



**Apollo Theater 2016-2017 Season Features Emerging and Established Artists from Across the Globe and Extends Collaborations with Local, National, and International Institutions**

*Highlights Include:*

***Hendrix in Harlem***

*A Concert Celebrating the Legendary Rock Genius Jimi Hendrix*

***The First Noel*** Returns in an Unprecedented Move to the Theater's Mainstage,  
*a Collaboration with Classical Theatre of Harlem*

*Apollo Partners with AFROPUNK to Present*  
***Unapologetically Black: AFROPUNK's Race Music***

*The Apollo Presents the Return of Southbank Centre London's*  
***WOW - Women of the World Festival***  
*Including a Tribute Concert to Jazz Legend and Activist Abbey Lincoln*  
*A John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts Production*

*Signature Programs Apollo Music Café, Apollo Comedy Club,*  
***Amateur Night at the Apollo*** as well as ongoing ***Community and Education Programs***

**(Harlem, NY - May 24, 2016 / Updated July 25, 2016)** – The Apollo Theater today announced details of its 2016-2017 season, which will feature an array of programs showcasing both established and emerging artists and deepen partnerships with a diverse array of institutions. The new season will extend the nonprofit institution's commitment to catalyzing the creation of new works that draw upon the legacy of the world-famous Theater. Alongside engagements with international artists working in a variety of disciplines, the season will include forums for cross-cultural dialogue led by artists and scholars, and education programs for students and families from throughout the five boroughs.

The season features *Hendrix in Harlem*, a tribute concert to the legendary rock genius and 1964 *Amateur Night* winner **Jimi Hendrix**; the Apollo Uptown Hall's *Presidential Debate Viewing Party* with a pre-debate panel discussion featuring leading political analysts, live entertainment, and an audience Q&A; the return of the new holiday classic *The First Noel*, presented in collaboration with the Classical Theatre of Harlem and part of *Holidays at the Apollo*, which will make an unprecedented move to the Theater's Mainstage; and other holiday programs including the Theater's signature program *Amateur Night Holiday Special* and a special New Year's Eve edition of its annual *Kwanzaa Celebration: Regeneration Night*.

The season will continue in the spring with dynamic programs in partnership with world-class performing arts institutions. The Apollo partners with the international cultural movement AFROPUNK (AP) to present *Unapologetically Black: AFROPUNK's Race Music*, which pays homage to black protest music. The Theater also continues its relationship with World Music Institute for the fifth installment of its popular *Africa Now!* concert; and the second presentation of Southbank Centre London's *WOW - Women of the World Festival*, celebrating the formidable strength and inventiveness of women and looking at the obstacles they face across the world, with performances, conversations, workshops, and a presentation of a John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts production that honors the legendary jazz vocalist and activist **Abbey Lincoln**.

“We are proud to be a home for artists of all backgrounds, whether developing their craft and creating new works or celebrating Apollo Legends like Jimi Hendrix,” said **Jonelle Procope**, President and CEO of the Apollo Theater. “Our 2016-2017 season features talent from right here in Harlem and around the globe, and we are thrilled to welcome our audiences for a diverse season of music, dance, theater, comedy, and conversation.”

The new programs will be complemented by the Apollo’s signature series: *Amateur Night at the Apollo*, the Theater’s original talent competition; *Apollo Music Café*, which showcases boundary-pushing, new musical artists; *Apollo Comedy Club*, an initiative which features up-and-coming comedic artists; and *Salon Series*, a one-week residency in which artists from across disciplines develop and test new works, culminating in public workshop performances. A cornerstone of the Harlem community, the Apollo will also present public conversations, education programs for students and families, and other community events throughout the season.

*Tickets for fall and spring presentations go on sale May 23 and September 1, 2016, respectively. Tickets may be purchased at the Apollo Theater Box Office: (212) 531-5305, 253 West 125<sup>th</sup> Street, and Ticketmaster at 1-800-745-3000, [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).*

## **APOLLO THEATER 2016 - 2017 SEASON**

### **SEASON HIGHLIGHTS**

#### **Apollo Uptown Hall: Presidential Debate Viewing Party**

*Monday, September 26, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.*

The Apollo will host a viewing party of the first presidential debate of the 2016 general election between Democratic and Republican nominees. Prior to the screening of the presidential debate, there will be a panel discussion with several respected political analysts, who will discuss issues important to the community, followed by a Q&A with the audience. Preceding the event, there will be live entertainment and a DJ.

