



Maroc-Cultures

PRESS RELEASE

**Mawazine will occupy the main arteries of the capital to spread its
magic**

Rabat and Salé will vibrate to rhythms of percussions and exceptional voices of enchanting Moroccan artists

Rabat, April 2nd, 2016 - As usual, the stage of Salé and the streets of Rabat will see performances of artists with unique and poetic universes blossom. A cocktail of extremely awaited exceptional performances, sure to delight all generations.

The 15th edition of Mawazine Festival Rhythms of the World resolutely promises to be memorable! On the agenda: an ingenious mix of traditional Moroccan music and sounds come from elsewhere.

On Sunday May 22nd, the hope of the Rways repertoire, Raïssa (master) Fatima Tachtoukt, will perform on the same stage. Amazigh music has always entertained this young artist, especially the repertoire of Raïssa Rkia Talbensirt, to which she devotes unlimited admiration. She owes the premises of her career to her participation in a contest organized by Radio Plus in 2007, *Ddu Tafukt*, which she won among 300 participants. The following year sees her first album, through which she pays tribute to Rayssate (women masters) who rocked her cradle since birth, like Raïssa Fadma Tagourramt, Raïssa Ftuma Talguercht, Raïssa Sfiya Oult Telouet and Raïssa Fatima Tihihit Mqorn.

A number of groups will be produce during this prestigious edition. On Tuesday May 24th, the stage of Salé will be home to a show characterized by an explosion of positive vibes from Darga. Native of Casablanca, consisting of nine members, Darga is one of the most active representatives of the alternative Moroccan scene. Interbreeding reigns on their musical creation, which finds its source in reggae, ragga, gnaoua, rock, ska, funk, and jazz. Darga has also had the honor to of performing the opening of stars such as Manu Dibango, N'Dour, and Sergent Garcia. Each one of their performances, whether on a national level or during big European festivals, is a breathe of oxygen for a public hungry for positive vibes and moments of sharing. Two self-produced albums saw the day since the group's creation in 2001: *Darga* (2004) and *Stop Baraka* (2008).

Thursday May 26th, the stage of Salé will transform into a grand special evening of Moroccan hip-hop. Rapper H-Name will be present to offer his fans African and Amazigh sounds. A style imprinted with originality propelled our "Moroccan Eminem" to the top of the headlines. Born in the early 80s in Casablanca, H-Name became the voice of a youth lacking orientation. His unique flow and voice vehicle successful tracks, like "Salsa de Casablanca," "Hadchi li ngolo," and "Ara Ara."

Time for street shows, with Overboys Original, who will offer from Saturday May 21st to Tuesday May 24th, eclectic music made of colorful notes and sunny rhythms. The nine members of the group have a style of world music and diverse cultures to offer the public a bubbly and energetic cocktail. On



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the menu: Samba and Batucada mingled with hip-hop and salsa, without forgetting the Moroccan touch.

The breathtaking percussion group, Ostina Tono, will also perform on the same dates. With simple metal barrels, the 10 musicians of the group were inspired by Moroccan heritage to create melodies varying from chaâbi to African music, passing by Berber and Gnaoua music. Chaining performances, private parties and festivals throughout Morocco, these young percussionists quickly established themselves on the national music scene.

From Wednesday May 25th to Saturday May 28th, Rabat will be sporting the colors of Batukown, who will occupy the streets of the capital, to the residents' greatest delight. Created in Rabat in 2014, this group of percussionists and circus artists features, with the help of comedian and musician friends, the *Batuklown* street show. The group presents a musical comedy inspired from the 60s. Also on the agenda: urban culture, modern life, and a mild-flavor of crazy.

Finally, still from Wednesday May 25th to Saturday May 28th, to end the week in beauty, the unmistakable sounds of Tketkat Marrakech will bring happiness to the festivalgoers. Offering collective and masculine music with polyrhythmic percussions and choral singing. The Tketkat Marrakech troop excels in this spectacular art, and performs at popular and religious parties, at marriages, and also at festivals and other events. Tketkat Marrakech has animated diverse shows for national manifestations and represented Morocco at multiple international festivals, as is the case for this 15th edition of Mawazine Festival Rhythms of the World.

Useful Information:

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

Stage of Salé

Raïssa Tachtoukt's concert on Sunday May 22nd, 2016

Darga's concert on Tuesday May 24th, 2016

H-Name's concert on Thursday May 26th, 2016

The street shows of Overboys Original and Ostina Tono will take place starting Saturday May 21st to Tuesday May 24th, 2016, in Rabat.

The street shows of Batuklown and Tketkat Marrakech will take place starting Wednesday May 25th to Saturday May 28th, 2016, in Rabat.

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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



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