



p r e s e n t s

فلاوړتې

FLAGRANT DÉLIT
In the Act

b y E s s i a J a i b i

Presentation Portfolio

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Tunisian Queer Play Project

“FLAGRANTI”

Flagranti is a fiction based on an alarming reality, that of the LGBTIQ+ community in Tunisia. The originally came from the organisation Mawjoudin We Exist; “We want to create a Queer play in Tunisia”. I directly took this project as a challenge and a responsibility.

I chose to show a group of people diverse in age, profile and orientation, connected by an important factor: friendship. At first, everything seems normal, the audience meets people who live a “normal life”: they study, work and go out in Tunisia. But it does not take much for everything to shift.

Flagranti is the story of this shift, of this point of no return, where we dive in the universe of police stations, hospitals, brutal interrogations, retrogressive laws and of trivialized injustice.

Stakes are at the same time activist, esthetic, political and societal, as the main question I asked myself was: how to address Tunisia’s biggest taboo and ultimate forbidden act through theatre?

Didacticism was therefore an evident choice to me, as we face collective ignorance around the topic, decades of invisibilisation in the media, family and school, but also centuries of demonization of an entire group of people, religiously, morally and legally. The show takes on the didactic tradition in theater, revisited through various mediums (video, illustrations and sound) to explain certain notions and shed light on some practices and laws.

The tale is then interrupted, whenever necessary, by explanatory and offbeat parentheses, enabling all audiences to see the show while understanding what it is about and having the right tools to analyze the topic.

Between fiction and didacticism, severity and humor, emotion and sobriety, Flagranti plays on a thread and creates a sweet-sour relationship with the audience.

Flagranti is a show that settles, unravels and asks many questions, one of the key questions being:

In what country do we want to live in?
And how do we make this possible?

Essia Jaïbi - Stage director and playwright

Flagranti

SYNOPSIS

Early January 2022, Tunis.

Salma, a 28 year old journalist meets Fares during a press conference. They exchange looks, then a few words and finally a few texts. Fares has some financial issues. Salma tries to help him.

Thursday the 20th of January 2022

As she does every time she meets a guy, Salma invites him to her brother Adam's home, who lives in the heights of Sidi Bousaid, with his partner Malek. Salma, Fares, Malek and Adam spend the evening together at the couple's place. On the doorstep, Fares gives Salma a kiss and leaves the house around 21:40, a few minutes before the curfew.

Friday the 21st of January 2022

Salma has no news from Fares. She calls him, but his phone is off. He stays unreachable the whole day.

Saturday the 22nd of January 2022

The friends group: Adam, Malek, Ahmed, Salma, Bakhta and Rayen meet in the evening at the couple's to party, as they often do (the excuse: Rayen's negative PCR test). At the end of the curfew, at dawn, Bakhta and Rayen decide to go home. As they put their coats on, they find a bag hidden in the back of the living room: Salma recognizes it. It's Fares'.

The story will only last 4 days.

4 days that surely have not changed the world, but that will turn upside down the fate of Adan, Malek, Bakhta, Ahmed, Salma and Rayen.

Our six characters find themselves caught up in a crazy story!
4 days that challenge their friendship, their tormented loves, their violated citizenship...
4 days to come back down to earth, land without a parachute and crash on the ground of a societal reality with multiple faces.

Who are we?

MAWJOU DIN

Mawjoudin is a non-profit NGO officially registered and based in Tunisia. It aims to ensure equality and protect human rights, bodily and sexual rights of members of the LGBTQI+ community and other marginalized groups, through advocacy, documentation, capacity-building, awareness safe-space building and lobbying.

Our approach is inclusive: we adopt a decentralized approach to include people from all age groups, all genders and sexual orientations, and from various regions in Tunisia.

Our main objective is to promote diversity and non-discrimination to fight against oppression. We are committed to defending the rights of LGBTQI+ individuals so they can live with dignity within the Tunisian society.

Our vision consists in broadly sharing a culture of respecting human rights for a better society in which discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity and expression and sexual characteristics are non-existent.

Mawjoudin promotes integrity, dignity, celebrates differences, advocates for all forms of love and for expressing identity in a country that keeps concealing them.

Tunisian Queer Play

Project Genesis

The Queer Play project is a project of theater play inspired by the lived realities of Queer/LGBTQI+ in Tunisia.

In this respect, the project applies methods of storytelling and educational theater for a non-normative representation of lived experiences.

The project originated from Mawjoudin, after six years of community work in a constantly changing social and political context. It is through the stories of Queer people that the question of engaged visibility found its full meaning. It is to be acknowledged that the local and regional artistic mediums tend to distort the lived experiences of sexual and gender non-normative people.

