

# LE CRI DU CAIRE

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Abdullah Miniawy (vocals, texts, music)

Peter Corser (saxophone, music)

Karsten Hochapfel (cello)

**Press dossier**  
**2020**

(( L'ONDE ))  
&  
(( CYBELE ))



**CAIRO, END OF 2013.** In a boiling city where the curfew has just been lifted after a second coup, where dreams and rebellion are displayed on the walls, where hostile slogans towards both the Islamists and the army echo all the way to the downtown clubs, Blaise Merlin hears the voice of Abdullah Miniawy at the Studio 100Copies, close to Tahrir Square. Miniawy, a Sufi singer, writer, poet, slammer and broke student from the oasis town of El-Fayoum, is a spokesperson for the Egyptian youth, and shakes up the stage and the social networks with his hypnotic voice, his unique blend of rock, electro-chaabi, jazz, both punk, psychedelic, secular and avant-garde. Three months later, Abdullah gives an astounding first performance at the Egyptian edition of **La Voix est Libre** festival, together with King of oud Mehdi Haddab. This is also the first meeting with saxophonist and composer Peter Corser at the D-CAF Festival (Downtown Contemporary Art Festival), created after the revolution by the man of theater Ahmed El-Attar. After three years of administrative battle, while censorship is back in the Egyptian artistic world, Abdullah gets in Paris and goes into studio with Peter Corser to record *Purple Feathers* (over 30 000 plays on Soundcloud). In 2017, trumpet player Erik Truffaz is struck by Abdullah's voice and Peter Corser's music, and immediately gets on board and joins the project. The long-awaited musical shock happens in a packed Cirque Electrique, in Paris: together with Peter Corser's hypnotic loops, Karsten Hochapfel's « barock strings » and Erik Truffaz's musical flights, Abdullah's voice transcends all boundaries between individual inspirations and collective aspirations. Sharp, stunning, powerful, free, spiritual, poetic, political, lyrical ... *Le Cri du Caire* keeps turning heads, wherever it travels.

*Le Cri du Caire* is an original creation from **La Voix est Libre** Festival, produced by *L'Onde & Cybèle*  
Partners : Bonlieu - Scène nationale Annecy, Maison de la Culture de Bourges - Scène nationale/centre de création, Le Grand T - Théâtre de Loire-Atlantique, Théâtre 71 - Scène nationale Malakoff, FGO Barbara

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With the help of the Institut du Monde Arabe

## PRESENTATION

To the circular breathing of Peter Corser's sax, to the « barock » strings of Karsten Hochapfel's cello, responds the gripping voice of Abdullah Miniawy, a young poet and singer, who became the emblem of an Egyptian youth craving for freedom and justice. His Sufi singing, whispered or cried out loud on top of hypnotic electronic loops, drives the audience into a mystical trance. Spirituality and liberty shine through his music, which carries the hopes of the oppressed, facing political, social and religious repression. Halfway between rock, Sufi poetry, jazz, spoken word and oriental flourishes, *Le Cri du Caire* creates an intense metaphorical universe, that transcends identities and borders.

## WITH

**Abdullah Miniawy** (vocals, texts, music)

**Peter Corser** (saxophone, music)

**Karsten Hochapfel** (cello)

Artistic production : Blaise Merlin

Administration/production : L'Onde & Cybèle

Sound : Anne Laurin

Reading : Corentin Gallet

## VIDEO LINKS

**FESTIVAL LES SUDS À ARLES - JULY 2019 (TRIO) :**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wTx4v9eUhZs&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wTx4v9eUhZs&feature=emb_logo)

**FESTIVAL LA VOIX EST LIBRE - MAY 2017 (WITH ERIK TRUFFAZ) :**

<https://vimeo.com/245735255>

**FESTIVAL D'AVIGNON - JULY 2018 (WITH YOM) :**

<https://vimeo.com/282462692>

*Private video / password : cdicriducaire*

## IN THE MEDIA

« *Le Cri du Caire* overrides border issues and breaks the blinkers, to point between the lines of the issues of today's world. Those of a child, grown in solitude in Saudi Arabia before opening up to the world via the Internet, those of a young adult who dug out the furrow of his own difference between the poetic scholarship of the psalmers of the Coran and the telluric energy of the rappers, those of a writer who militates with the weapons of rhetoric to bring out other relationships between all, between here and there. This world, about which Abdullah Miniawy, in his very own way, tells us - with soft words, sharp phrasings, straight to the point - is just as much ours. Word to the wise ! »

