

## Press Release

Reviving Timeless Hits like “Helwa Ya Baladi” and “Salma Ya Salama”

# **A Tribute to Legendary Star Dalida Performed by Lina Sleibi at Dubai Opera on October 10**

**United Arab Emirates, Dubai, 30 May 2019** - Dubai Opera is proud to present a tribute concert to legendary Egyptian-born singer Dalida performed by Palestinian young talent Lina Sleibi for one night only on Thursday 10 October.

Yolanda Cristina Gigliotti (17 January 1933 – 3 May 1987), better known as Dalida, was a French vocalist and actress, born in Egypt to Italian parents. In 1951, it was in Egypt that the young woman secretly entered herself into a local beauty contest which gave her a taste of the dream she would eventually realise. The pageant led to her eventually being crowned Miss Egypt in 1954, an act that would change the course of her entire existence from a life of dreary secretarial work to that of bountiful fame and infinite glamour.

Her move to Europe in 1956, launched a 31-year singing career, selling 170 million albums and singles worldwide. However, that did not in any way disconnect the rising star from her roots. Not only did she return to Egypt on several occasions throughout her career, but she also travelled around Lebanon extensively. These visits led to her eventually returning to her origins by recording two phenomenally successful songs in Arabic, “Salma Ya Salama” and “Helwa Ya Baladi”.

Dalida performed and recorded in many languages, including Arabic, Italian, Greek, German, French, English, Japanese, Dutch and Spanish. She spent most of a career in France and acquired French citizenship in 1961 upon marriage, while maintaining her original Italian one.

Twice honoured with the Oscar mondial du succès du disque (the "World Oscar of Recording Success"), she is the only European singer to have won this award more than once. Dalida ranks among 7 biggest singers of all time.

Her career that began in 1956, ended tragically with her last album in 1986, only six months before her death, as she continued to hold concerts until her last days. Her suicide led to an iconic image as a tragic diva and renowned singer. She achieved more than 70 gold records and was the first singer to achieve platinum and diamond albums.

Paying tribute to the late star Dalida is a young Palestinian talent, Lina Sleibi, who grew up in a family that appreciates arts and music. Encouraged by her grandfather, she followed her dream by joining the



school's and later the university's choir and participated in various activities and concerts. Her passion was not only limited to singing, as she studied the violin for four years at the Edward Said Conservatory and the Academy of Music of Bethlehem. Lina Sleibi's career started in 2010, and her portfolio today includes her participation in various local and international festivals including Belgium, Poland, Britain, France, Tunisia and Sweden, and collaborations with many international artists.

Sleibi released her first song in 2014, but it was her cover of Dalida's "Helwa Ya Baladi" on her YouTube channel that introduced her to the wider audience with over six million hits. Lina Sleibi aspires to convey artistic and humanitarian messages through her voice. Her discography consists of more than 30 songs, singing in different languages such as Arabic, English, French, Hindi, German, and Aramaic

Commenting on this exciting upcoming performance, Jasper Hope, Chief Executive of Dubai Opera, said: "Dalida was a huge international star whose sound and style was a hit on so many of the world's most famous stages - I'm delighted to be able to welcome Lina Sleibi to Dubai Oper with her tribute to a fabulous artist. "

Tickets on sale now at [dubaiopera.com](http://dubaiopera.com) starting from AED150. Early-bird discount of 20% on VIP and Platinum seating categories available until 13 June 2019.

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#### **Note to Editors**

#### **About Dubai Opera:**

Dubai Opera is a truly unique venue and the city's first purpose built multi-format performing arts theatre, situated in the heart of Downtown Dubai. With an iconic dhow-shaped design rooted in Emirati heritage, Dubai Opera offers the ultimate flexibility of a proscenium arch theatre, an acoustic concert hall and a 2000m<sup>2</sup> flat floor event space, and is the definitive destination for quality entertainment productions and performances. Dubai Opera's stage hosts an incredible array of world-class talent, with opera, ballet and classical music concerts and productions at the core, Dubai Opera also stages musical theatre, fashion shows, jazz, comedy, family shows and a full range of live entertainment.

[www.dubaiopera.com](http://www.dubaiopera.com)

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