



PRESS RELEASE

Hip-hop Legend Sets Up Headquarters at Mawazine

Multi-award winning artist Wyclef Jean in concert at the OLM Souissi on May 22nd, 2016

Rabat, Morocco/March 31st, 2016 - For his second appearance in Morocco, the Maroc Cultures Association is pleased to welcome one of the biggest stars of contemporary music, Wyclef Jean. Essential actor of world hip-hop and long time activist, the Haitian artist embodies values of openness and multicultural consciousness defended by Mawazine since its creation.

Jean Wyclef sold more albums- with the Fugees, in solo, and with his creations for artists from the whole world- than anyone could ever dream of. He has enough hits in his discography to keep audiences on the hook for hours. His concert already promises to make Mawazine history!

Jean Wyclef's music he wrote and produced- simultaneously as solo superstar and as founder and leader of the Fugees- is, since two decades, a unique source of inspiration in the music world. Indeed this is the case since 1996, year during which the Fugees released album, *The Score*, today six times certified platinum. Recorded in the cave of Wyclef's uncle, in New Jersey, the record was on top of the charts and at the origin of a series of planetary successful singles, including indelible cover of the ballade "Killing Me Softly."

Following this work of art, child prodigy Wyclef, endowed with extensive influences, going from jazz to rock, passing by classical and reggae, knew how to renew his style and remain at the top throughout his career as a solo artist and producer, whose work attracted an array of celebrities come from the universes of pop, country, folk, disco, Latino, and electro.

In 2006, ten years after *The Score*, the single "Hips Don't Lie" recorded with Shakira, confirms Wyclef's place at the top. The blockbuster is ranked number one in over 20 countries, including the United States, crowning an almost unprecedented musical career in modern history. After revolutionizing the sound of hip-hop in the 1990s, Jean Wyclef began his career as a producer for other renowned artists, from Whitney Houston to Cypress Hill, passing by Santana for whom he produced epic "Maria Maria," ranked number one upon its release.

Hereafter, Wyclef was awarded for his creativity and adventurous spirit with three Grammy Awards in addition to the Rolling Stone Magazine, who ranked him among its 50 greatest hip-hop artists of all time. Wyclef is also one of the rare to have collaborated with as many legends, of which Michael Jackson, Queen, Mick Jagger, Paul Simon, Earth, Wind & Fire, Kenny Rogers, Tom Jones... he also knew how to keep an attentive ear out to new talents by particularly contributing to launching Beyoncé with single "No, No, No" by Destiny's Child.



Maroc-Cultures

However, Wyclef also knew how to build an incredible career as a solo songwriter. With six albums to his credit, whose accumulated sales exceed ten million copies, the musician began writing his own songs since 1997 and a first solo album *Wyclef Presents the Carnival featuring the Refugee All Stars*, with tracks “Gone Till November” and “We’re Trying To Stay Alive,” on which Wyclef samples the famous “Ah ha ha ha stayin’ alive” by the Bee Gees, a worldwide hit. In 2000, Wyclef released a new album, *Ecleptic*, and released in 2002 a third record, *Masquerade*, on which we can find hit “911” in duo with Mary J. Blige.

In 2003, we find Wyclef on the shelves with *The Preacher’s Son* and a best of. In 2005, Wyclef hits the headlines once again with an album written as a tribute to his father. With his album *Welcome to Haïti-Creole 101*, Wyclef comes back to the source with finesse and shows through his music the fervor of his commitment to the Haïtian cause. In addition to being a musician, producer, author, and composer, Wyclef is also a committed philanthropist among his Haïtian compatriots through the Wyclef Jean Foundation which supports and finances social and humanitarian projects.

Even after such an accomplished career, Wyclef has not abandoned his taste for sonorous journeys. Soon on the shelves, his new album, *Clefication*, features Afrojack, Emeli Sandé, and award-winning Avicci!

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Useful Information:

Mawazine Festival Rhythms of the World 15th Edition: May 20th to May 28th, 2016.

Jean Wyclef will perform at the OLM Souissi on Sunday May 22nd, 2016.

About Mawazine Festival Rhythms of the World:

Born in 2001, the Mawazine Festival – Rhythms of the World is the essential rendezvous for music lovers in Morocco. With over 2 million festivalgoers for each past edition, it is ranked the second greatest cultural event in the world. Organized during nine days, every year in May, Mawazine offers a rich and robust lineup, which intermingles the ultimate stars of the global repertoire, making the cities of Rabat and Sale a forum of exceptional encounters between the public and a multitude of renowned artists. Extremely committed to the promotion of Moroccan music, Mawazine dedicates over half of its lineup to national talents. Embodying the values of peace, openness, tolerance, and respect, the Festival’s main mission is to ensure access to the public, hence offering free admission to 90% of its concerts. It is also a major contributor to the regional tourism economy and leader of the creation of a genuine entertainment industry in Morocco.

About the Maroc Cultures Association:

Created during a general meeting held in Rabat on 23/10/01, in accordance with the Royal Decree of November 15th, 1958, Maroc Cultures is a non-profit organization that set its primary mission to ensure the public of Rabat-Salé-Zemmour-Zaer, cultural and artistic entertainment, of professional level, worthy of the Kingdom’s capital. Echoing the fundamental values of the development policy of His Majesty the King Mohammed VI, Maroc Cultures embodies this noble mission through the



Maroc-Cultures

Mawazine Festival Rhythms of the World, and various events such as competitions, multidisciplinary symposiums, plastic art exhibitions and concerts.