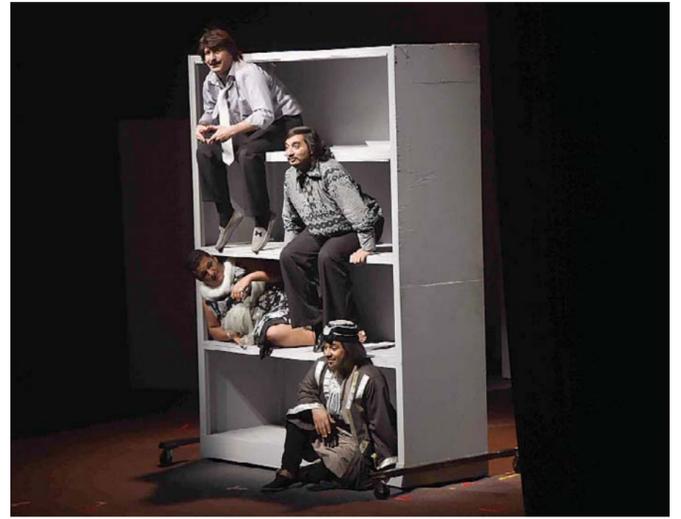
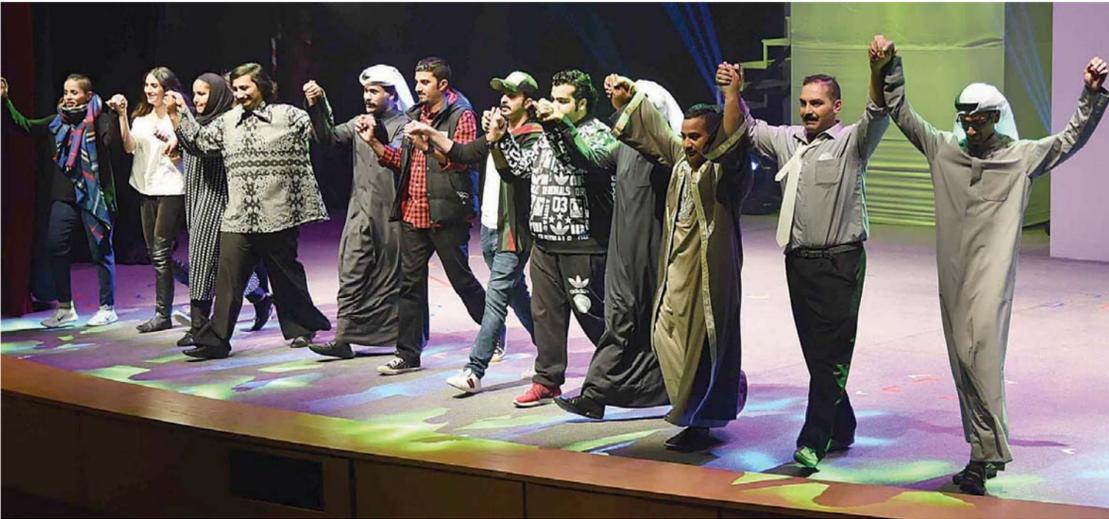




Information and Youth Affairs Minister Sheikh Salman Al-Sabah speaks at the opening ceremony of the 8th Arab Theater Festival. —Photos by Fouad Al-Shaikh



## SHEIKH SALMAN OPENS ARAB THEATER FESTIVAL

Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Al-Sabah said Sunday Kuwait's theaters are glowing with joy pride as the country hosts the 8th edition of the Arab Theater Festival.

The Kuwaiti theatrical troupes share the joy with their peers from Arab countries that deliver a noble, civilizational and humanitarian message, said Sheikh Salman, who is also President of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL). He made the comments in a statement on behalf of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to the opening ceremony of the festival.

The current session of the annual event, themed "towards new and renewable Arab theater," is co-organized by NCCAL and the Arab Theatre Institute (ATI) until January 16 and gathers more than 400 Arab theatrical figures; its agenda includes several performances by Arab troupes and artistic workshops.

Sheikh Salman spoke highly of Dr Sultan bin

Hamad Al-Qassemi, member of the UAE Federal Supreme Council and Ruler of Al-Sharjah Emirate, for his role in founding the ATI in 2009 and the promotion of the Arab theatrical arts.

He noted that Dr Al-Qassemi, the co-founder and president of the ATI, made several initiatives to advance the march of Arab theater, including the offering of the ATI award - the most prestigious Arab theatrical prize.

### Islamic culture

He conveyed to the audience the best wishes of His Highness the Amir, adding that the festival coincides with the celebrations marking the selection of Kuwait as "capital of Islamic culture for 2016" and the preparations for celebrating the country's 55th National Day and the 25th Liberation Day.

