

## **DANSER**

February 2006

### **Leila Haddad at the Trianon Theatre**

A journey to Upper Egypt with Leila Haddad's dances

High priestess of Oriental dance which she has removed from the degrading "belly dancing" style performed in cabarets, Leila Haddad, adorned with jewels, performs a solo in In the Footsteps of the Ghawazee, the Gipsy dancers of Upper Egypt. Following the curls of the virtuoso improvisations of the seven Nile musicians, she weaves the threads of the Gipsy epic to create a changing choreography blending in to the spirit of each evening.

For her, Oriental dance is heir to the immemorial sacred dances engraved on Egyptian and Indian temples. Upper Egypt took them in together with the music from Rajasthan before the wandering of Gipsy tribes through the Mediterranean.

Wearing a long black and red skirt in the ghaziyeh tradition or a tulle dress embroidered with silver as in the past in Assiut, Leila stamps her feet on the ground, jingles the little cymbals on her fingertips, spins round to reach the fire of trance, like the duende in Flamenco dance.