*(For full program description see page 10, Apollo Uptown Hall.)*

*Apollo Uptown Halls are free events and pre-registration is strongly suggested. For registration information, visit [www.apollotheater.org](http://www.apollotheater.org).*

#### **Apollo Live Wire - Legendary: A Conversation with Melba Moore, Leslie Uggams, and Dionne Warwick**

*Tuesday, October 11, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.*

**Featuring: Melba Moore, Leslie Uggams, and Dionne Warwick**

Music journalist and essayist **Christian John Wikane** interviews three incomparable artists whose longevity and careers have bridged decades and performance genres including music, theater, stage and screen—**Melba Moore, Leslie Uggams, and Dionne Warwick**. Each has a unique history with the Apollo Theater and New York; together they represent a generation of women whose careers blossomed during a time of significant societal change and allowed them to push past the boundaries of categorization frequently imposed upon Black female performers.

**Melba Moore** is a Tony Award-winning singer and actress who appeared in *Hair*, *Purlie*, and *Timbuktu* on Broadway, and also achieved success as a performing and recording artist. **Dionne Warwick**’s voice helped define the sound of the 1960s as her name became synonymous with the music of Hal David and Burt Bacharach. Warwick’s early career in music was as part of the Gospel group The Drinkard Singers. Her solo career was powered by her appearances at the Apollo, where her poised style and powerful voice made her an audience favorite. **Leslie Uggams**’ professional performing career started at the Apollo when she was just nine years old. Known for her work as a stage performer, television, and film actress, she remains a giant in the industry to this day.

*Apollo Live Wires are free and pre-registration is strongly suggested. For registration information visit [www.apolloeducation.org](http://www.apolloeducation.org).*

### **Hendrix in Harlem**

*Saturday, November 26, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.*

The Apollo presents a special concert celebrating rock legend **Jimi Hendrix**. Hendrix's star was born on the Apollo stage when he became an *Amateur Night* winner in 1964. Hendrix followed his *Amateur Night* win with additional appearances at the Apollo as a sideman with The Isley Brothers, Little Richard, King Curtis, and Wilson Pickett in 1964 and 1965. After The Animals ("We Gotta Get Out Of This Place") played the Apollo, their bassist Chas Chandler met with Hendrix, and in September, 1966 they went to England together—with Chas as Jimi's new manager. The Jimi Hendrix Experience released the iconic debut album *Are You Experienced?* in 1967.

*Hendrix In Harlem* reclaims the Apollo Theater legacy of Jimi Hendrix on the eve of his 74<sup>th</sup> birthday. A universe of extraordinary star musicians and singers will perform music that Jimi Hendrix played in those early years on 125<sup>th</sup> Street. Alongside will be performances of classic Jimi Hendrix Experience music as 2016 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the group's formation.

***Tickets for Hendrix in Harlem go on sale September 1, 2016. Tickets will be available at The Apollo Theater Box Office: (212) 531-5305, 253 West 125<sup>th</sup> Street, and Ticketmaster at 1-800-745-3000, [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).***

### **Ballet Hispanico**

*November 18 & November 19, 2016 at 8:00 pm*

Ballet Hispanico in collaboration with the Apollo Theater presents a trio of works that draw upon the dynamism and versatility of the premier Latino dance company. The world premiere of *Línea Recta* by Belgian-Colombian choreographer, **Annabelle Lopez Ochoa**, pairs the hallmark passion of flamenco dance with innovative and intricate partnering, performed to live Spanish classical guitar.

In addition, the Theater will also present special Apollo Education performances, including an ***Apollo School Day Live: Ballet Hispanico*** show of mixed repertory for schoolchildren on the morning of Friday, November 18 and an ***Apollo Family Workshop: Flamenco***, on Saturday, November 19. Apollo School Day Live shows are an interactive experience providing new generations of theater-goers with exciting opportunities to learn about the arts, history, and culture. Apollo Family Workshop is designed to provide families with hands-on experience in art-making.