Meanwhile, Secretary General of the ATI Ismail Abdullah thanked His Highness the Amir for his kind patronage of the event and appreciated Kuwait's role in promoting cultural

enlightenment throughout the Arab world over long decades. He cited as example the presence at every Arab library of Kuwait publications such as 'Al-Arabi' magazine, 'Alam Al-Maarifa' (world of knowledge) and 'Alam Al-Masrah' (world of theater).

Zinaty Qodsia, a Palestinian-Syrian artist, said meanwhile that theater provides a unique aesthetic platform for theatrical artists to highlight the significance of "beauty making at a time of rampant distortion." "The journey of the festival started from Sharjah before coming to Kuwait - the oasis of culture, arts sciences, peace and love," Qodsia pointed out.

During the opening ceremony featured the offering of a performance titled "panorama" which includes excerpts from Kuwaiti immortal plays such as 'Bye Bye London,' '30 Days of Love,' 'Bye Bye Arabs,' 'Hami Al-Diyar,' and 'Party on a stake.' The NCCAL has nominated a number of notable figures who influenced the Kuwait theater for honoring during the current session of the festival. —KUNA



## GUST PARTNERS WITH LOYAC TO DEVELOP YOUTH INITIATIVES

Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST) and LOYAC, a non-profit organization, signed a memorandum of understanding yesterday to further enhance the interaction between the students and graduates of GUST and the community through LOYAC's youth programs and initiatives.

GUST and LOYAC are set to collaborate on a number of events including seminars, workshops, career fairs,

internships, and volunteer work opportunities. By leveraging LOYAC strength in creating and overseeing professional and personal development programs for youth, GUST exposes its students to a range of development programs to take advantage of and interact with the local community.

GUST Vice President for Academic Affairs and Acting Vice President for Planning and Development, Dr Salah Al-Sharhan, said, "We work vigorously

to give our students the best opportunities in the market to grow, develop, and explore their interests. This collaboration is one of those opportunities which we believe it opens many doors for our students, and give them unique life experiences to add to their academic and professional achievements".

GUST places great importance on youth programs and community outreach and has been initiating partnerships with many esteemed organiza-

tions locally and internationally to ensure that students explore their full potential.

This collaboration creates many viable opportunities for GUST students, whether through part-time job opportunities or internships. Students will also be fast-tracked in applying for LOYAC's Local and Global internship programs. Those awarded would receive certificates from LOYAC, and attain three credit hours towards their

degree upon successfully finishing the program.

LOYAC Board Member, Fetouh Al-Dalali, said, "LOYAC and GUST have been working together for some time, and we are very excited to be embarking on this formal partnership. Among the programs we are looking into the selection of a LOYAC Student Ambassador from GUST to help us connect directly with the entire student body on potential development

opportunities". LOYAC was founded by a group of committed women who hoped to provide youth with opportunities for personal growth, experiencing the joy of service, and developing their professional skills through on job training internships that build self-confidence. Today, LOYAC has become the first choice of the youth in Kuwait when it comes to innovative and high quality programs.

## BRIDAL PACKAGES LAUNCHED BY TALISE SPA IN KUWAIT

PACKAGES OFFER STUNNING RESULTS FOR YOUR SPECIAL DAY

Exclusive bridal packages have been launched at Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel's Talise Spa to offer the perfect pre-wedding celebration. Luxurious combinations of treatments, facials and massages have been designed to deliver relaxation and pampering within the tranquil surroundings of Talise Spa.

Brides can choose from three options. The 'Tradition with Luxury Ritual' is priced at KD 220 and offers a 190-minute hammam treatment - an exotic cleansing ritual which includes traditional soaping, exfoliation and perfumed water. This package also includes

the diamond sublime facial, a treatment which helps activate energy and soothes accumulated tensions.

The 'Head-To-Toe Ritual' is priced at KD 135 and offers a 180-minute traditional Dead Sea body scrub. This comprises an aromatic blend of herbs and Dead Sea salts to improve circulation and provide gentle exfoliation. This is then followed by the 'Dead Sea mud experience,' a body wrap of Dead Sea secrets which will leave skin soft and glowing. In addition, a full body massage and facial treatment tailored to the bride's skin type are included.

The 'Glowing Skin Ritual,' is priced at KD 120 and offers a 130-minute vitamin C body scrub with green tea and rose hip oil. It also includes a hydrotherapy treatment and a body mask treatment according to the skin type. The entire package also comprises a reflexology massage that utilizes pressure point therapy underneath the foot to relax the whole body and refresh tired feet. Located in Kuwait's idyllic resort, the Talise Spa was awarded the 'Best Luxury Resort Spa' in Kuwait by the 2015 World Luxury Spa Awards.

