

LABYRINTH DANCE THEATER

Sasha Spievogel, Artistic Director

presents

FELICIA NORTON

as

NOOR

code name: **Madeleine**

she was not the stuff that spies are made of

**"ABSORBING...
GRIPPING STORY...
A TREAT FOR THE MIND...
NORTON –
AN EXTRAORDINARY DANCER..."**
– BACKSTAGE

**"AMAZING DANCE THEATER PIECE.
DRAMATIC, TOUCHING, HEARTBREAKING.
IT'S A MUST SEE!"**
– ROSE HARTMAN

**CHOREOGRAPHY FELICIA NORTON & SASHA SPIELVOGEL MUSIC DAVID MAJZLIN
WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY SASHA SPIELVOGEL**

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION, LABYRINTH DANCE THEATER PRESENTS

NOOR

Now the incredible true story of Noor-un-nisa Inyat Khan is told in dance theater featuring Felicia Norton in a forty minute solo tour de force based on the life of a Sufi Pacifist who became a spy for the allies during WWII.

To find out more please visit our website:

www.labyrinthdancetheater.org/noor/

Includes a video excerpt from NOOR

A BBC Scotland Radio interview with

Sasha on *Sunday Morning with Richard Holloway*

a selection of performance photographs

a slide show about Noor's life and times

Video of The First Day Of Rehearsal

FOR BOOKING:

Contact Sasha Spielvogel, Labyrinth Dance Theater at

(718) 805-2107 or labyrinthdance@msn.com

For technical requirements please visit our web site.

**NOOR WAS SUCH A FASCINATING AND WARM
CHARACTER, AND DANCE IS A GREAT WAY OF
CELEBRATING HER LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS.
FELICIA DANCED HER BEAUTIFULLY, AND THE MUSIC
SCORE WAS GRIPPING.**

- Amraine Rasool, producer, BBC Radio Scotland

PERFORMANCE HISTORY

Scottish Story Telling Centre, Edinburgh

Rudolf Steiner Theatre, London, England

Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Scotland

Bryant Park, New York, NY

Shambhala Institute, Boulder, Colorado

Erasing Borders: Festival of Indian Dance, New York, NY

The Nehru Centre, London, UK with introduction by Shrabani Basu, author of *Spy Princess*

Fazal Manzil, Noor's family home, Suresnes, France

Angel Orensanz Synagogue/Center for the Arts, New York, NY

Arts at The Abode, New Lebanon, NY

Premiere April 18, 2008 Sarasota, Florida, Performing Arts Center at Rising Tide



Noor-un-nisa Inayat Khan was born in Moscow to an American mother and Indian father, the classical Hindustani musician and Sufi Master, Hazrat Inayat Khan. Noor was beautiful, kind and loving. She studied with Nadia Boulanger at the Paris Conservatory, child psychology at the Sorbonne and was a contributor to children's magazines and French radio until her family escaped to London when the Nazis invaded Paris in 1940.

Her book, *Twenty Jataka Tales*, inspired by the Buddhist tradition, was published shortly before they fled.

A pacifist by birth, she was not the stuff that spies are made of and struggled over the decision to join the war effort. Believing in respect for all religions, she felt she must play a part in opposing the horrors of fascism. She was recruited into the shadowy world of Britain's Special Operations Executive (SOE), code named Madeleine, and became the first female wireless operator infiltrated into Nazi occupied Paris. As she landed, her spy ring was blown. Though the Gestapo had a full description of her, she evaded them through the summer of 1943, often doing the work of six people becoming the last communication link between London and Paris. Noor could have left but stayed to finish her work and was betrayed by a 'friend.' She made two daring escape attempts from Gestapo headquarters at 84 Avenue Foch, which branded her "a most dangerous person", and was sent to prison in Germany where she was chained in solitary confinement. During her capture, interrogation and torture, she never betrayed anyone nor revealed any secrets.