FLAGRANTI is an audacious and unique alternative in Tunisia and the MENA region, to create social impact through art, leading the audience to question gender and sexual social norms.





Stage director

Essia JAIBI



Essia Jaïbi is a stage director, playwright and producer. After her studies in Paris and various endeavors in Europe, Essia came back to Tunis in 2017, to dedicate her work to on and off-site creation. Selected by the Rolex program “Mentor and Protege” in 2019 and invited by the Sundance Institute in 2020, she notably develops national and international collaborations.

Through her research, experimentations, and creations, she questions, always with a provoking and insolent tone, the complexes and complexity of the Tunisian society and the aspirations of a generation seeking identity, answers, and experiences.

Among her creations: Une Chambre A Elle - A Room of Her Own (Feminist art festival Chouftouhonna - 2016), Black Forest (Goethe Institute - 2018), Moi Plusieurs - Me Several (Journées Poétiques de Carthage, 2018), Madame M. (Familia Prod. - 2019), On la refait! - Another take! (Familia Prod. / Carthage Dance, Théâtre El Hamra /AFAC - 2019), Klash! (Familia Prod. - 2021), Métamorphose #1 and Métamorphose #2 (L'Art Rue - 2021), Flagranti (Mawjoudin We Exist, 2022).

Performer

Fatma Ben SAIDANE



Born the 25th of December 1949 in Tunis, Fatma Ben Saïdane is one of the most prominent figures in the Tunisian arts scene.

In 1987, she joined the theater company “Nouveau Théâtre” (As Masrah Al Jadid) and later “Familia Productions,” since it was created in 1994.

She performed in various movies and theater plays such as: “Arab” by Fadhel Jaïbi and Fadhel Jaziri (1987), “Halfaouine, l’enfant des terrasses” (“Halfaouine, child of terrasses”) by Férid Boughedir (1990), “Le silence du palais” (“The silence of the palace”) by Moufida Tlatli (1994), “Junun”, written by Jalila Baccar and staged by Fadhel Jaïbi (2000), “Benzine” by Sarra Abidi (2017).

Performer

Hamadi BEJAOU

After graduating in Spanish language and civilization at the High Institute of Language of Tunis, Hamadi has engaged in 4 different theatre and dance projects.

In 2019, he joined the National Tunisian Theater Performance School. He now performs in the play “Flagranti” directed by Essia Jaïbi (Mawjoudin production), as well as in the new creation of the CAD Ben Arous theater, an adaptation of “Juste la fin du Monde” (“Only the end of the world”) by Jean Luc Lagarce.



Performer

Mohamed OUERGHI

Mohamed has studied architecture at the ENAU school (National School of Architecture and Urban planning, Tunis). Mohamed then pursues a theatrical training in El Teatro Studio by Taoufik Jebali.

In 2021, he is nominated for the prize for best actor at the JTC (Theatrical Days of Carthage), and performs in La Conférence des Oiseaux (“The Bird Conference”) by Nawfel Azara, the movie Transtyx by Moncef Zahrouni, and Flagranti from Essia Jaibi.



Performer

Oumaima MTIMET

Graduated from the High School of Design Science and Technologies with an audiovisual specialization, she began her career as an image designer, before becoming film chief decorator. After 7 years of training at El Teatro Studio by Taoufik Jebali, and her participation in several creations, she entered the Tunisian National Theater Performer School in 2019. She notably performed in two TV creations, “El Maestro” and “Harga 2”, by Lassaad Oueslati.



Performer

Oussama CHIKHAOUI

After studying electricity and wiring in Bizerte, Oussama joined the Tunisian National Theater Performer School in 2017.

Oussama is an actor and dance performer in several shows: "Pour Temps" ("For Time") by Aws Ibrahim, "Le Cauchemar d'Einstein" ("Einstein's Nightmare") by Anouar Chaafi, "Claustrophobie" ("Claustrophobia") by Amine Zouaoui and "Lettre à dieu" ("Letter to God") by Thouraya Boughanmi.

In 2019, he received the prize for best actor at the Marrakesh International Festival of Theatrical Creation.



Performer

Aymen ZOUAOU



Aymen is an Associate Professor of English literature, language and civilization. Former student of ENS Tunis (Tunis High National School) Tunis, he currently teaches poetry, theater and translation at the Higher Institute of Humanities Applied Studies of Sbeitla.

Flagranti (Flagrant Delit) is his first professional experience on a theater stage. Between 2014 and 2017, he participated in several shows as part of a student company at the Preparatory Institute for Literary Studies and Human Sciences, and a YENS Tunis.

