

Ibrahim Quraishi

Conceptual artist, writer, director, choreographer and co-founder of Faim de Siècle, a cross-disciplinary performance/installation company (NY/Paris).

Ibrahim's work is based on the transformation of space, an immersive narrative and a pro-active performative dialogue through digital and human interface. Graduate of Columbia University (New York, 1995) from the department of Middle East Languages and Literature and a former student of Edward W. Said, over the last 10 years Ibrahim has created numerous site-specific performances and installations in festivals and galleries throughout Europe, Asia and the United States.

"No other influential theatre director besides Wilson...has created a style that is sustained across continents in the work of younger artists" (PAJ Issue 76, Jan-2004 from MIT).

Ibrahim's pieces are grounded in the interaction of visual arts forms, digital media and live performances that explore various cultural and social conflicts. His works consciously examine the realities and dynamics of migration, dispossession and cohabitation within the highly rigid sociopolitical spheres of imagined communities. Some of the most recent works have been specially commissioned by The Japan Foundation (Tokyo), Festival Avril.DOT (Paris), G. A. S. Gallery (NY), MESS Festival, (Sarajevo), Le Batofar (Paris), Saison France/Quebec (Quebec City), Muffathalle (Munich), Downtown Arts Festival (NY), The Queens Museum (New York), Biennial Interferences (Belfort-Montbilliard), Acco Festival (Acco-Israel), Bronx Museum of Arts (Bronx, NY), The 13th International Schillertage Festival (Mannheim), Gallery Mains d'Oeuvres (St. Ouen), Nouveau Casino (Paris), Le Lieu Unique (Nantes), LA Edge Festival (Los Angeles), The Kitchen (NY), Festival Ounze (Paris), Dastaan (Lahore), iDANS (Istanbul) and Biennale Bonn (Bonn).

Winner and recipient of such prestigious grants as The ITI Grant for his work in Samara, Russia in 1996 for Zemlinsky's **Der Zwerg** and Busoni's **Arlecchino**. The Rockefeller MAP Fund in 2000 for the immense Landscapes Project. The Goethe Institute Grant 2000 in New York, Arts International Fund for U.S. Artist in 2000 for the performance installation tsunami inspired by Heiner Müller's **Abandoned Shores** and **Matériau Médée**. Chosen as one of the finalists for The Rockefeller Fellowship in 2003 and in 2004, Ibrahim was given the Islamic World Arts Initiative (IWAI) commission by Arts International, The Rockefeller MAP Fund 2004 and the National Endowment for the Arts Award for his extremely controversial and highly popular **5 STREAMS** cross media piece, commissioned by Asia Society of New York in association with MASS MoCA (Massachusetts) for 2006. In France Ibrahim site specific works and video films such as **Anamorphose, White Box, Foret de Memoire, Rivages a l'abandon & PAYSages** have been supported by the Maire de Paris, DRAC ile de France, THECIF ile de

France, AFAA, and DICREAM - CNC (Centre National de la Cinématographie) and in 2004 Ibrahim was an official resident of the Cité Internationale des Arts in Paris. Ibrahim further presented ***Censored Images*** a semi staging of a mono opera he wrote with the composer Vijay Iyer - as part of an evening called Transmetropolitan, curated by Paul D. Miller a.k.a. DJ Spooky for The Lincoln Center Festival in New York. Ibrahim is also the co-creator of ***Disappeared: A Patriot Story***, a digital installation project with the Bengali-American activist Naeem Mohaiemen about the disappearances of Muslim Americans after 9/11/01 presented at Queens Museum of Art, New York as part of FATAL LOVE group show in June 2005.

During the same period, Ibrahim further gave a series of lectures on the notion/danger of the "Authentic" (as a socio-cultural concept and reality) as part of the Open Society Institute Intercultural Dialogue Seminar in Dushanbe (Tajikistan) with artists, practitioners and intellectuals from Uzbekistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Kirgizia and Tajikistan followed by a commission by The Japan Foundation in Tokyo, Kyoto and New Delhi (November 2004 through January 2005) with four other directors from South Asia in exploring the role of communal fragmentation, contemporary Islam and a space for secularism in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri-Lanka in the midst of civil and sectarian violence. The project was loosely based on the emperor Babur's (1483-1583) personal memories called Baburnama (the first autobiography in Islamic literature) under the title ***Memories of a Legend***.

