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Global Village applauds symphony of cultures

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Performers from Belarus, Belgium and Ghana take centre stage

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Image Credit: Courtesy DSF

Cirqu lation Locale: The group was formed in Belgium more than 11 years ago to present crossover circus shows.

Dubai: The Global Village hosts multiple shows daily to entertain the thousands of visitors flocking to what is

easily one of Dubai's most anticipated annual events.

Aside from the daily shows that are held within different country pavillions all day, there are bigger performances that are held on the World Cultures Stage, between 6-11pm daily.

These main performances change every month to enable visitors to experience different cultures.

Troupes from Belarus, Belgium and Ghana kicked off the first performances at Global Village after the opening of the Dubai Shopping Festival (DSF) in January, mesmerising visitors with ballet performances, acrobatic stunts and traditional African dance, drawing large crowds.

The Belarus government-owned folk group, State Dance Ensemble Belarus, is one of the most important folk groups from that country. Boasting over 150 artists including a full-fledged orchestra, the group has been in existence for 50 years.

The shows at the Global Village by the Belarus team showcase a mix of ballet finesse and classic moves reflecting the Ukrainian–Russian folk art tradition and, more importantly, the Belarusian spirit.

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Fedor, the Belarus team leader, said that all the performers are professionals with a minimum of eight years of ballet school experience.

“Daily training of five to six hours is a must,” Fedor says, for the performers to keep up with almost four daily

performances.

Cirq'ulation Locale is a multinational group that was formed in Belgium more than 11 years ago to present 'crossover' circus shows. These shows are a mix of acrobatics and juggling embellished with dance and humorous interludes.

Five young artists were chosen to represent the group at the Global Village performances this year. The show resembles a play while putting each performer's skills under the spotlight. The chosen performers are originally from France, Switzerland and Spain.

The Ghanaian group Dza Nyonmo Dance Ensemble was formed in 1996 in Ghana by young talents who had one mission: to preserve the heritage of West African dance. The 25 artists have revived and preserved West African tribal culture, which draws on the main theme of celebrating nature and its gifts such as air, rain and harvest.

Ten artists from the main dance ensemble flew in to Dubai to perform at the Global Village. One of the dances chosen for performance was the 'Bamaya' dance, or rain dance, as an expression of Ghana's heritage.

The Bamaya dance revolves around the story of the drought which ravaged West Africa at the beginning of the 19th century. The chief of the tribe asks the womenfolk to go to the valley in search of the rain. Later the rest of the tribe follows in an exhilarating performance, which is accompanied by 'dondo' and 'luag' drumbeats.

Al Hassan, the Dza Nyonmo Dance Ensemble team leader in Dubai said, "The performances take a lot of physical movements that require three to four hours of training every other day".

