

## **DANSER**

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### **Sparkling Orient**

Among the rare Oriental dance shows one can see on Parisian stages are those of Leila Haddad of a quality such that they would not be out of place in any theatre worthy of the name.

"Zikrayat", a tribute to the great Egyptian singer Oum Kalsoum, is a generous succession of danced scenes where you recognize the spirit and the aesthetics of Raqs-al-Sharq: costumes, jewellery, quivering of veils, undulations of bellies and arms to the sound of rich and compelling music.

The seven dancers, in sparkling pinks, greens, yellows or blues appearing sometimes in line, sometimes diagonally, have the grace of vibrant flowers.

But you also recognize Leila Haddad in a short and beautiful passage where body movements, simplified and relieved of their ornaments give themselves over to their total purity.

Striking contrast! As for Leila's many fans, they receive their share of pleasure when she radiates in long solos punctuated by ululating sounds from the audience. It is pure joy that reigned the whole evening.

Dominique Pillette

