



**20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tour 2009**  
Workshops, recitals and Film screenings

**1. BAMBOUTE DANCE AND MIME WORKSHOP (45mins)**

El Tanbura members demonstrate Port Said's unique tradition of *Bamboute* – a hybrid of mime and street dance which originates from the 19<sup>th</sup> century traders who sold merchandise to sailboats undertaking passage along the Suez Canal.

Egyptian merchants and sailors developed a complex language of gesture when selling goods to prevent items being unnecessarily hoisted between ships, and after a long day of trading activities on the Canal, a hybrid of mime and dance known as *Bamboute* was adopted by traders, dock workers and street performers alike when accompanying Simsimiyya musicians with spontaneous dancing in Port Said's old-time cafes and smoking dens.

Although modern commerce on the Suez Canal has long since marginalised these local traders in favour of Cruise ship passengers being ushered into the trinket-offering compounds of 5 star hotels, the secret language of *Bamboute* is still known to local dock workers and musicians.

ET's musical director Zakaria Ibrahim leads a 45min dance and music workshop in which participants will have the opportunity to learn the *Bamboute* dance and then accompany El Tanbura performing dance and mime to a special extended rendition of the song "Friends of *Bamboute*" from the band's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary CD.

**2. CAPTURING A VANISHING SPIRIT DOCUMENTARY (60mins)**

El Tanbura's musical director Zakaria Ibrahim introduces a special documentary about the origins of the group.

For twenty years El Tanbura have been custodians to some of Egypt's oldest folk melodies at their home in Port Said, the Mediterranean gateway to the Suez Canal. Lebanese Director Philippe Dib (*Welcome says the Angel*) explores the origins of the El Tanbura's unique music from the original *Suhbagiyya* communities of 19<sup>th</sup> Century Egypt, the resistance movement in aftermath of the Suez Crisis of 1956 and the musical traditions of *Diaspora* communities following the war. Three years in the making the film features candid interviews and footage of El Tanbura performing both in Egypt and on tour in Europe.

### 3. **THE SIMISIMIYYA: MUSIC OF ANCIENT EGYPT** (50mins)

El Tanbura members introduce a short documentary film "The Siren" (22mins) which will be followed by solo instrument recitals on the bands ancient lyre instruments, the Simsimiyya and Tanbura along with a and a Q&A session with the film's director, Zakaria Ibrahim.

*The Siren* explores a mysterious legend associated with the Simsimiyya, an ancient Egyptian lute dating back to the time of the Pharaohs, which tells how the Simsimiyya, originally used in exorcism rituals, can bewitch her players (also known as her lovers) enchanting and ultimately enslaving them through music. Charting the Simsimiyya historical legacy from dusty instruments preserved at the Egyptian Museum in Cairo through to contemporary relevance with folk music across Egypt, *The Siren* introduces fastidiously researched collections of master musicians both young and old, whom all claim to have been seduced by the call of the Simsimiyya.

**[www.eltanbura.com](http://www.eltanbura.com)**

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