



presents

magdalen

Created, written and produced by Sarah Cropper

Beleza Productions
208 Langthorne Road
London E11 4HS

0208 532 8494 tel
0208 926 6150 fax

info@belezaproductions.com

TABLE OF CONTENTS

The Performance	3
The Story Behind Magdalen	4
The Mysterious Mary Magdalen	5
News	6



Magdalen

The Performance

Created, written and produced by Sarah Cropper

This exciting and innovative new production will draw on the body of musical, artistic and poetic works inspired by the biblical figure Mary Magdalen through the ages. This live event will be a combination of sophisticated new music and stunning visuals celebrating her mythical life and times.



In this production, Magdalen's 7 key appearances in the Gospels will be woven into a magical 7 scene performance. In each of the 7 scenes a superlative cast of musicians and artists will present reinterpretations of ancient scriptures in brand new musical moulds. Captivating narrative and stunning visuals will reveal the true meaning behind dramatic scenes, including The Stoning of the Adulterous Woman, the Crucifixion, and the famous Garden Scene where Magdalen encounters the risen Jesus. Stories of Magdalen's apochryphal life, her ethiopian origins, her relationship with Christ, and her new life as a spiritual leader in France after his death, will also be part of the story to be told.

The production will take its musical inspiration from sources as diverse as plain chant, gospel, baroque, rock, jazz and world music, to create a brand new soundtrack to the 'Magdalen tale'.



Magdalen

The Story Behind the Production

It is no coincidence that the number '7' looms large in esoteric circles: the 7 days of creation, the 7 epochs, the 7 deadly sins, the 7 chakras, the 7th son of the 7th son, and 7th heaven etc... dig deep in any culture and you will come face to face with the number 7.

The Ancient Mysteries tell us that during our earthly lives, we travel through 7 heavens with 7 gates (trials or revelations), and these portals can only be opened by 7 doctrinal keys (called sapta-ratnani), keys of wisdom and future initiations.

It is a concept that goes back at least as far as the progress of Enoch through the 7 heavens or (less happily) the journey of the Sumerian goddess Inanna through the 7 gates of Hell. It is hidden in one form or other in all ancient and modern belief systems, including the Gospel stories of the Bible. Here we find the most famous untold seven stage tale of them all, in the intriguing story of Mary Magdalen - a secret interpretation of the Meaning of Life.





Magdalen

The Mysterious Mary Magdalen

Traditionally, Magdalen is portrayed as a marginal figure, a reformed prostitute and penitent befriended by Jesus and inferior to his male disciples. She is an enigmatic woman whose 'hold' over the public imagination has lasted over twenty centuries: artists and writers are bewitched by her, women aesthetics have modelled their lives on her, social movements have been born in her name and her cult status in the catholic church has spread from Europe to Africa and Brazil. In recent years 'Da Vinci Code' devotees determined to discover the true story of her life and her relationship with Jesus have blazed a 'Magdalen trail' around Southern France.



In this production however, a new figure emerges. In 'Magdalen' it no longer matters whether we take her story literally or not. In our mythical tale we find that Mary Magdalen is us, and we are Mary Magdalen! On her first appearance in the story, she (we) wakes up from the dream of the world, and begins her (our) evolutionary journey towards that highly sought after "nirvana" state of Being. At each of the 7 steps on this journey, she overcomes a new earthly challenge, each one leading on from the last. And as she does this, Magdalen (we) discovers that the solution to every problem that we as humans might face is not hidden at all - which is why it is so hard to find.



Magdalen

News

Legendary Brazilian composer, songwriter and performer Milton Nascimento has added his support to the upcoming production 'Magdalen' - it is hoped that his profound musicality will form an integral part of the show.



The beautiful and thought-provoking work of Canadian artist and photographer John Naccarato will be the backbone of 'Magdalen's visual narrative. You can view more of Naccarato's dramatic ground-breaking work at his website, www.naccarato.org.