

The Festival Debates 'Riwaq Al Fikr'



المهرجان
الوطنية
ABU DHABI FESTIVAL

Presented by the Abu Dhabi Music & Art Foundation (ADMAF), the Abu Dhabi Festival launches its inaugural conversation series to feed the intellectual appetite of the UAE capital. All three Debates are free to the public and take place prior to the festival's evening events at the Emirates Palace.

Sunday, 21st March 2010

The Festival Effect

7:00 - 8:00 pm followed by a cocktail reception
Emirates Palace, Room M002

Chair:
Nima Abu Wardeh
BBC World

Panelists:

HE Hoda Al Khamis Kanoo
Founder & Artistic Director, Abu Dhabi Festival

Waldemar Dabrowski
Chairman, CHOPIN 2010 Celebrations, Poland

Peter Scarlet
Director, Middle East International Film Festival,
UAE

Alex Poots
Director, Manchester International Festival, UK

The pioneers of four leading arts festivals from the Middle East and Europe come together to discuss the role of their events in the world today. While each festival is unique, all share a set of common goals. Should festivals focus on 'art for art's sake' or should they concentrate on making a viable socio-economic impact? Can artistic excellence and social merit go hand-in-hand? In a world filled with distractions, how can festivals instill loyalty and understanding among audiences? Chaired by Nima Abu Wardeh, the festivals' figureheads discuss this fascinating issue followed by questions from the audience.

Saturday, 27th March 2010

Prologue to an Opera The Met's Live Broadcast

7:30 - 8:30 pm - Emirates Palace, Room M002

Chair:
HE Zaki Nusseibeh
Adviser Ministry of Presidential Affairs &
Deputy Chairman, Abu Dhabi Authority for
Culture and Heritage

Panelists:

Professor Michael Beckerman
Chair of Music, New York University

Michael White
Correspondent, Opera Now

James Conway
Executive Director, English Touring Opera

When Ambrose Thomas's 'Hamlet' was first performed in 1868, little did he know that 142 years later, its latest production would be broadcast live from New York to the heart of the United Arab Emirates.

In a pre-screening talk, a panel of leading experts will discuss the opera's revivalist trend over the last 30 years; its plotline compared to Shakespeare's original play; and the merits of joint productions. Opera lovers will not only be intrigued by the Met's choice of cast and crew, but also in its presentation of Ophélie's famous mad scene (made so memorable by the likes of Nellie Melba and Maria Callas). However, it is the production's not-so-happy ending that is expected to be the subject of much debate. The discussion will be followed by questions from the audience.

Sunday, 4th April 2010

The Art of the Emirates

6:30 - 7:30 pm - Emirates Palace, Room M002

Chair:
Mohamed Abdel Latif Kanoo
Prominent Businessman, Artist and Gallerist

Panelists:

Sultan Al Qassimi
Founder, Barjeel Art Foundation

Azza Al Qubaissi
Artist

Bashar Al Shroogi
Director, Cuadro Art Gallery

Antonia Carver
Editor, Bidoun

Today, the UAE has become a hub for the international contemporary art market. Thanks to the work of pioneering art collectors, artists and patrons, the country now boasts two art fairs and a growing sector of commercial galleries and auction houses. And with the birth of Saadiyat Island's Cultural District, the capital of Abu Dhabi will soon take its rightful place as a global cultural capital.

The panel will discuss and define the role of indigenous artistic practice in the UAE and look back on its development over the last 30 years in line with the growth of the Middle Eastern art sector. The discussion will be followed by questions from the audience.

www.abudhabifestival.ae



Presented by Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation