

# ELLE

ARAB WORLD

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BOUTROS  
*the true  
Diva*

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# JULIA

## *An authentic diva*

SHE RELEASED HER FIRST ALBUM AT 14 YEARS OLD. IT GLEAMED WITH 'GHABET SHAMS'. TODAY JULIA BOUTROS STIRS THE CROWDS AS SHE SINGS FOR PATRIOTISM AND RESISTANCE, WITH A STRONG SIMPLICITY.

*Photography by CARLOS AOUN.  
Hair by RIAD ABU KHALIL at Tony El Mendelek.*

***How did you start your singing career?***

Ever since I started my career, I knew all along that the path that I had chosen for myself wouldn't be an easy one. I always knew that the human causes, beliefs and values that I stand for in my profession will never change despite temptation. This is how I intend to continue in my career regardless of the obstacles I may face.

***What do you feel while on stage?***

I am transported to another world away from reality. I feel like I am on another planet in a world of my own. I feel that I am charged with lots of energy and I also want to pass it on to others. I also feel a lot of love. It's a very strange feeling that is hard to put into words. The emotions that I live on stage grow in crescendo and reach a peak when total cohesion is formed with the audience.

***What is your personal and /or professional quest?***

On a personal level, my biggest dream is to see my kids turn into happy, healthy and successful adults who will end up greatly contributing to the community. When it comes to me, both my sons Samer and Tarek always come first. Professionally, I constantly put all my efforts into what I do and I like to think that I am doing my best. Indeed whenever a CD is launched or a concert is done, a new horizon of possibilities opens up in front of me and I feel that I still have a lot more to offer to this world. Every event, no matter how successful it is, is another step towards the pinnacle, which I always aim for in my career. This adds to the pressure I have as well as to the responsibility for having to give more.

***One word to define you?***

Honesty.

***An essential thing in life?***

To be loved.

***Your mantra?***

Consistency and solidarity pay off in the end, be it in someone's professional or personal life and on all levels.

***Do you see yourself as a dedicated singer?***

Sure, in the sense that everything in my life – and not necessarily in the political or patriotic sense – is devoted to singing. I am a very subjective person and this is why everything I do or say comes from what I believe in. In fact all my songs take the form of stories, which I believe can happen to any person including myself.

***Your guilty pleasures?***

Travelling, especially because I get the chance to learn about people's creativity in fashion and art. It's a pleasure to be able to appreciate such things!

***Are you a gourmet?***

Definitely yes!

***Your favourite dish to cook?***

Leg of lamb and I am so good at it!

***What sweetens or spices up your day?***

My afternoon coffee.

***Your definition of femininity?***

A mixture between being graceful as well as being wise enough to make the right decisions.





#### UNMISTAKABLE TALENT

She was 12 years old when she was encouraged by Fouad Fadel to record her first song in French, entitled 'A Maman', in Elias Al Rahbani's studio. She also recorded two songs: 'C'est la Vie' and 'Viens Dans Ma Vie'. When she was 17 years, she sang her most influential song, 'Ghabet Shams Al Hak', composed by her brother Ziad who accompanied her throughout her career and composed most of her songs. Amongst the albums, we can mention 'Wayn Msafer' in 1992, 'Hikayet Atab' in 1993, 'Ya Ossass' in 1994, 'El Qarar' in 1996, 'Shi Gharib' in 1998, 'Bissaraha' in 2001, 'La B'ahlamak' in 2004 and 'Tawwadna Alayk' in 2006. On October 11<sup>th</sup> 2006, Julia released a new single called 'Ahibain' (My Loved Ones). The lyrics are based on a letter sent by the Hizbollah's secretary general Hassan Nasrallah to the fighters in South Lebanon during the 2006 Summer war between Lebanon and Israel. The poet Ghassan Matar adapted the original text and the music was composed by Ziad and edited by Michel Fadel. The profits from the song's sale mounted up to 3 million dollars and went to help the families of Hizbollah fighters and to all the Lebanese who died during the conflict. Her latest album is called 'My Yawman' and was entirely composed by Ziad Boutros. The music was recorded in Prague with the Symphony Orchestra.

#### A MEMORABLE CONCERT

Saturday February the 4<sup>th</sup>, at Plaza: 4000 people in the audience, along with the Prague Symphony Orchestra as well as Lebanese, Syrian and Armenian musicians on oriental instruments, and musicians from London on the brass section, and a choir of 20 people, accompany Julia for a moment of pure musical pleasure orchestrated by Harout Fazlian. 50 children, carrying candles, joined Julia on stage as she sang the song 'Habibi' and they continued with 'Atfal', the song dedicated to the children of Palestine. During the 'Atlek Niranak' song, Lebanese army soldiers surprised the audience with a military landing on stage.



“THE EMOTIONS that I live on stage grow in crescendo and reach a peak when **TOTAL COHESION** is formed with the audience.”

**Your vision on today's woman?**

This is a very wide question as women's roles differ according to cultures and societies, so you can't really give an answer to that.

**How do you see the situation of women evolve in post-revolution Arab countries?**

I don't see any difference in that regard, at least for now.

**Your relationship to fashion?**

I like to shop when I am abroad. I did a lot of faux-pas, but the way you perceive fashion evolves and changes throughout your life and it takes a lot of time for a woman to find her own identity through fashion. Having said that, I wouldn't like to become a fashion victim, so I try to stop myself.

**Your favourite designers?**

Karl Lagerfeld for Chanel, Alber Elbaz for Lanvin, Ricardo Tisci for Givenchy and Elie Saab Haute Couture.

**Your definition of true luxury?**

The privilege of being surrounded by the right people and a strong team to help you reach your goals! In addition to the luxury provided at The Georges V Hotel in Paris! (I love it).

**Your relationship with time? Are you scared of time passing by?**

I don't like aging, but I always try to be on good terms with it. Whilst I observe women who go out of their way to fight time (mostly through plastic surgery), I tend to be more realistic and try to find things that help me age gracefully.

**What types of people seduce you and make you happy?**

I am seduced by the people who never fall under the pressure of society and who at the same time leave a great impression on the world. People who make me happy are my kids as well as my family.

**Women who inspire you?**

The Arab World diva Fairuz, of course, as well as Barbara Streisand for her perfect talents and her social work and Susan Abu El Hawa, author of the book 'Mornings in Jenin'.

**Men that you admire?**

Woody Allen for the direct way he portrays life and human beings.

**Any projects?**

A new concert!

Maria Aziz