فلاور شاپ



Deena ABDELWAHED



Musician and sound
universe designer

After her debut in a jazz band and numerous interventions on the Tunisian electronic scene, the Tunisian producer and DJ moved to France in 2016. She signed with the Parisian label InFiné and released two EPs, "Klabb"(2017) and "Dhakar"(2020), as well as the album "Khonnar" (2018), acclaimed by several international media such as Pitchfork and The Guardian.

Her musical explorations are attempts full of hope to recover the elements that constitute the diversity of Arabic music. Her work is inspired by dance electronic music influenced by club music and the current experimental avant-garde scene.

Bastien LAGIER



Light
Conceptor

Bastien is a light designer who moved to Tunisia in 2017. Since 2011, he has worked in theatre, concerts and dance productions.

He works as a lighting designer, panel operator, scenographer, video manager, general manager and technical director, according to the projects.

He has been working with Essia Jaibi since 2019 on various projects such as "On la refait! " ("Another Take!") "Métamorphose #2" and "Flagranti".

Rima KHRAIEF



Videographer
and animator

Rima is a self-taught Tunisian visual artist based in Tunisia. She was born in 1993 in Gafsa, Tunisia.

In addition to her participation in several joint exhibitions and festivals, she designs video projects for performing arts. In this context, she explores 2D animation, composition and visual effects techniques. She is also a video manager on set.

Boshra JALLALI



**Illustrator
and graphic designer**

Boshra is an illustrator and graphic designer based in Tunisia. During her studies at ISBAT, she focused on graphic narratives, historiography, and social engagement. Driven by the firm conviction that art is a major asset for the defense of human rights, she put her expertise at the service of humanitarian causes, especially the feminist cause and gender equality.

Among her projects: Accelerating gender equality (KVINFO, 2019), MQFF (Mawjoudin, 2019 - 2022), Transtyx (theater play, book and film 2020 - 2022), Church of Euthanasia (theater play, 2022), and Flagranti (2022).

Aya REBAI



Scenographer

Aya is an architect and scenographer.

She has a diverse professional background, from management of sets and costumes at the Tunis Opera, to the coordination of various artistic, cultural and educational projects since 2016.

Very involved in Tunisian civil society, she has also participated in several projects for the LGBTQI+ community.

Ghassen DOUISSA



**Make-up artist
and costume designer**

Professional make-up artist based in Tunis, Ghassen has been passionate about the world of fashion and beauty since he was very young.

Alongside his studies in Space Design, he followed a makeup training. Once he graduated, he entered the world of fashion, photoshoots, fashion walks... Later, curious, he joined the world of theater.

Among his projects: "Point de Départ" ("Starting point") by Wahid Ajmi (2018), "Tilt Frame" by Boyzie Cekwana (2019), "Le cauchemar d'Einstein" ("Einstein's nightmare") by Anouar Chaafi (2021).

Omar NJAH



Costume designer

Omar is a costume designer and stylist based in Tunisia. After studying at ESMOD studies and completing various trainings, he entered the world of fashion and created collections for several clothing brands.

He became passionate about theater and follows a training at El Teatro. From 2018, he started making costumes for several creations, such as “Question de vie” (“Life Questions”) by Taoufik Jebali, “Martyr” by Fadhel Jaibi or “Les Fantômes de Salma” (“The Ghosts of Salma”) by Walid Ayadi.

Salma KOSSEMTINI



Staging Assistant

Salma is an exhibition curator.

She completed the professional training of Tasawar Curatorial Studios, in parallel with a master’s degree in art theory, after her bachelor’s degree in space design.

She is interested in contemporary art, sensory experiences and their socio-cultural impact.

Her practice also revolves around mediation with an emphasis on the audience experience.

Shiraz MAHDHI



Staging Assistant

Shiraz Mahdhi, 30 years-old, is a trained lawyer.

She studied at the Tunis Faculty of Legal, Political and Social Science.

In parallel with her artistic passion, she has been working since 2016 for several international organizations such as the UNHCR, MEPI, and the Tunisian Union for the Support to Mentally Insufficient populations (UTAIM).

Karim HATIRA



Sound technician

Karim is a trained sound technician.

He started developing his work in sound design through professional experiences in cinema and TV series as well as in live sound as a technician (FoH) and monitor for several concerts.

He also took part in artistic projects by deploying his technical expertise, such as in INTERFERENCE, See Djerba, and several B7L9 exhibitions where he managed the installation and production of artworks.

Bachir TAYACHI



Photographer

Bachir is a young visual artist (photographer/director) from Tunis. He started drawing and painting with his mother and kept the habit of capturing the moment. He studied at the Art Pilot High School with a specialization in theater. For a year, he studied at the Tunis School of Fine Arts, and then decided to learn architecture at the Tunis National School of Architecture.

