



Zahed Sultan during the sessions.



Perfect timing (Sandunes & Jiver) during the sessions.



Musical instruments experimented during the workshops.

The second Red Bull Music Academy session Kuwait: A great success!

Music unites. This is not just a common say, rather, it is what happened for two days at Dar Al-Athar Al-Islamiya in Yarmouk. Red Bull Music Academy has brought together artists from different parts of the world to Kuwait in order to share their passion and participate in the second Red Bull Music Academy Session Kuwait. The academy gathered musicians, composers, producers and vocalists from Kuwait and gave them the opportunity to be part of workshops, talks and share their experience with some of the most talented international and regional musicians.

The two-day sessions hosted by Kuwaiti artist Zahed Sultan and moderated by Lauren Martin gathered 25 participants in a series of educational workshops, jams and live demos. The first day of the academy was concluded with live shows at the Red Bull Music Academy's Kuwait Rising music festival which took place at the new DIA location in Yarmouk, at which the International and regional guests performed in an electric show.

Original material

"It was an interesting experience bringing the academy to Kuwait for the second time as an attempt to bridge the gap between all the different artists, put them under one roof and see what the outcome is. Bringing it back in 2016 and somehow introducing the live act and slightly more electronic live side. We are trying to show the diversity of music and sound," said Zahed Sultan, host of RBMA Kuwait. He added: "The idea of hosting the academy and the live performance is to be inspired by people who are really giving their all to their original material, so that they can go back home and dig a little deeper to find their own voice rather than to mimic a voice that appeals to people".

Perfect Timing band members of two, Sandunes & Jiver, were very content about their live performance experience. "It was my first time in the Middle East and I was super excited, the audience is so great.. Really special! The interaction with the audience is amazing," said Jiver. "There was so much energy!" said Sandunes. The performers were HVOB from Austria, Perfect Timing (a collaboration between Sandunes and Jiver), Bosaina from Egypt and Etyen from Lebanon.

The remarkable story of HVOB began in April 2012. With the idea of making an entirely new kind of electronic music: intelligent, sophisticated, emotive and melodic. This idea led to four snippets which were uploaded to Soundcloud-causing an immediate sensation in Europe. Their first EP "Dogs" was released in summer 2012. Then came the debut album in spring 2013 "HVOB", glowing reviews by critics all over Europe, Top 15 in the US Billboard Charts "Next Big Sound" category, several number one chart entries on iTunes, and number three in the Beatport charts. The two musicians behind HVOB are Anna M, Iler and Paul Wallner. Anna M, Iler composes, produces and also provides the captivating, hypnotic vocals. Final production of the tracks is done in collaboration with Paul Wallner in his Vienna studio. Together they are responsible for creating the unique sound of HVOB.

Experimental electronica

Two of the most cutting-edge musicians in India, Sanaya Ardeshir, AKA Sandunes, and Jivraj Singh, AKA Jiver, have just launched a brand new, collaborative project, Perfect Timing. Having first met and worked together as part of the three-piece Dualist Inquiry Band and on various projects subsequently, including the Sandunes Ensemble,



Bosaina while performing at the concert.

the two have contemplated collaborating with each other for a long time. Their sound covers a range of music that has influenced them both over the years, so expect everything from jazz and hip-hop to noise and unusual experimental electronica.

Bosaina is a well-travelled soul, so it is fitting that her inspiration for making music came from a subway train in a foreign land. Bosaina stopped briefly in New York on her way back to Egypt when she heard the looped click-clacking of metal on metal in the city's Broadway district, and decided to remain in the Big Apple to learn Ableton and make corrugated, hand-finished jazz.

The Egyptian-born artist, who also lived in London for several years, sculpts her ambient pieces from soft and hard materials: her shimmering notes and dew-eyed melodies are bathed in the echoes of the city-noisy traffic jams, pungent delis, rain-drenched sidewalks and, of course, those shuttling trains. Shot through a deeply singular jazz strain, Bosaina's music has a fibrous, textural quality to it that feels as if it draws from Actress as much as it does from Miles Davis. Etyen started producing electronic music in 2011. He was previously living in London doing what he loves most, while working freelance jobs on the side. Now that he is back in Beirut, he is working as a full time water engineer, and producing his music on the side. He says he hopes to ditch his day job one day and make a living out of his music. His new EP, "Happy New Year," was released in March 2014.

