



BEDOUIN JERRY CAN BAND

2009: Workshops, recitals and Film screenings

1. Junk Percussion workshop (40mins)

BJB percussionist Ayman Hassanne leads an interactive drum workshop in which participants are invited to bring household items (such as pots, pans biscuit tins and plastic tubs) to join BJB band members in the centuries-old Bedouin tradition of utilising everyday objects to produce a cacophony of hypnotic desert grooves.

There'll be an opportunity to try your hand playing Bedouin clay jugs and learn some jerry can and ammo box junk percussion rhythms from the band's hometown of Al Arish in the Sinai desert.

2. Debaka: Bedouin dancing (40 mins)

BJB members demonstrate female and male Bedouin dancing styles in traditional dress accompanied by live instrumental music performed by members of BJB.

Try your hand at Sinai step dancing and brandish a Bedouin Camel driving stick to the oriental dance rhythms of BJB's master percussionists.

3. The Simisiyya: music of ancient Egypt (50mins)

BJB members introduce and perform solo recitals on their unusual instruments: the Simsimiyya, a 5 string lyre associated with numerous enchantment legends, thought to possess magical properties; Kawala, a Bamboo flute traditionally used by Bedouin shepherders and the Magrona, a small but deadly reed pipe with the impressive ability to simultaneously evoke the image of Egypt and perforate eardrums.

While BJB's instruments can all be found depicted in numerous ancient Egyptian tomb paintings dating back to the times of the greatest Pharaohs, the band's music is part of a living folk tradition in today's Egypt enjoyed by audiences spanning the country. The recitals will be followed by a screening of the short documentary film "The Siren" produced by the El Mastaba Centre for Egyptian folk music, which includes rare footage of musicians across Egypt (including the Simsimiyya champions El Tanbura from Port Said) who all claim to have been seduced by the call of the Simsimiyya.

Press Quotes

"An infectious blend of clattering rhythms and rousing choruses"

******Songlines**

"Ammo boxes make for great drums"

The Independent On Sunday

"Legendary"

Time Out, London

"An undeniable sense of fun"

The Times

"Magic, historical and cultural lore, mysticism, and plain, old-fashioned romance"

The Independent

"A cacophony of found percussion, produced by battering on ammunition boxes discarded during the Six Day War"

******Financial Times**

"Raucous rock stars of the Sinai"

New Statesman

CONTACTS:

Booking Agency

Graham and Angie Breakwell

ACCESS ALL AREAS

44 Alexandra Avenue Meole Brace Shrewsbury SY3 9HS

Tel/fax 01743 235384

Mobile 07850 734182

Email: accessallareas@btinternet.com

Management and label

Michael Whitewood

30 IPS

Unit 18A The Aberdeen Centre

22-24 Highbury Grove London N5 2EA

Mobile: 07789 391 001

Email: michaelwhitewood@30ips.com

www.jerrycanband.com