

Mid Atlantic Arts  
CELEBRATING 45 YEARS

# PAGE

# Performing Arts Global Exchange

Photo: Tarwa N-Tiniri. Photo Credit: Courtesy of the Artist.

2 0 2 5 - 2 0 2 6 R O S T E R A R T I S T S





Photo: The Leila. Photo Credit: Courtesy of the Artist.

# About Performing Arts Global Exchange

Performing Arts Global Exchange (PAGE) is a Mid Atlantic Arts grant program for performing arts presenters nationwide in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts. PAGE brings exemplary international artists to engage communities across the United States through performances and other engagement activities. Fee support grants are available to nonprofit presenting venues and units of state, local, or tribal government **based anywhere in the U.S.** or its territories that book artists from the curated roster for a public performance and community engagement activity. Artists on the roster have not widely toured in the United States and reside in a selected region. The 2025-2026 roster features artists and ensembles from Morocco and South Africa.





PLAY  
MEDIA

DISCIPLINE: MUSIC | GENRE: NORTH AFRICAN ROCK

# The Leila

The Leila is a dynamic Moroccan singer and songwriter who brings a fresh and innovative approach to the music scene. She belongs to a conservative environment where she had to fight for her right to live her passion for music. Blending elements of rock, soul, and traditional Moroccan sounds, she creates a powerful and eclectic musical style that resonates with both modern and traditional audiences. Known for her strong vocals and bold stage presence, The Leila tackles themes of self-expression, empowerment, and societal issues, making her an influential voice in the contemporary Moroccan music landscape. Her unique fusion of genres and authenticity continues to captivate fans and elevate her status as an essential artist. On this tour The Leila will perform music from the album *Elghit*, an original album that is an echo of her regional roots tinged with the influence of world music and modern rhythms. The album is a mixture of many musical heritages such as Reggada, Arfa, Mechiakha, Gharnati and Rai. The Leila is true to herself, a woman whose voice waltzes between fragility and power, she quickly creates a universe through intelligent songwriting accessible to all, a harmonious blend of the different styles of her region that she mixes with grace and lightness to its rock influences.



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BASE  
Casablanca,  
Morocco



TRAVELING  
6 ARTISTS  
+ 1 TECH  
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Photo Credit: Courtesy of the Artist.

To book, contact Justine Bayod Espoz: [justine@toritoartists.com](mailto:justine@toritoartists.com)



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**DISCIPLINE: MUSIC | GENRE: SOUL & AFRO-POP**

# Nomfusi

Through the power of music, Nomfusi tells evocative stories as seen through the eyes of a township girl growing up in her mother's house — stories from inside a tiny shack that she wants to share with the world. While the Townships are widely associated with poverty and crime — reflecting times of race wars and South African Apartheid laws — there are all kinds of stories to be found and cultivated for musical inspiration. Transforming into a pint-sized packet of dynamite the moment she picks up a microphone, Nomfusi has given riveting performances across Europe and Canada.

She has appeared at prestigious festivals like WOMAD UK, Canada's AFRIKADEY Festival (performing with Angelique Kidjo), and played to audiences of more than 8,000 at FMM SINES in Portugal and LUGANO JAZZ Festival in Switzerland. She also had the honor of opening for super star Lionel Richie at STIMMEN FESTIVAL in Germany, and starring with Hugh Masekela for South Africa's "Liberation Day" celebration at the renowned BOZAR Concert Hall in Brussels. In perhaps the most defining moment of her career, Nomfusi was chosen to portray the character of Miriam Makeba in the 2013 film, "Long Walk To Freedom," about the life of Nelson Mandela. According to the Hollywood Reporter, "it is the largest South African production ever mounted." The singer has multiple SAMA nominations for best Music Video in 2012 and best contemporary adult Album in 2023.



**BASE**  
Johannesburg,  
South Africa



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5 to 7 ARTISTS  
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DISCIPLINE: MUSIC | GENRE: BLUES / FUSION

# Tarwa N-Tiniri

Formed in Ouarzazate, Morocco, the band's live performances are a musical journey through time and space, celebrating the desert's vast expanse and its cultural heritage. The performance features music from their critically acclaimed albums, *Azizdeg* (2019) and *Akal* (2024). Audiences will be captivated by the unique blend of traditional Amazigh melodies and North African rhythms, woven seamlessly with global influences such as blues, jazz, reggae, rock, and Gnawa. The show is filled with vibrant energy and poetic storytelling that highlights themes of identity, nature, and resistance, all while preserving the dignity and culture of the desert people. With mesmerizing vocal harmonies, intricate guitar work, and rhythmic percussion, Tarwa N-Tiniri's concerts offer an unforgettable experience for audiences, transporting them to the heart of the Sahara.



