

October 29, 2012

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‘Loving the Silent Tears’ Features Israeli Singer Liel Kolet
Star-Studded Musical with Message of Peace Sells Out the Shrine Auditorium

It was an uplifting night on Saturday, October 27 at the Shrine Auditorium, which hosted the world premiere of “Loving the Silent Tears,” a new musical directed and choreographed by Tony-nominated **Vincent Paterson** (Michael Jackson’s “Bad” and Madonna’s “Blond Ambition” world tours) and choreographed by Emmy-winning **Bonnie Story** (“High School Musical”).

The one-time-only show, “Loving the Silent Tears,” about humanity’s search for inner peace, starred some of the best talent from the world pop music industry, including 2-time Grammy winner **Jon Secada** and Grammy winner **Jody Watley**, as well as Tony-winning Broadway stars and accomplished international singers.

With a superb dance ensemble of over 30 members, and a live orchestra, the musical follows the lives of an older woman named Joy (played by Tony nominee **Patti Cohenour** of “Phantom of the Opera”) and a young man named Pete (played by award-winning actor **Luke Eberl** from “Planet of the Apes”). They go on magical train ride through various countries, where they encounter representatives of distinct cultures who express aspects of their profound inner journeys.

One of the cast members was award-winning singer **Liel Kolet**, who proudly represented her Israeli heritage on stage. She also sent a compelling message of outer peace in the world, by performing a song in a trio with Persian pop star **Siavash Shams** and an Arab singer named **Camellia Abou-Odah**, who is the same age as Liel. There were three groups of dancers on stage all around them – Jewish, Arab, and Persian – distinct in style and dress but moving in harmony with one another.

This act of collaboration itself made a statement about tolerance and co-existence that didn’t go unnoticed by audience members, who included dignitaries and other public figures from the Middle East.

Before the show, Liel stated, *“For me, to be able to sing with singers from Iran and Lebanon is going to be a very powerful moment for me. And I think it’s beautiful that people can see that it can happen. If it happens on stage, why can’t it be also out there, in the world? So I hope that the audience will take this message with them.”*

Liel Kolet is a 23-year-old international star has won the prestigious Radio Award in Germany, has fans as far as in Mexico, set lyrics written by Israeli President Shimon Peres to song and performed it with superstar Andrea Bocelli, and shared the stage with President Bill Clinton in singing John Lennon’s “Imagine,” which was broadcast globally via CNN.

With her tremendous vocal talent and charismatic stage presence, her music career could have gone in many directions. Liel, however, chose to dedicate her music to peace. In fact, she has been a peace advocate since she was a young teenager, having directly experienced the fears, hardship, and pain of losing a loved one due to the conflict in the region where she lives.

The lyrics of the song, titled “Truth, Ego, Soul and Blessings,” were also deep and fascinating. All the lyrics in the musical were based on the poetry of **Supreme Master Ching Hai**, a world-renowned spiritual teacher, humanitarian, poet and artist whose main message is of peace and unconditional love.

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 other Broadway and Hollywood composers: 2-time Grammy winner & Oscar nominee **Henry Krieger** (“Dreamgirls”), Grammy winner **Nan Schwartz** (“Harry Potter”), Oscar and 2-time Grammy winner **David Shire** (“Saturday Night Fever”), 6-time Grammy winner & 2-time Oscar nominee **Jorge Calandrelli** (“Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon”), Emmy winner **Doug Katsaros** (“Footloose”), and Tony and Emmy winner **Don Pippin** (“La Cage aux Folles”).

Supreme Master Ching Hai was unable to attend but had recorded a video greeting specially for the occasion, 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”).

Guests also enjoyed a pre-show art exhibition of the Master’s uplifting, versatile creative works. After the event, there was a VIP banquet that was catered with delicious vegan dishes.

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