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Fabiana Passoni Brings Brazilian Zest to ‘Loving the Silent Tears’

Star-studded benefit show with a meaningful message
has sold-out audience at the Shrine Auditorium

The 6,300-seat Shrine Auditorium was filled to capacity for the debut of the highly anticipated world premiere of “Loving the Silent Tears,” a new musical about finding one’s peace. It was directed by Tony-nominated **Vincent Paterson** (Michael Jackson’s “Bad” world tour) and choreographed by Emmy-winning **Bonnie Story** (“High School Musical”).

“Loving the Silent Tears” 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.

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

One of the shining stars was award-winning Brazilian singer **Fabiana Passoni**, who sang and danced the samba with a group of dancers around her, all dressed in fabulous carnivale costumes. The memorable, high-energy performance delighted the audience.

She said, *“I am so proud to represent my home country of Brazil in ‘Loving the Silent Tears.’ The storyline for the musical perfectly matches my own personal quest for inner peace and happiness.”*

With the musical representing the magnificent cultures of 16 countries, Fabiana Passoni was the representative of the vibrant Brazilian culture, singing in both English and Portuguese. Her song was composed by 6-time Grammy winner and 2-time Oscar nominee **Jorge Calandrelli**, who is sought after in the U.S., Europe and Latin America. The lyrics were based on poems by **Supreme Master Ching Hai**, a world-renowned spiritual teacher, humanitarian, poet and artist.

The event commemorated the 19th Anniversary of Supreme Master Ching Hai Day to honor her worldwide philanthropic work and peace advocacy.

It was her moving collection of poems, “Silent Tears,” about finding inner happiness that inspired 2-time Oscar-winning composer Al Kasha (“The Poseidon Adventure”) to create this musical. Kasha set her poignant words to music along with Jorge Calandrelli (“Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon”), Emmy winner **Doug Katsaros** (“Footloose”), 2-time Grammy winner and Oscar nominee **Henry Krieger** (“Dreamgirls”), Tony and Emmy winner **Don Pippin** (“La Cage aux Folles”), Grammy winner **Nan Schwartz** (“Harry Potter”), and Oscar and 2-time Grammy winner **David Shire** (“Saturday Night Fever”).

Supreme Master Ching Hai was unable to attend but gave a warm 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.

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”).

The event concluded with the full cast singing a finale song, “Take Each Other’s Hand,” with music by Al Kasha and lyrics based on Supreme Master Ching Hai’s poetry. The audience joined in by waving star-shaped light wands. Al Kasha said, *“The show breaks down boundaries. It deals with love and harmony between the nations and the species, including animals. It deals with hope and happiness, and that’s all I really care about.”*

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.