### Community Engagement:

Tarwa N-Tiniri is prepared to offer several types of community-engagement activities including workshops on traditional Amazigh music, instrument demonstrations, or interactive performances where participants learn about the music and culture; talk backs allowing audience members to engage directly with the band, or lectures about Amazigh music and its cultural significance. Tarwa N-Tiniri has experience with community-engagement activities, having participated in various cultural exchanges and educational programs during their international tours.



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Ouarzazate,  
Morocco



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DISCIPLINE: DANCE

# The Ecstatic

by Jeremy Nedd & Impilo Mapantsula

*The Ecstatic* is a dance piece for 6 dancers that lasts about 1 hour. The dancers are Pantsula's, which is a dance form from South Africa which combines virtuosic movement sequences with heavy stamping, clapping, singing and whistling. Pantsula, a historically significant South African subculture, is expressed not only as a powerful dance form which is well known for it's high-speed footwork, but is also evident through a dress code, language, music, and a particular philosophy of life that is all it's own. An expression that during Apartheid gave a voice to a whole generation. The Praise Break is a mode of praise. It is a moment, a pause, a break in the context of the Christian Pentecostal Church service, where the dancing body, voice and music energetically coalesce and as a result blur the difference between ecstatic and cathartic. *The Ecstatic* explores what happens when the aesthetics of these two worlds converge, it asks, what happens in this transcendental moment of "break"? Within the dance piece the six Pantsula dancers turn to the motions that lead up to the praise break in order to find out, and "break open" a new space all their own. There are sound recordings, strong in volume and bass, and light effects which accompany the performance.

**Impilo Mapantsula** is a global network of professional dance artists who specialize in pantsula. The organization promotes the development of pantsula dance and culture, creates formal standards, and aims to document and protect the living legacy of pantsula and support dancers in professionalizing and further developing their art. Impilo Mapantsula and Jeremy Nedd, choreographer and performer, have worked together for several years, bringing South African and American cultural references, aesthetics, and sonic repertoires into conversation.



BASE  
Katlehong,  
South Africa



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6 ARTISTS - 3 STAFF  
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DISCIPLINE: THEATER

# Empatheatre

## *The Last Country & Lalela uLwandle*

In a world where marginalized voices are often drowned out by polarized debates and biases, there is an urgent need for spaces where diverse communities can come together, share their stories, and engage in meaningful dialogue. Empatheatre responds to this need by creating immersive, research-based public storytelling that fosters empathy, understanding, and social change. Touring with two 60-minute works that are paired with a 60-minute audience talkback, presenters are invited to book either work or both.

*The Last Country* is an immersive and moving Empatheatre production with a play text drawn from the 30 oral histories of migrant women collected as part of a greater research and advocacy project. The theatre work subtly weaves together the stories of Ofrah from the DRC, MaThwala from Ndwedwe in KwaZulu-Natal, Aamiina from Somalia, and Aneni from Zimbabwe. Sitting in a circle alongside the actors, the audience is made to intimately listen to the four women's experiences of leaving home and arriving in Durban, where they adopt various strategies to remake a sense of belonging. The Last Country carefully weaves together the experiences of struggle, pain, humor, hope, and resilience in ways that explore the complexities, commonalities, and differences of migrant women.

*Lalela uLwandle* (isiZulu for 'Listen to the Sea') makes visible the stories of South African's living with the ocean that are seldom heard in the public domain. Drawing from seven months of collaborative action research into the lives of different KwaZulu Natal citizens along its multicultural coast line, the production surfaces the lived realities of people involved directly and indirectly with the ocean, as well as creating a new social platform that makes public dialogue possible regarding our collective pressing concerns regarding our ocean's health. While uniquely South African, its overarching themes of loss, grief and healing connects powerfully with international audiences.

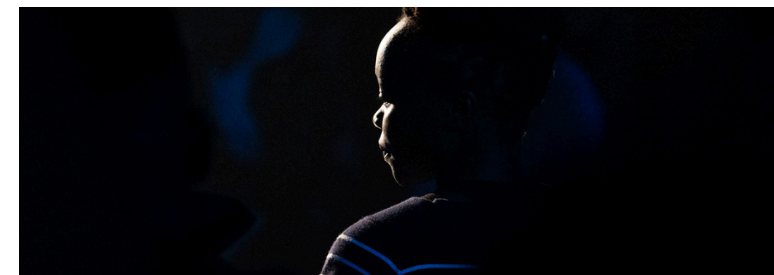


Photo Credit: (from left to right) Alet Pretorius, Sibongiseni Maphumulo, and Courtesy of the Artist.

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Durban,  
South Africa



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