Jacques Denis, *La Terrasse*

« Through the heart-wrenching voice of Egyptian poet and spoken word singer Abdullah Miniawy, one can hear the whole Cairo youth crying, storming and yelling their libertarian rage, between Sufi psalmodes and telluric rap – a passionate and touching musical experience. »

Anne Berthod, *Télérama*

«To help you picture what's happening on stage, try to imagine young Abdullah Miniawy, with the same haircut and very intense body language as Georges Perec : he turns around, spins around, eyes wide open, clenches his fists or suddenly moves his hands about. He adapts very well to the abrupt changes of his diction, and goes from whispering his poetry to singing it in a stunning muezzin voice. »

Richard Gaitet, *Radio Nova*

« *Le Cri du Caire* calls for no effort to get away – it only takes closing one's eyes. With its blend of Sufi music, saxophone circular breathing and spoken word, together with an adventurous trumpet and cello, *Le Cri du Caire* is a unique experience between East and West. »

François Lesbre, *Le Berry Républicain*



## TOUR DATES

### 2018

- 20/03/2018 : Théâtre Garonne, Toulouse - FR
- 17/04/2018 : Maison de la Poésie, Paris - FR
- 1/06/ 2018 : Théâtre de la Cité Internationale, Paris - FR (w/ Yom)
- 17/07 2018 : Festival d'Avignon - FR (w/ Yom)
- 5/10/ 2018 : Théâtre 71 - Scène nationale de Malakoff - FR (w/ Yom)

### 2019

- 11/01/2019 : Bonlieu - Scène nationale d'Annecy - FR (w/ Erik Truffaz)
- 31/01/2019 : Maison de la Culture de Bourges - Scène nationale - FR (w/ Erik Truffaz)
- 15/03/2019 : Maison de la Musique de Nanterre - FR (w/ Erik Truffaz)
- 16/03/2019 : La Ferme du Buisson - Scène nationale de Noisiel - FR (w/ Erik Truffaz)
- 24/03/2019 : Festival Les Détours de Babel, Grenoble - FR
- 5/04/2019 : Millau Jazz / Théâtre de la Maison du Peuple de Millau - FR (w/ Erik Truffaz)
- 9/07/2019 : Festival Aux Heures d'Été, Nantes - FR
- 13/07/2019 : Festival Les Suds, Arles - FR
- 3/08/2019 : Gouvy Jazz & Blues Festival - BE (w/ Erik Truffaz)
- 24/08/2019 : Grand Poitiers l'été / Itinérance - FR (w/ Erik Truffaz)
- 12/10/2019 : Roma Europa Festival - IT (w/ Erik Truffaz)
- 17/10/2019 : Europajazz / Les Quinconces - scène nationale du Mans - FR (w/ Erik Truffaz)
- 18/10/2019 : Festival Jazzèbre, Perpignan - FR (w/ Erik Truffaz)
- 19/10/2019 : Les Scènes du Jura - Scène nationale de Lons-le-Saunier - FR (w/ Erik Truffaz)
- 12/11/2019 : Festival D'Jazz Nevers - FR (w/ Erik Truffaz)
- 15/11/2019 : Rencontres d'Averroès, Théâtre de la Criée, Marseille - FR (w/ Médéric Collignon)
- 16/11/2019 : Festival Mesure pour Mesure, Théâtre Berthelot, Montreuil - FR
- 20 /11/2019 : L'Avant-Scène, Scène conventionnée de Cognac - FR (w/ Erik Truffaz)
- 28/11/2019 : Le Grand T - Théâtre de Loire-Atlantique, Nantes - FR (w/ Erik Truffaz)
- 29/11/2019 : Carré d'Argent, Pontchâteau - FR (w/ Erik Truffaz)
- 05/12019 : Festival Les Nuits d'Orient, Dijon - FR (w/Erik Truffaz)
- 06/12/2019 : Le Safran, Scène conventionnée d'Amiens - FR (w/ Erik Truffaz)
- 07/12/2019 : Champigny-sur-Marne - FR (w/ Erik Truffaz)
- 10/12/2019 : Théâtre de Cornouaille, Scène nationale de Quimper - FR (w/ Erik Truffaz)
- 12/12/2019 : Festival No Border / Le Quartz, Scène nationale de Brest - FR (w/ Erik Truffaz)

