

**CHAGRIN D'AMOUR - THE MUSICAL**

**marwan chamaa**

**Marwan Chamaa's career began in the mid eighties and continues to metamorphose to this day. Throughout his artistic journey, Marwan's muse has always been his environment. Marwan resided in many diverse settings such as Munich, New York, and Beirut. As his renditions of his surroundings have been reinvented in terms of styles, he has always remained true to capturing and interpreting his world as he sees it to his audience.**

**In the span of his career he has chosen to highlight life in New York, to pay tribute to old Beirut, to represent the consumerism of our fast paced society, to venerate un-requited love and passion, and even to reflect on current affairs. Marwan has used a variety of artistic styles for each of his series. He embodies the traits of a paparazzi, storyteller, and an epicurean.**

## **CHAGRIN D'AMOUR - THE MUSICAL**

“Chagrin d’amour – the musical” is Marwan Chamaa’s 2015 *gharam wa intiqam*\* series. This series exudes of Marwan Chamaa’s signature sarcastic and tongue in cheek tone.

Just like the previous series: “La Dolce Vita” and “Caramels, Superheroes, Fried Eggs et Chocolats”, Chagrin d’amour – the musical’s theme is Love with all of its heartaches, revenge, and passion.

The mélange of the Occident and Orient, as is typical in Chamaa’s works is evident in “Chagrin d’amour – the musical”. Vintage Western comic book covers as well vignettes from famous pieces by Roy Lichtenstein are wittingly woven with 1940’s - 1960’s Arabic love song lyrics. Marwan’s choice to incorporate Lichtenstein as a backdrop to this particular series is a natural selection as a tribute to the pop artist, who since the beginning of his career, used comic books as subject matter in various of his early paintings.

\**gharam wa intiqam* loosely translated from Arabic means: Passion and Revenge. It is also the title of a 1944 Egyptian movie starring Asmahan, who tragically died in a car crash while filming the movie. It is a drama that was very successful in the Arab world.

## إمتى؟ - QUAND?

The dialogue is from the lyrics of the 1944 Arabic song “إمتى حتعرف؟” (When will you realize?) by the Lebanese-Syrian star Asmahan (أسمهان) (November 25, 1912 - July 14, 1944).

The illustrations are inspired from the 1954 “Heart Throbs” #33 comic magazine’s cover. Pop-Art background from Roy Lichtenstein’s 1963 “Whaam!” diptych.

Dialogue woman:

When will you realize, when, that I love you?  
When will you realize, when, when, when?

Dialogue man:

Your love is in my imagination and in my soul and in my blood. When will you realize that I love you, when?

Dialogue two women and man in the background:

When, when, when will you realize?



## YOUR EYES - عنيك

The dialogue is from the lyrics of the 1964 Arabic song "انت عمري" (You are my Life) by Umm Kulthum (أم كلثوم) the internationally famous Egyptian singer, songwriter, and film actress (December 31, 1898 or May 4, 1904 - February 3, 1975).

The illustrations are inspired from the 1953 "Romantic Adventures" #34 comic magazine's cover. Pop-Art background from Roy Lichtenstein's 1965 "Girl with Hair Ribbon" painting.

Dialogue man:

Your eyes returned me to the days that had gone by  
They taught me to regret the past and its wounds

Dialogue woman:

How much of my life before you has passed and gone by... has gone by...



## مش كفايه - NOT ENOUGH

The dialogue is from the lyrics of the 1962 Arabic song "مش كفايه" (Not enough) by Farid el Atrash (فريد الأطرش), a Syrian–Egyptian composer, singer, virtuoso oud player, and actor (October 19, 1910 - December 26, 1974).

The illustrations are inspired from the 1951 "Darling Love" #8 comic magazine's cover. Pop-Art background from Roy Lichtenstein's 1963 "Drowning Girl" painting.

Dialogue woman in the back:

I need you, I need your heart, I want to stay by your side from the beginning till the end. What can I do?

Dialogue man:

Not enough!

Dialogue woman in the front:

My love...



## أعطني حريتي - GIVE ME MY FREEDOM

The dialogue is from the lyrics of the 1964 Arabic song "الأطلال" (The Ruins) by Umm Kulthum (أم كلثوم).

The illustrations are inspired from the 1951 "Crime Smashers" #6 comic magazine's cover. Pop-Art from Roy Lichtenstein's 1964 "As I Opened Fire" triptych, and Keith Herring's "Barking Dog" .

Dialogue woman:

Give me my freedom, release my hands, I've given you yours and did not retain anything



## مش قبل سنة - NOT BEFORE A YEAR

The dialogue is from the lyrics of the 1969 Arabic song "الف ليلة وليلة" (One Thousand and One Nights) by Umm Kulthum (أم كلثوم).

The illustrations are inspired from the 1953 "Romantic Adventures" #32 comic magazine's cover. Pop-Art background from Roy Lichtenstein's 1965 "Sunrise" painting.

Dialogue man:

My darling... let's live in the eyes of the night and tell the sun to come back after a year, not before a year...



Not before a year, acrylic on canvas, 99.5 x 219 cm (39.17 x 86.22 inch)

## اتمنى لو انساك - I WISH I COULD FORGET YOU

The dialogue is from the lyrics of the 1957 Arabic song "أهواك" (I Love you) by Abdel Halim Hafez (عبد الحليم حافظ). He is among the most popular Egyptian and Arab singers. In addition to singing, Abdel Halim was also an actor, conductor, business man, music teacher, and movie producer (June 21, 1929 - March 30, 1977).

The illustrations are inspired from the 1953 "Lovelorn" #39 comic magazine's cover. Pop-Art background from Roy Lichtenstein's 1964 "As I Opened Fire" triptych.

Dialogue man:

I love you and I wish that I can forget you  
and that I can forget all the pain you caused me so I can start longing  
for it again



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