

Groupe Acrobatique de Tanger - FIQ!



Groupe Acrobatique de Tanger's **FIQ!** is a circus show built of modern, tumbling alchemy, designed by world-renowned artist **Hassan Hajjaj**, set to sounds by **DJ Dino** and fiery rap, between vivid colors and black and white, all with a Moroccan touch. The show brings together 15 diversely skilled performers for a whirlwind of traditional and modern floor acrobatics, dance, and breakdancing, as well as taekwondo and freestyle football. FIQ! is told through the perspectives of lively Moroccan youth through acrobatic feats, stunts, and dazzling choreography. It is a lively, high energy show which combines art and vitality and promises to keep you on the edge of your seat.

Get to Know... **GROUPE ACROBATIQUE DE TANGER**

At the roots of Groupe Acrobatique de Tanger is an inspired woman: **Sanae El Kamouni**, who gathered a group of Moroccan acrobats in 2013 for a project featuring new contemporary acrobatic creations. Convinced that a new history could be invented with these artists, she asked director **Aurélien Bory** to join her in Tangiers and create the first contemporary Moroccan acrobatics show, which was followed by several other performances.

WHAT IS CONTEMPORARY CIRCUS?

Groupe Acrobatique de Tanger's main style is contemporary acrobatics. Their performance entitled FIQ! specifically combines modern acrobatics with breakdancing, taekwondo, and freestyle football. Contemporary acrobatics emerged in the late 20th century where themes or stories are told through traditional circus elements. The use of lighting design and costume design are often very important to this performance style.



Get to Know... HASSAN HAJJAJ

Hassan Hajjaj's exuberant portraits capture the cultural multiplicity that animates the streets of Morocco, where the artist grew up. He is perhaps best known for his bright photographs of stylishly dressed subjects who pose in front of patterned backgrounds. He has exhibited in New York, London, Paris, Marrakesh, Dubai, Berlin, and Los Angeles, and is mastermind behind FIQ's design.

Artist Inspiration

In Morocco, tumbling and building human pyramids is an ancient folk art, which dates back to the Middle Ages—and perhaps even long before that. Moroccan troupes of tumblers traditionally perform in public squares, during local festivals.

ACTIVITY

Watch [this TED Talk about contemporary circus](#). The speaker, Shanna Kennedy, describes both the journey of circus from traditional circus to what it is today. Next, watch [this video](#) about Groupe Acrobatique de Tanger. As you learn about contemporary circus, try to identify how the group's style is similar and different to what Shanna Kennedy defines as contemporary circus. What elements of the U.S. contemporary circus that Kennedy describes change when told through the perspective of Moroccan artists?



Learn More

FURTHER VIEWINGS

- [Telling the Story of Contemporary Circus In Morocco](#) →
- [Groupe Acrobatique de Tanger at Sziget Festival 2018](#) →
- [Groupe Acrobatique de Tanger Biography](#) →
- [Hassan Hajaj Biography and Art](#) →
- [Hassan Hajaj Turns Moroccan Cliches Into London Cool](#) →

FURTHER READINGS

- [Timeless Circus In Times of Change](#) →
- [Circus Bodies: Cultural Identity in Circus Performance by Peta Tait](#) →
- [Social Circus as an Organised Cultural Encounter Embodied Knowledge, Trust and Creativity at Play](#) →
- [Circostrada: an overview of Street and Circus arts in Morocco](#) →



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 NYUADArtsCenter
 TheArtsCenteratNYUAbuDhabi
www.nyuad-artscenter.org

nyuad.boxoffice@nyu.edu
 +971 2 628 4555

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