

LA CROIX

Saturday 22nd, Sunday 23rd February 2003

Daily n° 36462

A Tribute to Oum Kalsoum

"No one had dared to dance to the voice of Oum Kalsoum, the myth surrounding this great singer seeming to make her untouchable". This is what Tunisian Leila Haddad says, herself being recognized as one of the stars of the new Oriental dance.

The show she choreographs under the title "Zikrayat" (literally:"memories") is by way of a pure tribute to the Egyptian diva, and through her to the richness of the Arab-Berber cultural traditions.

Leila Haddad has been travelling Arab countries for years in search of rare dances and music. The sparkling Zikrayat blends popular and erudite forms of dance, while the songs of Oum Kalsoum interlace with more classical Arabic music.

A. S.