*Tickets for Ballet Hispanico are \$35 – 65. Tickets are available at The Apollo Theater Box Office: (212) 531-5305, 253 West 125<sup>th</sup> Street, and Ticketmaster at 1-800-745-3000, [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com). **Tickets are on sale now.***

*For more information on Apollo School Day Live and Apollo Family Workshop visit [www.apolloeducation.org](http://www.apolloeducation.org).*

### **Classical Theatre of Harlem and the Apollo Theater Present *The First Noel***

*December 10 – 18, 2016*

The Classical Theatre of Harlem returns after a successful run last holiday season with *The First Noel*, in collaboration with the Apollo. This year the holiday spectacular makes an unprecedented move to the Apollo's 1,500-seat Mainstage Theater. The Harlem-based holiday musical features music that crosses genres—from pop to jazz to gospel — to tell a universal story of love and belonging. This presentation follows three generations of a Harlem family affected by the tragic loss of a loved one. Time is slow to heal this family's wounds, until an unexpected visit from Grandma reveals some long-absent Christmas joy. This story is about how a community is healed, one family at a time, as everyday people do extraordinary things to help one another receive the gift of love during the holiday season.

Book, music, and lyrics by **Lelund Durond Thompson** (founder, YellaFella Entertainment and CTH Artistic Associate) and **Jason Michael Webb** (Brooklyn Tabernacle, Broadway's *The Color Purple*, *Motown the Musical*, *Violet*). **Steve H. Broadnax III** (Dominique Morisseau's *Blood at the Root*) serves as director and **Brian Harlan Brooks** (*Motown: The Musical*) as choreographer.

*Tickets for The First Noel are \$30 – \$85. Tickets are available at The Apollo Theater Box Office: (212) 531-5305, 253 West 125<sup>th</sup> Street, and Ticketmaster at 1-800-745-3000, [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com). Tickets are on sale now.*

**Apollo Theater and AFROPUNK Present Unapologetically Black: AFROPUNK's Race Music**

*Saturday, February 25, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.*

The Apollo Theater partners with the international cultural movement, AFROPUNK, to pay homage to Black protest music and iconic and contemporary artists who have celebrated the power of being unapologetically Black. This show will feature special guests from both the popular and alternative music scenes with an all-star big band.

In 2003, Matthew Morgan produced *Afro-Punk*, the seminal cult classic documentary spotlighting Black punks in America directed by James Spooner. The focus was giving a voice to thousands of multicultural kids fiercely identifying with a lifestyle path-less-traveled. Morgan, a music industry executive, instinctively understood that the indie rock/punk/hardcore scene had powerful appeal beyond the predictable Caucasian audience.

AFROPUNK has evolved into a touchstone of a cultural movement strongly reminiscent of the early days of Hip-Hop. Alternative urban kids across the globe who felt like outsiders discovered they were actually the core of a boldly innovative, fast-growing community.

*Tickets for Unapologetically Black: AFROPUNK's Race Music go on sale September 1, 2016. Tickets will be available at The Apollo Theater Box Office: (212) 531-5305, 253 West 125<sup>th</sup> Street, and Ticketmaster at 1-800-745-3000, [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).*

**Africa Now! - Presented in Partnership with World Music Institute**

*March 2017*

The Apollo, in partnership with World Music Institute, presents the fifth annual *Africa Now!* concert celebrating the best of the contemporary African music scene. *Africa Now!* features a powerful line-up of artists who have drawn upon their roots for inspiration and transplanted them onto the global music landscape.

*Tickets for Africa Now! go on sale September 1, 2016. Tickets will be available at The Apollo Theater Box Office: (212) 531-5305, 253 West 125<sup>th</sup> Street, and Ticketmaster at 1-800-745-3000, [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).*

**Apollo Theater presents Southbank Centre London's WOW – Women of the World Festival**

*Thursday May 4 – Sunday May 7, 2017*

The Apollo Theater will gather artists, activists, and leaders from around the globe for its second presentation of *WOW – Women of the World Festival*, which is being presented in association with the Southbank Centre London, with a four-day multidisciplinary celebration of groundbreaking politically conscious female artists, activists, and leaders from around the world. Apollo's *WOW Festival* will feature a unique mix of performances, discussions, and workshops celebrating the work of women from diverse backgrounds and exploring a variety of issues across cultural, civic, and social boundaries. This season's festival will be anchored by a special tribute to the incomparable artist/activist **Abbey Lincoln**, which will take place on **Saturday May 6, 2017 at 8:00 p.m.**, featuring an all-star line-up of vocalists. The four-day festival will also include performances on the Soundstage, Mainstage, and throughout the building, as well as panel discussions and workshops.