### 2020

- 18/01/2020 : La Faïencerie - Scène conventionnée de Creil - FR
- 6/02/2020 : Festival Les Sons d'Hiver, Théâtre Antoine Vitez, Ivry - FR
- 26/03/2020 : Festival Les Ethiopiennes, Bayonne - FR
- 29/03/2020 : Cully Jazz Festival - SW
- 31/03/2020 : Le Quai, Angers - FR
- 11/05/2020 : Festival La Voix est Libre, Paris - FR
- 13/05/2020 : Théâtre des Quatre Saisons, Gradignan - FR
- 14/05/2020 : L'Agora, Pôle national Cirque, Boulazac - FR
- 20/07/2020 : Festival Musique au Présent, Narbonne - FR
- 06/08/2020 : Festival Jazz à Marciac, Marciac - FR (w/ Erik Truffaz)
- 6/11/2020 : Scène nationale de Chateaufallon, Ollioules - FR (w/ Médéric Collignon)
- 21/11/2020 : Théâtre des 13 Vents, Montpellier - FR

**2020/2021/2022 Tour in progress**

## ABDULLAH MINIAWY

Abdullah Miniawy is a writer, singer, composer, trumpeter, sound-designer and producer from Cairo, Egypt. With roots in the spoken-word culture, he explores the idea of *stricto sensu* fusion by merging particularly diverse projects together - revisiting traditional Spanish music with Hyperotamus through an experimental project, fusing Sufi and electro music with the German project Carl Gari & Abdullah Miniawy, improvising pieces in collaboration with other artists... He questions transdisciplinarity and what brings people together. A political icon of the Egyptian revolution, Miniawy has performed alongside Erik Truffaz and Yom at Festival **La Voix est Libre**'s 2017 & 2018 editions.

## PETER CORSER

Living and working in Paris since 1995, Peter Corser has collaborated with numerous ensembles, experimental musicians, dancers, singers, rappers, visual and circus artists as well as theatre companies. His collaborations include SighFire, DCA Cie, Philippe Decouflé, Kaori Ito, Nofell, Médéric Collignon, Jörg Muller, André Minvielle, Sanseverino, Benjamin Siksou, Himiko, Marlène Rostaing... Mastering the technique of « circular breathing », Peter Corser invites his saxophone into an infinity of pieces, including improvised ones.

## KARSTEN HOCHAPFEL

Karsten Hochapfel's musical journey began at 8 years old with a cello. In 2001, he entered the Munich Conservatory to study jazz guitar with Peter O'Mara, classical guitar with Gabriele Prediger-Mahne and Barbara Polaček and cello with Jan Polaček and Katalin Rootaring. Musical diversity is what truly matters to him - he performs with jazz or world music groups, creates new musical arrangements and translates scores with musicians from all over the world, in France, Malawi or Brazil. Karsten introduces music here and there, wherever he can share and learn.



## L'ONDE & CYBÈLE

Since 2004, **L'Onde & Cybèle** advocates for openness and dialogue between all cultures, languages, sciences, arts and territories through its festivals : **Jazz Nomades/La Voix est Libre**, which took place in many different locations, from France (Bouffes du Nord, Théâtre Garonne...) to Egypt, Tunisia or Lebanon, and **Rhizomes** in Paris. In these places of meeting and freedom, we question the complexity of human beings as well, affirm and refine it through ever-moving and imaginative encounters, in answer to a strong demand coming from the most diverse backgrounds after centuries of domination, uniformisation and segmentation.

### CONTACTS

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