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From Egypt Independent: Spirit of iconic singer missing in 'Om Kalthoum Digital'

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By AMIR ZAKY

On Tuesday evening, an image of a young Om Kalthoum highlighted the screen of al-Hanager Theater's stage. Musical instruments sat untouched before the start of the show. Almost everyone in the packed theater hall seemed excited. And since it was a performance about Om Kalthoum, older members of the audience made sure to fill the front seats.

An electro-acoustic multi-media performance, "Om Kalthoum Digital" was the closing event of the "Toof we Shoof" ("Wander and See") celebrations organized by the Om Kalthoum Museum to commemorate the death of the Egyptian vocal icon. The Swiss-Italian Jean-Luc Marchina put together the video, while the musical vision of the performance was developed by Ahmed al-Sawy and Nahla Farouk Mattar.

The multimedia performance featured a musical piece inspired by Om Kalthoum's songs performed live using the lute, accordion, violin, drums and a laptop, while a video showing aspects of life in an Egyptian village played in the background. The video's subject matter seems chosen to simultaneously hint at Om Kalthoum's village Tamay al-Zahayra, while reflecting on how much life has changed over the past few decades.

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