



## "Basalem Aleik - Just Saying Hi"

**Release Date:** 20th April 2020

"*Just Saying Hi*" is the brand new single and video produced by [Sisters Grimm](#), and written by Ella Spira and DB Gad. The song, which is in response to lock down, presents a positive message of hope in this time of isolation letting people know that they aren't alone.

You can listen and watch the music video here: <https://youtu.be/8rbzauEpBXw>

The song, which is performed in Arabic, sends a singular message of global unity, and breaks language barriers and crosses borders. We are all in this together, and "*Just Saying Hi*" promotes this experience across the world.

The song follows the story of a man who just wants to let the world know that they are not alone. Through this song, all he wants to do is let the world know, that though everyone is having different challenges, that they are not alone and that he is here for them. As the music video progresses, people start to sing and dance with him, symbolising togetherness.

*"This song gives me a sense of perseverance, It gives me the drive to push on in the current times. I've never felt so connected to the world before, even though we're not allowed to connect in traditional ways. There's a sense of camaraderie out there right now and this song puts that into music. The driving beats and uplifting chorus create a sense of pushing on. This is what I want to get across in the video. The fact that we're all together, without being together."* - Shantanu Suri, Director of the video.

Ella Spira and Pietra Mello-Pittman are the faces behind live performance company Sisters Grimm. Former Royal Ballet Ballerina Pietra and Grammy nominated composer Ella create performances that combine dance, music and storytelling, that portray various cultures across the world.

And "*Just Saying Hi*" is no different. Written, filmed and produced during lockdown in Dubai, Sisters Grimm have created an honest, open and poignant response to what is currently happening in our world. Never, as a global community have we been closer, or more connected. This powerful song, and video offers something that everyone can relate to.

The song brings in various cultural elements as well as global influencers, including Ella and Pietra's personal and creative experiences from being on lockdown in Dubai, as well as dancers from their award winning performance INALA, which takes you on a journey across Africa. The song is also co-written by Arabic song writer DB Gad, Sisters Grimm who are infamous for their culturally relevant collaborations,





are proud to be embarking on a new cultural collaboration, working with Arabian song writer DB Gad, celebrating the Arab world through this new project.

*'People are anxious and concerned, this is a new situation for everyone. So much is going on right now. This song is about coming together and having this shared experience, and letting people know that they aren't alone. Though it is written in Arabic, this global song isn't about the lyrics, it's about the message.* Ella discusses the cultural message within the song.

Ella and Pietra have been working closely with dancers, producers and songwriters all whilst in lockdown to bring you ["Just Saying Hi"](#).

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#### **Notes to Editors**

For all press enquiries, including interviews with Sisters Grimm, please contact

**Hayley Smith** | Head of PR | [hayley.smith@boxedoutpr.com](mailto:hayley.smith@boxedoutpr.com) | 07516794896 | Boxed Out PR

#### **About Sisters Grimm**

Sisters Grimm is a dynamic and creative partnership between ex Royal Ballet ballerina Pietra Mello-Pittman and Grammy nominated composer Ella Spira.

In 2009, they had a vision to create a theatre company that broke all the rules. Sister's Grimm was born.

With a combined 30 years of experience operating at the top level of the creative industry, they have the unique ability to weave stories, cultures, music and dance, that creates a spellbinding experience for all audiences.

#### **About Ella Spira**

Ella Spira is a British composer who was born and raised in Gloucester. She feels a strong connection to, and is inspired by her musical and artistic family history. Both her British parents are fine artists, her father was Senior Lecturer at the University of Arts in Cheltenham and her grandfather Emile Spira, was a Jewish refugee from Poland, a pianist and composer.





At 16 she started writing music for short films. Her professional career within the entertainment industry began when alongside writing, she chose to leave school in favour of employment by the BBC at age 17.

As a composer she has worked for companies including: BBC, BAFTA, the Royal Ballet, Arakan Creative and Universal Music with Steve Smart & Westfunk.

### **About Pietra Mello-Pittman**

Pietra Mello-Pittman A.R.A.D. was born in Rio de Janeiro to a Brazilian mother and English father. Growing up in England she trained in both Ice skating and Ballet to the point at which Pietra had to choose her path.

Pietra was one of the rare few to win a place with the Royal Ballet Company after entering full time ballet training, with the Royal Ballet School, at the latest possible stage at 16 years old. She has performed all the classics, created roles in new productions and has performed all over the world with the Royal Ballet including at The Mariinsky and Bolshoi Theatres in Russia.

After winning the Ursula Morton Choreography Competition in 2001, while at the Royal Ballet School in London, Pietra started on the path to becoming a producer through her subsequent choreographies.

Passionate about cross-cultural, multi disciplinary collaborations and carrying with her, the high standards she is accustomed to from her 13 year professional life as a ballerina, Pietra retired from the Royal Ballet in 2015 to focus on producing.

### **About DB Gad**

DB Gad was born in Alexandria, Egypt and grew up in Ukraine. After being exposed to different cultures, Gad was convinced he would pursue a career in rap music, (as he put it) “the moment I first heard Linkin Park”.

The 28-year-old composes his own beats and writes the lyrics to all his songs. DB Gad uses his time to direct music videos, turning sound into visuals, and as a full-time music producer. Gad proudly produced music for other artists, which were quick to go viral.

Now based in Dubai, DB Gad is determined to take over the music scene, through modernizing Arabic music to the best of his experience. By immersing himself into the market through releasing music and





performing the artist is slowly gathering a crowd. With urban hip-hop music already making its way back into the underground – DB Gad is one of the Middle Eastern artists pushing for Arabic rap into the eyes and ears of the public.

### **About Shantanu Suri**

Shantanu Suri is a film and commercial director based in Dubai, UAE.

Currently working with First and Ten Productions. Having studied filmmaking in Florida, U.S.A, he moved to the UAE, where he was born and raised, and is currently working with First and Ten Productions as a Director and Cinematographer. He believes that filmmaking allows you to express the subtleties of life that no one talks about or even realizes exist and wants to share those experiences with others.

