



Press Release / January 2020

FADI J KHOURY DANCE; ARTS AND CULTURAL DIPLOMACY

Where visual art meets contemporary dance in community outreach programs and public performances



FJK Dance continues its commitment to building a cross-cultural dialogue as we engage with diverse audiences around the globe and here in the U.S. Our work draws from the opportunities and collaborations developed through our international and national touring. In countries such as China, Japan, and Lebanon, our “Fusion of Culture and Dance” program helps lay the foundations for understanding and appreciation between cultures and people previously unfamiliar with each other. Fadi Khoury’s background of growing up in Iraq and Lebanon provides a unique insight into how ‘Middle East meets West’ with a strong sense of connection and appreciation for people from diverse backgrounds.

To this end, we also offer workshops, performances, and lecture demonstrations at educational institutions and non-profit organizations. For example, FJK Dance is currently involved at **Kings County Hospital (Brooklyn, NY)** through the **Artist-in-Residence Program** in the Behavioral Health Services, Wellness and Recovery Division. We support the hospital’s efforts to create greater awareness and acceptance in our society for those with mental illness. FJK Dance provides a pro bono dance class for staff and also presents “site-specific dance installations” and canvas painting in public areas on the hospital campus. Ongoing programs bring the arts, artists and creativity to mental health treatment within the hospital setting and the surrounding community as agents for change.

On Thursday, January 23, 2020, FJK Dance performed at the **Permanent Mission of the Republic of Hungary to the U.N.** at the invitation of H.E. Ambassador Katalin Annamaria Bogayay, The evening was a special program for the “Circle of Women Ambassadors” at the U.N., that was created by

Ambassador Bogyay upon her arrival at the U.N. in 2015. This group meets periodically to share knowledge and exchange views related to women's rights. They are dedicated to causes of protecting women and girls from sexual abuse, modern-day slavery and trafficking, among others. At the Permanent Mission, FJK Dance performed "Home," a contemporary ballet choreographed by Fadi J Khoury to music of Frederic Chopin that premiered in New York in 2016. It was inspired by the role of women in humanity; finding peace and the reflection of light through darkness. The many roles of women expressed through the choreography, their strength for survival, and their anguish as they wait for their men to return, resonated deeply with the audience.

Fadi J Khoury will travel to Berlin, Germany on February 20, 2020 to participate in and give a presentation at the 2020 "Artistic Cultural Diplomacy Forum" sponsored by **The Institute for Cultural Diplomacy**. This Forum brings together different groups and communities to explore the unique potential of the arts to transcend cultures. Artists and practitioners representing music, film, performance art, digital art, literature and painting will share perspectives with leading figures from international politics, diplomacy, academy civil society and the private sector. Following the Forum conclusion, papers and presentations will be shared with others interested in supporting programs and initiatives of global peace. At the forum, Fadi Khoury will discuss "The Fusion of Culture and Dance" developed by the FJK Dance Company that has evolved from Fadi's multicultural and international background into a platform for bridging cultural disparities through dance. In addition, Fadi Khoury will share his experiences as the first Dance Artist-in-Residence at Kings County Hospital, Brooklyn, in the Department of Behavioral Health Services, Wellness and Recovery Division. "Site-specific performances" in selected spaces at the hospital allow for engagement with patients, staff and visitors. This is an opportunity to find great inspiration and involve the public directly in our creative process. We can further draw from this live interaction to create a deeper connection in our dance studio and then to the stage. The installations at the hospital also include Fadi Khoury working on live painting with surrounding musical background and with an eventual presence of the dancers interacting with the painting, improvising in the space as well as creating new material led by Fadi's choreography.



According to Fadi Khoury, "what began as a blended choreographic form has become something larger – my role is not to just create fusion choreography, but to use dance as a message of peace for the world at large. At FJK Dance we are offering the freedom to understand our differences artistically."

FJK Dance is a contemporary dance company based in New York City, founded in 2014 by Fadi J. Khoury and Sevin Ceviker. Through its performances FJK Dance supports cross-cultural dialogue, bringing diverse people together through a unique fusion of dance genres from classical ballet to ballroom and Middle Eastern to jazz. At its core, FJK uses partnering techniques from Standard and Latin ballroom dance, connecting it with the extended lines and flow of contemporary ballet. Dance, an unspoken language, speaks broadly about the universal human condition and spirit. Movement, form, and the energy expressed on stage establishes a connection with the audience.

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Other 2020 performances to date include:

. Jan 11-13: APAP 2020 (Association for performing Artists and Professionals conference) at NY City Center

. February 14 Performing Arts Mosaic (PAM) at the Aaron Davis Hall Theater.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE COMPANY'S UPCOMING EVENTS VISIT: WWW.FJKDANCE.ORG



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