

## The whole city's a stage

Beat the heat in the next couple of months by heading into the theatre. This summer is all about performances. *Caroline McEneaney* puts the spotlight on the best acts to catch this June



Arabesque: See this classic ballet until June 16

### Cinderella

One of the most famous and legendary tales of all times, *Cinderella* is coming to the UAE. The Royal Moscow Ballet, accompanied by the lead soloists of the renowned Bolshoi Ballet, will perform this classic story, marking the start of the Abu Dhabi Summer Season events.

Maksim Surov, the star of Russia's Bolshoi Ballet, will play the prince in this performance. He says, 'This will be my first visit to the UAE and I'm really excited about it. I've heard many positive things about the country from friends, about the hospitality and the friendliness of the local people as well as the beauty of the city.' Maksim, who joined the Bolshoi Ballet in 2008 and plays most of the theatre's lead roles, will be playing this role for the first time this June. He explains, 'It's kind of a premiere for me. I can tell you that

it's been crafted beautifully, though. And watch out for act two, where Cinderella and the prince share the stage in a climactic moment that will wow the audience.'

The performance features the choreography of Anatoly Emelianov, who is the artistic director and choreographer of the Crown of Russia Ballet Theatre. Set to a score by Russian composer Sergei Prokofiev, the show is accompanied by a full ballet orchestra as well. *From Dhs199. www.tixbox.com. Daily except Wednesdays, from now until June 16. ICC Hall, Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (Adnec), Khaleej Al Arabi Street (02 444 0444).*

### Rooftop Rhythms

Celebrating its two-year anniversary last month, the ever-growing Abu Dhabi poetry event Rooftop Rhythms

will host its last event before breaking for the summer. Founded by Dorian 'Paul D' Rogers, a teacher living in Al Ain, Rooftop Rhythms was inspired by a poetry slam night that Dorian attended in 2011 in Al Ain called Poetry Slammin' on the Roof. With the blessing of the Al Ain event's organisers, Dorian started a similar event in Abu Dhabi. Two years later, Rooftop Rhythms regularly welcomes crowds of more than 250 people to their monthly events.

Dorian explains the show. 'It's open-mic, meaning that poets, vocalists and hip-hop artists sign up in advance to share their talents with the crowd. DJ Allad plays mellow music before and after the show as well as in between the performances, which provides a cool counter-balance to the deep words that are shared throughout the night. As the host, I try to moderate in a way that keeps everything moving and the audience entertained.'

The events have expanded from the original open mic poetry nights with the introduction of Abu Dhabi Soul, which features musicians, and Rooftop Rhythms-Arabia, Abu Dhabi's first all-Arabic poetry open mic. Their season finale event this month, however, is the original Rooftop Rhythms poetry open mic. *The Rooftop Rhythms Grand Slam Finale and Poetry Open Mic will take place on June 20. Doors open 7pm, show 8pm-10pm. Free entry: Hilton Capital Grand Abu Dhabi, Rashid Bin Saeed Al Maktoum Street (02 617 0000).*

### Resuscitation theatre

Abu Dhabi's own grassroots theatre company is renowned in the capital for adapting classical plays for contemporary audiences. Their latest performance, *Al Khayef*, takes German playwright George Buchner's classic tragedy, *Woyzeck*, and 'Arabises' it for UAE audiences.

Set in a nonspecific area in the Middle East, the play follows the story of a poor street sweeper who embarks on a physical experiment at the behest of a local doctor. As he slowly degenerates, the play uses comedy to comment on the inequalities of wealth and poverty in contemporary society. Director Robert Liddington says, 'It's a tale of a man, oppressed by his poverty, who is dragged into an inevitable tragic spiral.'

Though the play is almost two centuries old, the themes ring true despite time and geography. Robert elaborates: 'This play represents one of the earliest attempts at what we might consider modern theatre. Indeed, it could quite easily be mistaken for the script of a television drama even though it was written in 1836. Moreover, adapting the play to Arab culture has not been difficult. You're bound to recognise the dilemmas the characters face wherever you come from.'

*Dhs75 adult, Dhs50 student. Tickets sold at door only. June 18-20. From 8pm. Emirates Writers Union Auditorium, The National Theatre, Mezzanine Level, opposite Abu Dhabi Media, behind Airport Road and 17th Street. www.resuscitationtheatre.com (050 837 1563).*



Modern take: Catch *Al Khayef*, a new version of a 19th-century German play



From the rooftop shout it out: Watch this open-mic show