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**"Femme:
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Press Release

Pasadena Embraces Themes of Arab-American Unity in the Arts

The Armory Center for the Arts Will Feature the Kan Zaman Community Ensemble and "Femme: Mon Coeur Pour Toi" In Performance During January 2013

Pasadena, CA, December 17, 2012: The Armory Center of the Arts will feature two performances in January that emphasize Arab-American cultural unity: a performance by the classical and folkloric Kan Zaman Community Ensemble and a production of Mark Volpe's "Femme: Mon Coeur Pour Toi" starring Algerian Rai singer Fella Oudane. These performances will take place at the Armory Center for the Arts, 145 North Raymond Avenue, Pasadena, California 91103. The Kan Zaman performance is on January 12, 2013 at 8pm. The performance of "Femme: Mon Coeur Pour Toi" is on January 19, 2013 at 8pm. Admission to "Femme" is \$25 and includes a glass of wine, Brie and baguettes.

New generations of Arab Americans are discovering American Theater for the first time in Old Town Pasadena, a city with an emergent Middle Eastern population that extends into the San Gabriel Valley. Many theatergoers are pleased to see themes of unification, support and respect presented as an alternative to the incendiary anti-Middle Eastern rhetoric in Washington and elsewhere. Pasadena is becoming a de facto "Paris of the Greater Los Angeles Area", a place to enjoy the uniqueness and excitement of common cultural denominators through the magic of music.

The Kan Zaman Community Ensemble is an independent non-profit organization in Southern California, Kan Zaman is comprised of volunteer musicians, singers and staff from diverse backgrounds. Kan Zaman's mission is to preserve, educate and entertain the general public by performing a unique, pure and quality traditional Arabic music. Since its formation in 1994 Kan Zaman has performed in various cultural events including major universities in the area, the Los Angeles convention center, public television and cable recordings, as well as various museums and international festivals. Recently performed at the J. P. Getty museum, UCLA's Royce Hall, Town Hall Seattle and finally the World Sacred Music Festival of the Americas.

"Femme: Mon Coeur Pour Toi" is an original musical by Mark Volpe starring Algerian Rai

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singer Fella Oudane and Mark Volpe in a positive portrayal of Arab women. As La Femme recovers from her husband's desertion through a belief in her own identity, her recognition of her "heart" (embodied by Le Cardiologue) is explored in a mysterious multimedia cabaret that features live performances in French, Arabic and English, which accompany high energy doumbek performances, dancing and projected video images. "Femme" debuted at the Hollywood Actor's Studio in December, 2011 and played at the Attic Theater in Culver City earlier this year.

The Armory Center for the Arts is a nonprofit, community-based organization that encourages the creative exchange of ideas through art exhibition and education for students of all ages and backgrounds. The Armory's five galleries present some of the most innovative modern contemporary art in Southern California thanks to careful curating and the cultivation of individuals and organizations that make remarkable works of contemporary art available to us. From photography to paintings, and sculpture to multimedia, we rotate them not only through our own galleries, but also through temporary public art displays throughout the region.

PLEASE VISIT THESE SITES TO LEARN MORE:

www.kanzaman.org

www.femme-cabaret.com

<http://www.armoryarts.org>