

Fethi Karakecili

Performance at Iranian Heritage Day

Folk Dance (Choreography: Fethi Karakecili)

Dancers: Fethi Karakecili, Banar Pasha, Mariusz Kowalenko, Safak Akgul, Azar Masoumi, Ava Homa, Paromita Kar and Yasmine Zamani.

Solo Dance: Kevokim Lele (Choreography: Fethi Karakecili and Paromita Kar) Dancer: Paromita Kar

Dilan Dance Company

With tribal languages, remote cultures, folklore dances and traditions fading into extinction every year, now more than ever the world needs to save its heritage and traditions from the rapid change of modernization and globalization. Fortunately this is exactly what Fethi Karakecili has set out to do.

Mr. Karakecili has founded Dilan Dance Company in 2008 to research, archive, teach, perform traditional Kurdish dance, music and folklore.

Fethi Karakecili is a pioneer in his field as it relates to Kurdish Heritage. His extensive academic background as both a practitioner and a scholar of Kurdish dance and music has been vital to keeping the Kurdish dances and music pure to each one of four Kurdish regions (Rojhalat, Bakur, Bashur, Rojava). "Preventing the persistent tainting of dances from surrounding areas or dance groups who lack the knowledge of movements specific to each region has been the biggest challenge for us" says Fethi Karakecili.

The dancers of Dilan Dance Company are professional dance artists as well as academics actively doing scholarship and research on music and dance. The dancers themselves come from diverse ethnic and dance backgrounds as the company seeks to embrace the diversity. Dilan Dance Company also seeks to strengthen the dialogue between traditional folk dance forms and Western contemporary and ballet dance styles. Dilan Dance Company premiered the world's first Kurdish ballet, *Mem u Zin* at the Isabel Bader Theatre (Toronto, 2011). The production received favourable reviews and appreciation globally, and the company returns to the Isabel Bader Theatre this year with the premiere of *The Dance of Colours: The Legend of Newroz* on May 16, 2014. In addition to the large scale productions, Dilan Dance Company also tours, performs and offers workshops locally at numerous events such as Kurdish New Years, Kurdish Festival, Ontario Folk Dance Association and The TDSB throughout Ontario, as well as in Canada and internationally. The company's activities can be followed at <http://dilandance.blogspot.ca>

Fethi Karakecili

Artistic Director, dancer, choreographer, educator and scholar – was born in Urfa, Northern Kurdistan (in Turkey). He completed a Bachelors degree in Folk Dance at the State Conservatory in Turkey and a Master's degree in Dance at Istanbul Technical University – Social Science Institute. He taught for 7 years as full-time faculty at Gaziantep University and Istanbul. During this time, he performed extensively and led competitive folk dance troupes throughout Turkey and Europe. He performed and competed in several European and Asian countries and has won multiple awards.

Fethi moved to Canada in 2001 and completed his second Master's at York University in Dance Studies. Currently, he is pursuing a PhD in Ethnomusicology at York University. He has taught at York University in the Dance, Music and Cultural Studies Departments since 2006. For his PhD dissertation, Fethi is working on an Ethnographic approach on Kurdish wedding rituals,

dance and music in Kurdistan and the Kurdish diaspora. Fethi is the founder of the Dilan Dance Company, and has to his credit, a number of large scale productions in both Turkey and Canada, and has choreographed for a number of feature films and documentaries. He is a member of Folklore Canada International, World Dance Congress (Unesco) and other related organizations and is on the Board of Directors of Community Folk Arts Council of Toronto.