

October 28, 2012

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## **Arab Singer, Middle Eastern Culture Featured in “Loving the Silent Tears”** Star-studded benefit show with a meaningful message

**Camellia Abou-Odah**, a remarkably talented 23-year-old, deeply rooted in her Lebanese and Palestinian heritage, was one of the shining stars in *Loving the Silent Tears*, a new musical about finding peace. On October 27, the 6,300-seat Shrine Auditorium was filled to capacity for the world premiere of this highly anticipated, spectacular performance.

“*Loving the Silent Tears*” also starred some of the best talents from Broadway and the world pop music industry, including 2-time Grammy winner **Jon Secada** and Grammy winner **Jody Watley**, Tony-winning Broadway stars, and diverse and accomplished international singers. It was directed by Tony-nominated **Vincent Paterson** (Michael Jackson’s “Bad” world tour) and choreographed by Emmy-winning **Bonnie Story** (“High School Musical”).

With the musical representing the glorious cultures of 16 countries, Camellia proudly represented her Arab culture, singing in both English and Arabic. She promoted a touching message of peace by singing one song during the show with Persian singer **Siavash Shams** and Israeli singer **Liel Kolet**. They were accompanied by a dance troupe of more than 30 Arab-style dancers, including several magnificent belly-dancers.

*“The choreographer is impeccable; the dancers are very exciting. I think everyone’s going to enjoy themselves,”* Camellia confidently stated on the red carpet, where public figures arrived, ranging from Hollywood stars to government officials. When speaking of her song, Ms. Abou-Odah said, *“I think that it’s time for people to embrace the higher concept of peace.”*

*“The message is faith, compassion, gratitude, finding your way out of despair, and finding your inner peace and joy,”* said Jody Watley.

The event commemorated the 19th Anniversary of Supreme Master Ching Hai Day to honor the world-renowned spiritual teacher, humanitarian, poet and artist’s humanitarian work and the spirit of compassion. It was her moving collection of poems, “Silent Tears,” about finding inner happiness that inspired 2-time Oscar-winning composer **Al Kasha** to create this musical. Kasha set her poignant words to music along with an impressive and diverse score of Broadway and Hollywood composers, all of whom won the Oscar, Grammy, Tony or Emmy Award. Their credits include the music for famous films such as “Dreamgirls,” “Saturday Night Fever,” “Harry Potter,” and “Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon.”

**Supreme Master Ching Hai** was unable to attend but gave a video greeting, in which she said, *“To all involved in this musical event, blessed be your dedication to make this world a more enjoyable place, cheering up the mass and giving thanks to Heaven and Earth in this way.”*

In the caring spirit of Supreme Master Ching Hai Day, after the musical, the Supreme Master recognized three charity organizations, Animal Defenders International, Broadway Cares / Equity Fights AIDS, and Worldwide Veterinary Service, with generous contributions totaling US\$300,000, made on behalf of all the artists involved in the musical.

**Consul General of Lebanon Johnny Ibrahim** was among the three dignitaries invited on stage to present the donation checks to the charities.

In addition, the vegan lifestyle was promoted in alignment with the overall message of peace and cultural understanding. The guest speaker, Academy Award-winning actor **George Chakiris** (“West Side Story”), said during his speech, *“Supreme Master Ching Hai’s message is that all beings...have the right to live in peace and dignity on this beautiful planet; and that each person can do his or her part to save lives, better our planet, and be heroes. And my personal way to be a hero and save these important lives is to be a vegetarian.”*

The incredible evening was emceed by an enthusiastic group of vegan or vegetarian celebrities: TV host and former Miss USA **Susie Castillo**, award-winning actor **Corey Feldman** (“The Goonies”), actress **Kelly Packard** (“Baywatch”), and 2-time Emmy-winning actor **Kristoff St. John** (“The Young and the Restless”).

Ticket holders were also invited to an elaborate pre-show art exhibition of the Master’s creative work. After the event, there was a VIP banquet that was catered with delicious vegan food.

For exclusive video interviews with the stars, photos and more, please visit [www.SilentTearsMusical.com](http://www.SilentTearsMusical.com).