFÉ, SA 20/10, 19:00, FREE

Grassroots feminism for life.

Nadje Sadiq Al-Ali is a professor of gender studies. Rachida Aziz is a fashion designer and author. Both are key figures in the grassroots

feminist movement, Al-Ali in Iraq and Aziz here in Belgium. Come Small Talk with us in our Beurscafél!

Margo van de Linde NL Improvised feminism

CONVERSATION/PERFORMANCE, WITTE FOYER, SA 27/10, 19:00, 9/6 EUR

See above

Antonia Baehr DE EXIT

LECTURE PERFORMANCE, GOUDEN ZAAL, SA 27/10, 20:30, 14/11 EUR

Hashtag emergency exit sign.

Hurrah, Antonia is back! This Berlin artist mixes movement and images in order to investigate everyday theatre-of-life. EXIT deals with an ever-present, but mostly overlooked aspect of Western theatre buildings: the emergency exit signs. Like many theatre artists, Antonia Baehr has made constant efforts to fight against these signs, which make any real blackout impossible. In this lecture

performance, however, she makes them the stars. EXIT takes us into a world between light and dark, in which the green light makes us think about the supposedly fixed oppositions of 'inside' and 'outside', 'safety' and 'danger', or 'body' and 'image'. It is a magical journey through the things that theatre tries to ignore and the Western image of humans it has helped to create.

Tashweesh Closing Party Nur EG + Bosaina EG

CLUB NIGHT, ZILVEREN ZAAL, SA 27/10, 22:00, FREE

Avant-garde clubbing queens from Cairo.

Two honoured ladies from the Cairo music scene are together coming to magically transform Beursschouwburg into an experimental and funky boiler room. They both have 1 foot in London and 1 foot in their home

country, as well as being dedicated customers of Worldwide FM and Red Bull Radio. There, they powerfully set the Egyptian underground in the spotlight. Do we need to offer any more reasons why these killer DJs are the perfect closing night for the Tashweesh Festival?

ONGOING Tashweesh From behind the screen

LOOPED SCREENINGS, BLACK BOX, FREE

WE 17/10 – SA 20/10 12:00 – 22:00

WE 24/10 – SA 27/10 12:00 – 22:00

Film work that reveals and respects the geopolitical diversity of feminism.

Not comparing, not painting everyone with the same brush, but showing that experience, desires and activism know no borders. We will be looping one film per day, the whole day long. Join the alliance!

From Behind the Screen is curated by Stefanie Schulte Strathaus, co-director of Arsenal Berlin and founder of Forum Expanded – probably the most experimental segment of the Berlin Film Festival. Cinema geeks, this one is for you!