**Beirut & Beyond International Music Festival 2017 to open with Yasmine Hamdan**

*"I am thrilled to present Al Jamilat live in my beloved Beirut, especially within BBIMF's great 2017 line up. I'm very much looking forward to engaging once again with the vibrant Lebanese audience"*

* Yasmine Hamdan

Beirut & Beyond International Music Festival is inviting no other than Lebanese independent *chanteuse* Yasmine Hamdan for the opening concert of its 2017 edition, on 7 December, at the Grand Factory. The concert is part of her *Al Jamilat* world tour, where Lebanese audiences can at last discover her acclaimed and eclectic 2017 album performed live.

As the Paris-based singer-songwriter releases her music clip “Balad” directed by renowned Palestinian filmmaker Elia Suleiman, Beirut & Beyond reveals yet another act to look forward to of its 2017 line-up, curated by Egyptian musician Maurice Louca.

Hamdan rose to prominence through her work with Soap Kills, a collaboration with multi-instrumentalist and producer Zeid Hamdan whose sonic signature of breathy Arabic vocals over trip hop beats defined Beirut’s post-war independent music scene. *Ya Nass* (2012) heard Hamdan establishing herself as a solo artist with intimate takes on classic Arabic songs of the early and mid twentieth century by Zakariya Ahmad, Asmahan, and Mohammed Abdel Wahab. Her latest album fronts her own sensitive lyrics; the titular track “Al Jamilat” is the equally strong exception, with words by Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish. These songs’ sonic variety suggests many exciting directions Hamdan’s work may take, enticing listeners for her junior album to come.

Throughout her oeuvre, Hamdan has built an identity as a performer of taste and nuance who involves her whole body in the music making, bringing influences from the various places she’s lived into her unique sound. Audiences of BBIMF are sure to enjoy this homecoming of an international artist whose work always circles back to Beirut. Rarely has Hamdan performed in the city as part of a festival, let alone one committed to nurturing the same independent scenes in which she began her career nearly two decades earlier. Yasmine Hamdan’s opening of BBIMF promises to be an inspiring evening of internationally renowned independent Arab music come full circle.

**Tickets are now on sale in all branches of Librairie Antoine & Antoine Online** [**here**](https://www.antoineticketing.com/index.php?event_id=4191)**.**

Single ticket: 30.000LBP

Festival pass (4 nights, up to 10 concerts): 90.000LBP

**Facebook event is** [**HERE**](https://www.facebook.com/events/119362185440132/?acontext=%7B%22ref%22%3A%22108%22%2C%22action_history%22%3A%22null%22%7D)**.**

**High-resolution photos** [**HERE**](http://www.crammed.be/index.php?id=45&art_id=192)**.**

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More information:

**About BBIMF**

Dedicated to promoting the Arab region’s independent music with emphasis on strong artistic merit, Beirut & Beyond was founded in 2013, in partnership with Oslo World Music Festival, and quickly succeeded in positioning itself as a key player on the map of regional festivals and showcases. As a platform for meetings, showcases and exchange, Beirut & Beyond encourages networking and collaboration. It furthermore aims to offer solutions to the urgent needs of the young Arab independent music scene, such as the necessity to provide outlets for its bustling artistic productions.

<http://www.beirutandbeyond.net/>

**Twitter / Instagram** @BBIMF

**Facebook** @Beirut.and.Beyond

#BBIMF2017

**BBIMF 2017 revealed artists:**

Dina El Wedidi (Egypt) / Kid Fourteen (Lebanon) / Susanna (Norway) / Yasmine Hamdan (Lebanon) / POREST (Iraq/USA) and 4 more acts to be revealed in Novembre

**About Yasmine Hamdan**

Lebanese singer-songwriter Yasmine Hamdan first emerged onto the music scene with Soapkills, the pioneering indie electronic band she founded along with Zeid Hamdan in Beirut in the late ’90s. The band gradually acquired an emblematic status and, to this day, Yasmine is considered an underground icon throughout the Arab world. The duo released two rare EPs after forming in 1997 before their first album, *Bater*, in 2001. After two more albums, *Cheftak* (2002) and *Enta Fen* (2005), the group split, with Yasmine Hamdan relocating to France. Yasmine then teamed up with Madonna’s producer Mirwais, and under the Y.A.S. moniker, recorded the album *Arabology*, released in 2009 by Universal France. In 2012, Yasmine joined forces with Nouvelle Vague’s Marc Collin to produce her debut solo album, *Ya Nass* which received wide critical acclaim across Europe, North America and the Arab region. Her unique vision is fully realised in her latest album *Al Jamilat*, which she jointly produced with UK producers Luke Smith (Foals, Depeche Mode, Lily Allen) and Leo Abrahams (Brian Eno, Carl Barât) and that was released by Brussels-based label Crammed Discs.

**Listen to and discover “Al Jamilat” here:**

<http://yasmine-hamdan-epk.tumblr.com/>

Password: **yh**