



**Directors Lab Mediterranean to launch in Beirut July 15-24, 2019**

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**Contact: Sahar Assaf**

**Tel: 009613757467**

[artistic@directorslabmed.org](mailto:artistic@directorslabmed.org)

Directors Lab Mediterranean (DLM) will launch its initial Lab in July 2019 at the American University of Beirut, Lebanon.

Following the model of the Directors Lab at Lincoln Center Theater in New York, DLM aims to provide emerging stage directors from all over the world with the opportunity to build peer connections and create artistic networks with other Mediterranean theater makers. The first Med Lab hopes to explore the Mediterranean as a source for themes, stories and theatrical traditions and to explore the region as an artistic, not a political entity. The annual Lab will launch in Beirut in July 2019 and go on to rotate around the Mediterranean in other host cities in 2020 and thereafter.

“We envision DLM as a place to exchange creative knowledge and come in touch with the dramaturgical heritage of the Mediterranean area,” says Sahar Assaf, Artistic Director of DLM 2019. Assaf explains, “the groundwork for DLM was laid in January 2018 in a retreat hosted by the Theater Initiative at the American University of Beirut in the presence of the founder of the Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab, Anne Cattaneo, and theater makers and cultural managers from Lebanon, Jordan, London, US, Italy, Greece, and Spain, all past participants of the Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab.

These LCT Lab alum members of DLM Executive Steering Committee include Mohammad Banihani from Jordan, Anna Kapousizi from Greece, Lisa Nava from Italy and Juan Carlos Martel Bayod from Spain. Speaking on behalf of the committee, Anna Kapousizi says, “It’s time we shift our attention from the mainstream media to see what is happening off screen in and around the Mediterranean in terms of creativity and art. We feel it’s important for us as artists from the Mediterranean to get together and re-discover the common roots that feed our creative works. It’s this feeling of mutual cultural connection that we want to share with the rest of the world.”

The group explicates the aims of DLM on their website saying, “even though countries around the Mediterranean seem to share common characteristics there aren’t enough common artistic grounds at organizational and institutional levels on which Mediterranean artists can communicate and exchange their theatrical methods and traditions. Directors Lab Mediterranean aims to bring forth the voices of Mediterranean countries on an artistic level and create a place for directors from all over the world to exchange knowledge and ideas and come in touch with the artistic and dramaturgical heritage of the Mediterranean area.”

DLM, like the other sister Labs of the LCT Directors Lab in Los Angeles, (Directors Lab West), Chicago (Directors Lab Chicago), Toronto (Directors Lab North) and Melbourne (Directors Lab Melbourne), will offer a series of workshops, shared sessions, rehearsals and discussions with major guest artists from around the Mediterranean. DLM will kick off its first edition on July 15 of 2019 at the American University of Beirut in Lebanon hosted by the Theater Initiative and the Department of Fine Arts and Art History. This initial Lab will run for 10 days, ending on July 24, 2019.

Emerging and mid-career stage directors from all over the world are invited to apply to join the Lab, which will run for 10 days and will accept approximately 20 directors. The Lab is provided free of charge to all accepted applicants. DLM is accepting applications until December 3rd, 2018 through their website <http://directorslabmed.org/> where all other information and application details are available. Applicants will be notified of their acceptance on January 28, 2019.

Questions about the Lab and its application can be addressed on the DLM website:

<http://directorslabmed.org/application/>

**DLM kindly requests that this new opportunity be shared with interested individual artists and theatrical organizations throughout the area.**