Interview

By Nawara Fattahova

The Kuwait Rising Alternative Music Festival held on Friday was accompanied by a workshop on Saturday, where artistes from various countries participated. Kuwait Times interviewed two of the artistes who performed in Kuwait for the first time.

"This event was very special, as it brought together a lot of musicians to Kuwait, and especially since such events are not something that happen quite often here. The level of excitement and responsiveness of people at the concert was very beautiful. It was one of the most genuine shows I ever performed at. The audience were carefully listening and watching, while in Lebanon people take it for granted. The crowd here was genuine, and this motivated me to keep going." Etyen, a 26-year-old artiste from Lebanon, told Kuwait Times. "I play on various instruments including the guitar and sing too. At the concert, I was doing live electronics with synthesizers," he added.

He started performing professionally three years ago. "Before that, I was playing in a band as a guitarist. Then I was recording by myself and then producing, and realized I was good at it and thought this is what I want to do. So I went to London and I took some sound engineering and mixing courses. When I returned to Beirut, I released my first EP and started playing live. I studied the technical part of production and not music composition. I was seven when I started playing the piano, which was my base. My father is a musician and his family as well," he explained.

This wasn't his first performance with Red Bull Music Academy (RBMA). "A month ago, I was performing in Dubai and it was a nice event. I have participated in many other RBMA events in Lebanon. During the past six months, I have done many events with them. Also last year, I par-

ticipated in their two-day event in Beirut and I met Zahed Sultan there, and this is how I came here," he stated.

"Nature inspires me a lot. For instance, last year I went on a musical residency in the middle of a mountain in California along with other musicians. This was the most inspiring time of my life. Music is part of nature, as everything makes sounds, including trees, wind, water and others. Unfortunately, our nature in Beirut is getting ruined, as the government doesn't appreciate arts, culture and nature, which is really sad. The other thing that inspires me is heartbreak, or any human experience exchanged with someone else like love, friendship, etc - it all inspires me. Some people have also inspired me," concluded Etyen.

Bosaina from Egypt also participated in this event. "I was one of the RBMA graduates from the academy session in Tokyo in 2014. They hold it once a year in different cities - next year it will be in Montreal. I was invited here for being a graduate of the academy to give a talk to musicians participating in this event about my experiences with the academy and of being a musician from Cairo. I also performed at the concert," she noted.

"I'm an electronic music producer, so I play on many instruments. I compose pieces using samples that I record from orchestra or traditional instruments, that are manipulated in an experimental way to create instrumental pieces," Bosaina pointed out. "It was my first time in Kuwait and I loved it. The event was wonderful as there are many talented musicians here and it's good for them to have the experience of RBMA in a weekend session, so they know how it would be if they joined a real academy," she added.



Actor and Top Gear presenter Matt LeBlanc, left, waves, as he sits with rally driver Ken Block during filming of BBC Top Gear in Westminster, London. — AP

BBC's 'Top Gear' sorry for filming near war memorial

Host of BBC car show "Top Gear" has apologized "unreservedly" for filming stunt driving near Britain's best-known war memorial. Chris Evans says program-makers were "unwise" to film close to the Cenotaph, a stone monument to Britain's war dead near Parliament in central

London. Some bystanders complained after co-host Matt LeBlanc and a professional driver were seen performing "doughnuts" in the street nearby.

Col Richard Kemp, a retired army officer, called the stunt "gravely disrespectful." The BBC said photos made the car appear closer to the monument

than it really was, but Evans said he understood why some people were angry. He said yesterday that "on behalf of the Top Gear team and Matt, I would like to apologize unreservedly for what these images seem to portray." — AP