His artistic approach is often about capturing the ordinary and transforming it in an extraordinary matter, telling a story without too much rhetoric, staying close to the truth, to the raw aspect of emotions felt in the past and present.

Nidhal CHEMENGUI



Press Officer

Nidhal is a cultural press officer in various public and private festivals.

She is mainly in charge of the national and international press for cultural events and projects.

She is editor-in-chief of the No'o cultures magazine, which is a magazine specialized in art criticism in Africa.

Nidhal is also a PhD student in sociology. Her research work is mainly connected to cultural policies and the professionalization of artistic and affiliated jobs in Tunisia.

Haithem HAOUEL



Logbook

Haithem is a Tunisian francophone journalist for the newspaper "La Presse de Tunisie": he is a specialist in socio-culture, print media and web.

Haithem is an art and film critic. He contributed and worked for other media and was part of the press and communication offices of many festivals such as the JMC, the International Festival of Hammamet, "Jaou Tunis" and "Mawjoudin Queer Films Festival"

Haithem Haouel graduated with a double-major in French literature and journalism.

Karam Aouini



Production
director

Karam was born December 18, 1992. Karam is a medical family resident, communication officer and artistic project manager at Mawjoudin since 2016, general coordinator of the first edition of the "Mawjoudin Queer Film Festival (MQFF)" in 2018, and production director of the show "FLAGRANTI" directed by Essia Jaibi since 2022.

Karam is engaged in the fight against discrimination and gender-based violence, and for non-normative sexualities.



“ The Pioneer Tunisian Theater about LGBTQIA+ rights ”

Le Monde Afrique

“ A daring piece in an Arab-Muslim society where freedoms are more and more violated, to see and review. ”

teKiano

“ Flagranti by Essia Jaibi, is a play where we remain amazed for almost two hours... Two hours where we are captivated, moved, but deeply disturbed. ”

Binetna





“ [...] a real wake up call for change, a beautiful, raw, and honest depiction of the queer struggle in hopes to decriminalize same-sex relations, and restore justice. ”

Mille

“ Nine sold-out shows, and standing ovations for the actors, [Flagranti] was able to conquer its audience by addressing a subject that is still taboo in the country ”

Le Monde

“ This is a historical moment in this country! Displaying such an event in an Arab Muslim country is not an easy task ”

euronews.

“ In nearly two hours, the director seeks to restore the pain of a community that cannot live as freely as they would like. ”

MEE
MIDDLE EAST EYE

“ FLAGRANTI – Against the odds, a queer play premieres in Tunisia ”

KET MAG



Flagranti
ARTISTIC TEAM

Staging, Scenario and Dramaturgy : Essia Jaibi

Performances: Fatma Ben Saidane, Hamadi Bejaoui, Oussama Chikhaoui,

Oumaima Mtimet, Mohamed Ouerghi, Aymen Zouaoui

Voice over : Essia Jaibi, Haythem El Mekki

Staging assistantship: Salma Kossemtini, Shiraz Mahdhi

Text: collective writing

Light conception: Bastien Lagier

Scenography and stage set: Aya Rebai

Video and animation : Rima Khraief

Music and sound universe : Deena Abdelwahed

Costumes: Omar Njeh, Ghassen Douissa

Make-up : Ghassen Douissa

Sound: Karim Hatira

Illustration and graphic design: Boshra Jallali

Photography: Bachir Tayachi

Logbook: Haithem Haouel

Translation: Amal Ellouze

Behind-the-scene: Othello Jelifi

Logistics: Khalil Jegham

Press officer: Nidhal Chemengui

Production Director: Karam Aouini

Production managers: Soly, Nour El Hayet Ben Abdallah

Production: Mawjoudin We Exist, in co-production with L'Art Rue



Flagranti
PARTNERS

L'Art Rue
 الشارع فن



HIRSCHFELD-EDDY-
 STIFTUNG



LGBT+
 DANMARK



KAMEL LAZAAR
 FOUNDATION

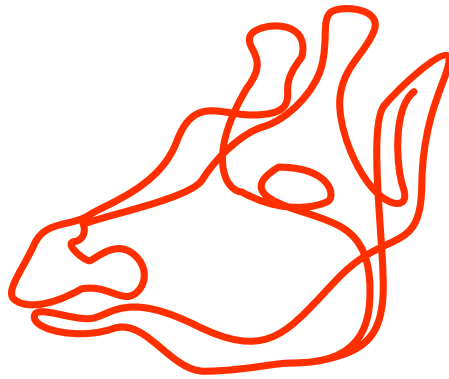


HEINRICH BÖLL STIFTUNG

شمال إفريقيا تونس

drosos (...)





موجودين

M A W J O U D I N

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