

Muslim Voices: Arts & Ideas

Global talent flocks to this Islam-focused fest.

1 TUNISIA It's not news that break dancing and hip-hop are crazy popular in the modern Arab Muslim world (type *break dance Tunisia* into a YouTube search for a mesmerizing reminder). The influences abound in *Making Of*, a film about a Tunisian B-boy who becomes a suicide bomber, directed by Nouri Bouzid. *BAM*; June 8 at 4:30, 6:50, 9:15pm

2 SENEGAL An estimated 94 percent of Senegal's population is Muslim. That includes legendary Senegalese singer and percussionist Youssou N'Dour, who helped develop the country's music—known as *mbalax*—and has used it to show a positive, more complex side of Islam. Get swept up in N'Dour's contagiously energetic rhythms. *BAM*; June 5, 6 at 8pm

3 PAKISTAN The Qawwali Gospel Creation show is a mash-up of African-American gospel and the 700-year-old tradition of *qawwali*, trance-inducing Sufi praise music. Between Pakistani singer Faiz Ali Faiz's pulsing beats and his rich vocals, we dare you not to feel uplifted. *BAM*, Jun 13 at 8pm

4 INDIA *Dastangoi* is an Urdu storytelling tradition dating back to medieval Iran. Actor Naseeruddin Shah (from *Monsoon Wedding*) will perform one dramatic sorcery- and warrior-filled chapter from the 46-volume *Dastan-e-Amir Hamza* in "Dastangoi: The Adventures of Amir Hamza." *Asia Society*; June 7, 8 at 7:30pm

5 UNITED ARAB EMIRATES The Arab world's Oprah, Nashwa Al Ruwaini, hosts an envelope-pushing weekly TV talk show called *Nashwa* in Dubai. She'll speak as part of a two-day conference, "Bridging the Divide Between the United States and the Muslim World Through Arts and Ideas." You'll walk away with an open mind—but sorry, not a new car.

WHAT: A ten-day festival and conference
WHEN: June 5–14
WHERE: Various locations; visit muslimvoicesfestival.org for more info.

NYU's Center for Dialogues, Brooklyn Marriott, June 6 at 9am

6 NEW YORK CITY There are more than 200 mosques in our five fair boroughs (Bay

Ridge, represent!). Photographer Edward Grazda was inspired to visit most of them following the

1993 World Trade Center bombing, documenting the Muslim presence in New York. Excerpts from his book *New York Masjid* will be on view. *BAM*, June 5–28