In 2006, Ibrahim just finished the process of creating a three month "educational" model entitled The Political Body for Das Arts: The Dutch postgraduate institute of performance research in Amsterdam, with dramaturge Gabriel Smeets, inviting such artists and practitioners as Shirin Neshat, Tanya Reinhart, Pamela Z, Raimund Hoghe, Rimini Protokoll and Jan Fabre to name a few and a 24 hour immersive process with scientist/visual artists Dmitry Gelfand and Evelina Domnitsch and 15 other choreographers as part of Dance Unlimited's mini-conference 06 in Amsterdam. Currently, as part of his artistic residency in Vienna at the Schauspielhaus Wien, Quraishi just finished creating ***SARAY: Mozart alla Turca***, a radical new interpretation based on W.A. Mozart's *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*. A commission by the International Festival WIENER MOZARTJAHR 2006, celebrating his 250th death anniversary with Toneelhuis (Antwerpen), Les Theatres de la Ville de Luxembourg and Mannheimer Mozartsommer (Nationaltheater Mannheim).

Following *Saray: Mozart alla Turca*, Ibrahim further ventured into a war "Oratorio" with composer Vijay Iyer and poet Mike C. Ladd called ***STILL LIFE WITH COMMENTATOR*** premiering it at Memorial Hall in UNC Chapel Hill (March 2006), Kontrakom Festival Salzburg (June 2006) and a final premiere of a complete version at BAM Next Wave Festival / Brooklyn Academy of Music (6-10th December 2006).

During the Spring /Fall 2007, besides teaching at the SNDO (The Dutch School for New

Dance Development / AHK in Amsterdam) and Hochschulübergreifendes Zentrum Tanz / Universität der Künste Berlin, MQ-Tanzquartier Wien (Vienna) and SEAD Salzburg Experimental Academy of Dance, Quraishi presented a more comprehensive version of his performance installation *5 Streams* to great acclaim at the Springdance Festival Utrecht (April 2007) followed by the National Museum of Singapore (October 2007).

Towards the end of 2007, Quraishi premiered a new "solo," called ***AOI: Afraid of I*** on the end of cow-boyism for iDANS Festival in Istanbul. The Dutch premier of *AOI* was at Something Raw Festival in Amsterdam, February 2008. Dividing his time between New York, Paris, Amsterdam and Istanbul, currently Quraishi has been in the midsts of preparing for the premier of his New York based environment & body specific "video" installation ***Anamorphose*** for the upcoming Holland Festival (May 31st - June 22nd 2008) while researching a new piece based on objects, bodies and spirituality called ***My Private Himalaya*** for the Biennale Bonn (June 14th .15th 2008) and will also getting ready to present his installation ***Islamic Violins*** at ImPulsTanz: International Dance Festival in Vienna July 21 - 27 2008.

Over the years, Ibrahim has closely collaborated with such internationally diverse artists as Paul D. Miller a.k.a. DJ Spooky, Norscq, Aziz, Shahzia Sikander, Vijay Iyer, Mike C. Ladd, Pamela Z, Hiam Abbass, Smaadar Yaron, Koji Hamai, Dominique Starck, Maaïke Bleeker, Gabriel Smeets, Komar & Melamid, Naeem Mohaiemen, Valery Gergiev, Daniel Mageaon a.k.a. Hanzel & Gretzel, DJ Wet, Joel Ryan, Gardner Post (EBM), Howard Goldkrand, Serdar Yalcin, Marc Perroud a.k.a. t zèid, Zachary Shuman, Masayasu Nakanishi, Palina Jonsdottir, Stefanie Wilhelm, Mirelle Safa, Walid Breidi, Rabeah Mokos, Generation Aldi, Prema Murthy, Servovalve, Karen Lawler, Saint Alia, Fawzia Afzal-Khan, So, Babi Badalov, Nikola Lelievère, Nicloas Marmin, Rokefella (Quick Step), Supha, Rosa Sanchez & Alain Baumann (Konic Thtr), Arthur Aviles, Eng Kian Ooi, Rajika Puri, Sandhya Sanjana, Parul Shah, Wanda Ortiz, Subarna Kumar Thapa, Bill Shannon a.k.a. Crutch, The Bronx Shakers, Imani Uzuri, Naseem Abbass, Veronique Ruggia-Saura, Akim Buddha Funk, Julie Tolentino, Tjet Clark, Samina Ahmed, Black Stifichi, Philippe Hersant, Annuradtha Baral, Prashant Bhargava, Sebastien Deroncourt, Aron Deyo, Guillermo Brown, Liberty Ellman, Okkyung Lee, Xavier Hool, Robert Pyzocha, Awena Cozannet, Kayoko Tada, Noera Shem-Shaul Berger, Stephen Arnold, Andrea Davidson, Suraiya Bagdadi, Evelina Domnitsch, Dimitry Gelfand, Anup Baral, Christophe Labas-Lafite and Emanuel Günther aka Mooner.