**Said el Amir (Bern/München): “Masculinity has Never Been a Question of Muscles or Testosterone Only – Perspective of a Dancer to Whom it Applies”**

**Abstract**

In western as well as in eastern societies men always had to and up to date still have to show no weakness - even if publicity nowadays try to implement another view on masculinity. The purpose of my lecture is to present the changed point of view on masculinity in male Middle Eastern (ME) Dancers from past to present, including male dancers not only from the ME countries but all the more dancers from Non-ME countries practicing these dances.

A rough historical overview will guide to the current situation. From there, a very personal case study shall be sketched.

Building up on more than 30 years of experience in a dance style of a scene which has been and still is stamped by the feminist movement of the 1980’s, (my) masculinity is more than ever seen diverse of both men and women. Besides being confronted with preconceptions about sexual orientations and behavior, male dancers practice a profession which is still not seen as a masculine profession. Not to mention that it is still not seen as a "real" profession at all. Therefore, it is all the more fascinating that women do actively search for male dance teachers. Whether this is a question of masculinity or sexual attraction or maybe both could be an interesting research proposal.

The lecture finally leads into an open discussion about stereotyped masculinity and real live experience as well as future model possibilities.