

Arabian Woman

Always Inspiring

WE CELEBRATE

30

YEARS OF
GAULTHIER

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ALERT!**
CURB NAIL
INFECTIONS

PROUD OF POLITICAL

Suhaila Gobash
speaks about the
UAE elections

**DESERTED
& ALONE**
A WOMAN'S
HARROWING
EXPERIENCE

**CAN'T GET
NO SLEEP?**
HOW TO GET TO
SLUMBER LAND

**ISLAND
GETAWAY**
THE MYSTIQUE
OF MARTINIQUE

**HERBS
& EFFECT**
A NEW BEAUTY
REVOLUTION

Made in ARABIA

why authentics rule

HEALTH STAR STYLE MONEY ADVICE BEAUTY+FASHION HOME DECOR

The genuine

While the world's eyes and ears have only now discovered the incredible that is Therese, her soaring, emotional voice and colorful mix of pop, rock and electronica has electrified Arabian audiences for years. Her latest album, 'Livin' miraculously continues to Top 40 Charts in the U.S. and has already reached an impressive 13th position.

For Neaime, who began her singing career at 15 with the Stockholm East Gospel Choir and later toured the world as a background singer and dancer with several international artists, this success has come after years of perseverance. "As a child, I was the dancer who always wanted to sing. Unlike dancing, singing was something I really had to fight for. It took me many years and several voice lessons to get to where I am today and therefore I think I never took my singing for granted. At the age of 15 I think I was just simply happy to be a part of something as great as a Gospel Choir. A recognition." Much has changed since those gospel days, but Therese remains down to earth and close to her ancestral Arabian roots.

As head of Future Records, her own label distributed internationally by Universal Music, Neaime was part of an extraordinary decision to build a loyal audience in her homeland and the region surrounding her father's ancestral country of Lebanon via several infectious singles before rolling out the album this year. Over the last year and a half, since the spring 2005 release of "Color of Love" in Sweden, the singer-songwriter's soaring, emotional voice and colorful mix of pop, rock and electronica has electrified her home country and parts of the Middle East as well.

Meanwhile, she also lends her voice and support to the battle against cancer. In December 2003, Therese became ambassador for the organization "The foundation for children with cancer". Therese continues to help the children and in September 19th 2005 when the Foundation was hosting a 25 year Anniversary to raise money, Therese, as their ambassador, performed live with her eight piece band amongst other artists. Her latest album is being sold in all stores including the Dubai Duty Free, Spinneys supermarket, Vista 200, Carrefour and all Virgin megastores.

How would you describe your music?

I think what people feel from me is that they're getting a real message, that my music comes from an authentic, good place that's been

developing for a long time. The music has a cool vibe to it but also a message they can relate to that makes them feel happy and positive about their lives. The songs are about my life, living with joy and sadness along the road on my journey. I'm so grateful to all the wonderful folks I've met along the way that believed in me years back when all of this was only a dream in my mind. When I hear my songs on the radio, and am able to perform them for fans, I feel like I'm showing everyone that achieving those dreams is possible.

You are the ambassador for the organization - "The foundation for children with cancer". What work have you done with the organization?

As an artist it's sometimes easier to reach out through media and remind people about this horrible disease. As often as I can I also try to bring other artists together to visit the Children's Hospital in Sweden to help and take their minds off to something else. Last year, at the 25-iversary of the Foundation I also performed live with my eight piece band to help and raise money for them. I'm so proud to be the ambassador for this organization.

Have your Lebanese and Arabian ethnic roots influenced your music in any way?

Of course, I've already used Arabic in a couple of dance and club remixes done from my original album which has already been released in the Middle East. Actually both my father and I are had sung a couple of sentences in Arabic for the dance remix for the radio hit "Here To Stay". I loved it and I've promised to try to learn more Arabic for future songs.

What is your opinion of this region?

I love Lebanon and I also have a big family there. I try to visit Lebanon at least every other year. Last year my whole family visited Lebanon for my cousins wedding. I think that Lebanon is a beautiful country and I pray that the rest of the world will stop these endless wars over there. In November 2006 I also did a promotion tour in Dubai which was a great success. Dubai is also a very interesting country which I hope to visit soon again.

What do you like most about being a singer and performer?

The possibility and opportunity to be able

to reach people with your own music is an amazing feeling... to live your dream and create something that lasts hopefully longer than yourself...

What is the worst thing about being a singer and performer?

That's a tough question since I love what I do but if I have to say something it has to be the struggle. A lot of hard work and unsurity. Having your own independent record label it's also combined with a lot of costs, at least in the beginning, not so much profit which can be tuff.

You have achieved so much at such a young age? What is your secret?

"You never regret the things you tried; only the things you didn't try. Aim for your dreams and believe that you can be anything you set your mind to. Don't put any limits to what you can achieve and you will be as successful as you want". I think the secret is to not think about how difficult everything can be and instead just keep taking baby steps towards your goal, trying not to compare yourself to others all the time.

What do you want to achieve in the future?

I hope that my music will continue to spread across the world, that me and my band will have the opportunities to perform live as much as possible and that I as an artist with my songs, lyrics and drive will be an inspiration to people across the world showing them that dreams do come true if you just believe in them enough to sacrifice and work hard to reach your goal.

How can the average Arab woman make a difference?

Just start to believe that you actually can make a difference!

article

With the likes of Britney Spears and Paris Hilton breaking down under the strong lights of showbiz, it takes true strength of character and self-belief to be able to stand up and declare upapologetically, "This is me – flaws, flabs and all!". We pay tribute to some such Arabian women who have preserved their true essence despite the pressures and vices of stardom.

