

PRESS RELEASE

18th Edition of the Mawazine Festival - Rhythms of the World

“Morocco is the future!”

Rabat, June 25th 2019: For the past 18 years, the Mawazine Festival-Rhythms of the World has been the meeting place for international stars. The event again proved this on its fifth day with the Black Eyed Peas concert.

It is under a standing ovation that the mythical group was welcomed on the OLM Souissi stage. An endless audience, massed in front of the stage, vibrated end to end for an exceptional concert in which will.i.am and his two colleagues performed a breathtaking performance, in the great tradition of the group. Using rock, pop, funk as well as salsa sounds, the band performed their most memorable hits: *Don't Phunk With My Heart*, *Don't Lie*, *Pump It*, *Boom Boom Pow* as well as *I Gotta a Feeling*.

In the more intimate setting of the Mohammed V National Theater, festivalgoers greeted the same evening a true musical living legend. Regarded as one of the greatest voices of the French repertoire, Julien Clerc gave an unforgettable concert performing all the hits that have built his success for more than 50 years. A great moment of emotion for the singer and the audience, who sung in unison the stars' most known titles.

Another scene, another celebrity. On the Nahda stage, the great Elissa has imposed her unique voice and style like no other. The one who sang in duet with the best artists, including Chris De Burgh and Ragheb Alama, has very well confirmed her status as a key singer in the Arab world. On the program: a subtle and rich interpretation of her hit songs, a proof that the Lebanese diva remains unique.

On the same oriental stage, it is another voice, that lifted the spirits this Tuesday. Author, composer and musician, the Moroccan Hamid El Hadri has beautifully intoned the titles that allowed him to gain a big following on the national scene. An ecstatic moment for the public who cheered the ex-leader of the group Mazagan, now performing solo.

Regularly ranked among the favorite Moroccan artists, Aicha Tachinwit also conquered festival-goers who have gathered this time in front of the Salé stage. Accompanied by her troupe, the singer and Amazigh dancer performed a masterful show. YouNess, one of the rising stars of raï music was also present. Revealed to the public after his victory at Casting Star, the Moroccan Star Academy, the singer has proved that his success was not limited to social networks! (his latest single *I Love You* has reached more than 50 million views on YouTube).

At the Chellah, where the music of the Roma people is celebrated, the atmosphere was just as festive. And for all the good reason: Alba Molina, daughter of the famous Spanish duo Lole Montoya and Manuel Molina, offered a flamenco show that was as poetic as it was cheering. With the company of Joselito Acedo, a master guitar player.



Maroc-Cultures

This fifth day was not only about music but also about circus and acrobatics! On the Place Moulay Hassan as well as on the corniche of the Bouregreg, festival-goers discovered troops with crazy talents such as the percussionists of Akdim Batucada and the Acro-Maroc circus troop.

Useful information:

18th 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.