Only months before the camp was liberated, Noor was taken to Dachau on September 13th, 1944 and shot. She was only thirty. Her last word was "Liberté!" Her spirit was such that when her captor on Avenue Foch learned of her death, he wept.

Noor Inayat Khan was posthumously awarded the George Cross and the Croix de Guerre, Britain and France's highest honors to a civilian for acts of bravery. A bust by sculptor Karen Newman was unveiled by the Princess Royal on November 8th, 2012 in Gordon Square, London, near where Noor lived.

Sasha Spielvogel and Emmy-nominated composer David Majzlin weave together Noor's poems, musical compositions, and her translation of 'The Elephant Tale', interspersing them with Morse code, political speeches, letters, music of the era and Mr. Majzlin's own music into a lush and evocative multi-layered soundscape. Felicia Norton received standing ovations in London, Paris and New York for her performance as NOOR.

Noor's compassion for victims of Nazi oppression and the courageous effort which cost her her life is a moving and relevant story that needs to be told for a younger generation. Our performance addresses the concept of repairing the world through dance; it is our way of remembering that we must rise to do the right thing – to save innocent people who want only the freedom to worship as they choose.

Photo at right: The Princess Royal unveiling the statue of Noor, the first of its kind to commemorate an Asian war heroine.



FELICIA NORTON toured internationally with her solo repertory, created by several dance luminaries and is featured in the book *DANCERS* by Philip Traeger. Jennifer Dunning of *The New York Times* described her as 'an extraordinary dancer' and John Percival in *The London Times* wrote 'she was the single best dancer in the festival, performing with a display of extraordinary sensual intensity' and was deemed the discovery of the evening at the Third International Festival of Dance in Brussels. Felicia's collaborations with Bessie Award winning violinist Leroy Jenkins were called 'magical' by Jack Anderson. She traveled to Finland with Ms. Spielvogel to perform in Sasha's *SACRED & BLUE*, and appears in her film, *DARK ANGEL*. Ms. Norton studied Sufism with Noor's brother, Pir Vilayat Khan.

DAVID MAJZLIN film credits include *STILLE* (Winner Best Score Avignon Film Festival), the multi-award-winning documentary, *HERB AND DOROTHY, THE LOVING STORY* (HBO Films), *YOUTH KNOWS NO PAIN* (HBO Films), and *SINS OF MY FATHER*, Emmy Nominee Best Score (HBO Films). He wrote additional music for *SUNSHINE CLEANING*, starring Amy Adams, Emily Blunt, and Alan Arkin, and source music for *THE GHOST WRITER* (dir., Roman Polanski, starring Pierce Brosnan and Ewan McGregor), *ALL GOOD THINGS* (dir., Andrew Jarecki, starring Ryan Gosling and Kirsten Dunst), and *THE JONESES* (starring Demi Moore and David Duchovny). In addition to scoring Ms. Spielvogel's *NO WAY OUT BUT THROUGH* and *DARK ANGEL*, David also worked with choreographer, Laura Gorenstein Miller (Helios Dance Company), Lou Reed, composer Paul Cantelon, and violinist Daisy Jopling (Triology).

SASHA SPIELVOGEL is the Artistic Director of Labyrinth Dance Theater, a classically trained modern dance company in New York. Labyrinth has used puppets, stilt walkers and musicians on stage and often commissions new dance scores. Critics from the *New York Times* to *Attitude Magazine* have described Ms. Spielvogel's work as, "Totally mesmerizing," "Striking!," "A powerful achievement performed superbly" and "Raises the art form to where it should always be: Towering!" The repertory, which runs the gamut from the deeply serious to the sexy and comedic includes: *WALTZ FOR A SHATTERED WORLD*, *GOYA AND THE SLEEP OF REASON*, *PASSING*, *LES ESPACES DU SOMMEIL*, *AUDITIONING FOR THE CELESTIAL FOLLIES* and the tango series, *ENTRE NOSOTROS*. *DARK ANGEL*, a dance film featuring Hannu Hyttinen, screened in New York City and at the *LOIKKA* Dance Film Festival in Helsinki in 2009.

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