

PRESS RELEASE

16th edition of Mawazine Festival Rhythms of the World

Mawazine declares its undying love for Africa

For its 16th edition, the festival renews its commitment to the continent by showcasing Africa's best artists on the Bouregreg stage

Rabat, Sunday, March 5th, 2017 - In 16 years since its inception, one can proudly say that Mawazine Festival has come a long way. Over the years, the festival is proud to have been able, to bring to Rabat so many virtuoso artists, legends of African music, amazing blending and fusing of music styles and also new bands. Thanks to all this, the audience of the festival saw itself growing to the sounds of the music of the African continent. One after the other, great artists like Youssou N'Dour, Mory Kanté, The Drums of Burundi, Salif Keita, Manu Dibango, Angelique Kidjo, Rokia Traoré, Keziah Jones, Mokhtar Samba, to name a few, enchanted the public.

Enlightened by His Majesty King Mohammed VI vision, Mawazine has been, since 2002, consistently and constantly celebrating the values of sharing and tolerance throughout Africa. By showcasing major African artists in one of the most beautiful sites of Rabat; namely, the river bank mythical Bouregreg stage, each year the festival introduces its audience to talented African artists: singers and musicians playing on sophisticated or antique instruments and capable of producing the most modern rhythms or the oldest traditional sounds.

From trances of all types, percussion orchestras, modern blues, urban poetry, female emancipation to Citoyen Rap, like free electrons, this music ripples outward, embraces all, and makes sparks fly in every Mawazine festival edition. As in the previous years, Mawazine will once again remain true to its love for the continent, offering nine full days of African music to illuminate Morocco and beyond!

For this 16th edition, the Bouregreg audience will, on May 12th, enjoy the music of Panache Culture, a band that combines roots-rock-reggae, a triad whose sources are a 100% fusion music.

On Saturday May 13th, it will be MHD's turn, a French rapper of Guinean and Senegalese origin and former member of the Parisian collective 19 Réseaux. The show will feature a



hybrid combination of rap and dance inspired by Davido and P -Square, the Nigerian artists.

On Sunday, May 14th, Amadou and Mariam will play their musical notes, with the same credo: uplifting music and lyrics celebrating solidarity, love and tolerance.

Monday May 15th, will feature the great Bonga. He will be the headliner of an evening in honor to the key figure of Angolan music and one of the biggest icons of African belonging.

Representing the African music diaspora, Ibibio Sound Machine, an Afro-London collective, will perform on Tuesday May 16th to impress its audience with fusional cocktails, mixing highlife and electro, post-punk and disco.

Coming from the Congo and settled in Belgium, Baloji will be on stage the following day, Wednesday, May 17th, for a concert of a mixed style, with influences ranging from traditional to African-American music (soul, funk, jazz), discovered through culture Sampling and electronics.

From Ghana, Pat Thomas & Kwashibu Area Band will prove on Thursday May 18th that they are the most interesting afrobeat band today. With his unique and smooth voice and songs from the fanti and ashanti twi dialects, Pat Thomas is unquestionably today one of the greatest voices in Ghana,

Another Mawazine regular guest, Calypso Rose, who already performed here in Rabat back in 2012, will sing on Friday May 19th some of the most beautiful airs of calypso, this carnival music reminiscent of the beaches of the West Indies and of Tobago colors.

Last but not least: the great Alpha Blondy will close the program of this 16th edition with a mythical concert on Saturday May 20th. The father of African reggae is coming back with committed music and texts, advocating freedom, unity and love!

Useful Information:

16th edition of Mawazine Festival Rhythms of the World.

Panache Culture Concert will take place on the Bouregreg stage on **Friday May 12th, 2017**

MHD concert will take place on the Bouregreg stage on **Saturday May 13th,**

2017

Amadou & Mariam concert will take place on the Bouregreg stage on **Sunday May 14th, 2017**

Concert de **Bonga concert** will take place on the Bouregreg stage on **Monday May 15th, 2017**

Ibibio Sound Machine concert will take place on the Bouregreg stage on **Tuesday May 16th, 2017**

Baloji concert will take place on the Bouregreg stage on **Wednesday May 17th, 2017**

Pat Thomas & Kwashibu Area Band concert will take place on the Bouregreg stage on **Thursday May 18th, 2017**

Calypso Rose concert will take place on the Bouregreg stage on **Friday May 19th, 2017**

Alpha Blondy concert will take place on the Bouregreg stage on **Saturday May 20th, 2017**

About Mawazine Festival Rhythms of the World

Established in 2001, the Mawazine Festival Rhythms of the World is the essential rendezvous for music amateurs in Morocco with, for the last 15 years, over 2 million festivalgoers at each edition. Held every month of May over nine days, Mawazine offers a rich and diversified program where world stars from the four corners of the world make of the cities of Rabat and Salé a world stage for music. Committed to promote Moroccan Music, the Festival devotes more than half of its shows to national artists. As a firm believer in the values of peace, tolerance openness and respect, 90% of the concerts are free of charge so that everybody can enjoy it. Mawazine also participates in the region's economy, attracting tourists from all over the world; thus making of Morocco once every year a world music stage.

About Maroc Cultures Association:



Maroc-Cultures

Created In compliance with the provisions of November 15, 1958 Dahir, and further to a General Assembly held in Rabat on October 23, 2001, Maroc Cultures is a non-profit association whose main mission is to offer to the public of Rabat-Salé-Zemmour-Zaër region a highly professional cultural and artistic entertainment worthy of the capital of the kingdom. Echoing the fundamental values of His Majesty King Mohammed VI development policy, Maroc Cultures materializes this mission through Mawazine Festival Rhythms of the World as well as various events, multi-disciplinary symposia, plastic art exhibitions and concerts.