

PRESS RELEASE

**18<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Mawazine Festival - Rhythms of the World**

**A festival of stars for a third day under the sign of eclecticism and popular gathering!**

**Rabat, June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2019:** The public of the Mawazine Festival-Rhythms of the World experienced a third day of madness with different performances followed by a myriad of artists from all over the world. On the OLM Souissi stage, the French duo Bigflo & Oli set fire to an electric crowd. In chorus, the two brothers from Toulouse, Florian and Olivio, performed all the hits that positioned the group to the ranks of the greatest French hip hop artists.

On the international stage, Dadju's performance was particularly cheered. Elected "French Revelation of the Year" at the 2018 NRJ Music Awards, the crooner of Congolese origin, whose brother is none other than the famous Maitre Gims, delivered an exceptional show widely praised by festival-goers.

Queen of the stage, singer Myriam Fares was at the center of another highlight of the evening. On the Nahda stage, the Lebanese star has performed a mix of Arabic songs, successfully revising a popular and modern repertoire to the delight of her many fans.

Coming straight from Cairo, the Oka Wi Ortega phenomenon has also set the bar very high. The duo composed of Mohamed Salah and Ahmed Metwali stormed the oriental stage. On the program: a list of irresistible hits sailing between Egyptian popular music and hip-hop culture.

Another symbol of the Arab alternative scene, the Lebanese group Mashrou'Leila had an unforgettable performance on the stage of the Mohammed V National Theater. With rock imbued with electro and oriental tunes, the musical sensation from the Middle East was very much appreciated by the public.

On the Bouregreg stage, another French-speaking rap artist, the great Kery James, was cheered by the crowd. With uncompromising songs, the artist performed a militant rap that literally attracted the audience. A voice and a conscience that all will remember for a long time.

Always so popular, the Salé stage has honored two great figures of Moroccan music. The pioneer Jbara won the audience with a sweet trance mixed with Berber sounds, Andalusian, rai, gnaoua, blues, reggae, flamenco, rock and soul. Talent was also represented with Saida Charaf. Originally from Laayoune, the Sahraoui diva excelled in the Sahrawi repertoire and Amazigh music.

The enthusiasts were also present in the magical setting of the Chellah stage, where the quintet She'Koyokhréuni performed music and dance of the Roma people. Originally from Turkey, the group has merged perfectly the Gypsy, Sephardic, Rebetiko and other ethnic groups from different regions.

The Mawazine Festival-Rhythms of the World has once again invested the streets of Rabat with a program of street performances. Akdim Batucada's drummers amazed visitors with samba, hip hop,



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salsa, house and chaâbi sounds. As for the Acro-Maroc circus troop, it was brilliantly inspired by Moroccan folklore multiplying amazing stunts and surprising acrobatics.

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**Useful information:**

18<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Mawazine Festival – Rhythms of the World from June 21 to 29, 2019.

**About the 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 over 2.5 million festivalgoers for each of its last editions, it is considered the second largest cultural event in the world. Organized every year for nine days, Mawazine offers a rich and demanding program that mixes the biggest stars of the world and Arabic repertoire, making the cities of Rabat and Salé the scene of exceptional encounters between the public and renowned artists. Very committed to the promotion of Moroccan music, Mawazine devotes more than half of its programming to the talents of the national scene. Bearer of the values of peace, openness, tolerance and respect, the festival offers free access to 90% of its festival-goers, making the accessibility of the public an essential mission. It is also a major support to the regional tourism economy and a leading player in the creation of a real entertainment industry in Morocco.

**About Maroc Cultures Association:**

Created in 2001, Maroc Cultures is a non-profit organization whose main mission is to guarantee the public of the Rabat-Salé-Zemmour-Zaër region a cultural and artistic animation of a professional level worthy of the Moroccan capital. Echoing the fundamental values of His Majesty King Mohammed VI's development policy, Maroc Cultures concretizes this noble mission through the Mawazine Festival Rhythms of the World as well as organizing various events, multidisciplinary symposiums, art exhibitions and concerts.