

ZURBAN

N° 131 Week of Wednesday February 26th to Tuesday March 4th, 2003

The Belly of Paris

Leila Haddad Dance Company, "ZIKRAYAT"

Oriental dance amounts to more than the more or less lascivious hip sway renamed "Belly Dance" by Europeans. It is a full choreographic art to which for two decades, Leila Haddad has been striving to give back its letters of nobility. The dancer of Tunisian origin was the first to open an Oriental dance or "Raqs Sharqi" class in Paris and to expend an incredible amount of energy spreading the Arab-Berber culture. She innovates once more by daring, together with her ten dancers, a creation with the voice of the Arab World's diva, the singer Oum Kalsoum.

I.C.