Founded in 2011 by Southbank Centre's Artistic Director Jude Kelly and originating at Southbank Centre, London, *WOW* festivals are high-profile, mainstream platforms to celebrate women and girls, taking an honest look at what prevents them from achieving their potential; raising awareness globally of the issues they face; and considering possible solutions. *WOW* has become a global movement with over 15 *WOW* festivals in cities across five continents. Apollo launched its first *WOW Festival* in June 2015, presenting over 50 events. As part of the institution's current artistic season, *WOW Festival* is a major global initiative that extends the Apollo's role as a cultural and civic anchor dedicated to providing forums for meaningful discussion and exchange.

**Abbey Lincoln Tribute Concert – A John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts Production**  
**Music Director Terri Lyne Carrington**

*Saturday, May 6, 2017 at 8:00 p.m.*

Under the musical direction of Grammy Award-winning drummer, composer, and producer **Terri Lyne Carrington**, an all-star line-up of vocalists celebrates the life, music, and legacy of jazz master and civil rights activist Abbey Lincoln (1930 – 2010).

***Tickets for the Women of the World Festival go on sale September 1, 2016.*** Tickets will be available at The Apollo Theater Box Office: (212) 531-5305, 253 West 125<sup>th</sup> Street, and Ticketmaster at 1-800-745-3000, [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

## **SIGNATURE PROGRAMS**

### **Amateur Night at the Apollo**

*Weekly, Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. through November 23, 2016*

The Apollo Theater's signature program, *Amateur Night*, continues to be a resource for discovering new talent and a defining experience for many emerging artists. The show has launched countless careers since 1934—from Ella Fitzgerald, James Brown, Michael Jackson, D'Angelo, Jazmine Sullivan, and Lauryn Hill to recent winners like Matthew Whitaker, Machine Gun Kelly, and Matthew Hashimoto.

*Amateur Night is sponsored by The Coca-Cola Company.*

Amateur Night's 2016 – 2017 Season runs through November 23 on Wednesday nights at 7:30 p.m., and will feature the following special editions:

#### ***Amateur Night Fall Auditions***

This season the Apollo extends its search for the next Apollo legend by holding auditions in New York City, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Washington, D.C. Contestants chosen from these auditions will secure a spot in the Amateur Night season line-up. Singers, dancers, musicians, actors, spoken-word poets, and comedians are all encouraged to try out.

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
New York, New York at the Apollo Theater  
Washington, DC  
(Locations and times will be announced at a later date)

*Saturday, September 17, 2016*

*Saturday, September 24, 2016*

*Saturday, October 1, 2016*

#### ***Amateur Night: Super Top Dog***

*Wednesday, November 23, 2016*

Amateur Night culminates its season with the final showdown: Super Top Dog. The winner will receive the title of Super Top Dog and a grand prize of \$10,000. In addition, the Child Star of Tomorrow winner will receive \$2,000.

#### ***Amateur Night Holiday Special***

*Saturday, December 3, 2016*

Featuring: **Apollo Stars of Tomorrow** and **Special Guest Performances**

The Apollo Theater lights up this holiday season with the Apollo Amateur Night Holiday Special, the 6<sup>th</sup> annual event under its signature program Amateur Night, showcasing recent winners of the show's "Apollo Stars of Tomorrow" category. Featuring an incredibly talented array of instrumentalists, singers, and dancers from ages 11-18, this program captures the spirit of young performers all hoping to follow in the footsteps of Apollo Legends like Michael Jackson and Ella Fitzgerald, whose careers were launched on the stage of the Apollo.

*Tickets for the Amateur Night Holiday Special are \$20, \$26, and \$32. Tickets will be available at The Apollo Theater Box Office: (212) 531-5305, 253 West 125<sup>th</sup> Street, and Ticketmaster at 1-800-745-3000, [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com). Tickets are on sale now.*



### **Amateur Night: Season Opener**

Wednesday, February 22, 2017

*Amateur Night* returns for its 83<sup>rd</sup> year with a new line-up of contestants competing to win the title of Super Top Dog and a prize. Hosted by the comedian **Capone**, *Amateur Night* begins with a pre-party featuring video and music by **DJ Jess**. The show also features master impressionist and tap dancer **CP Lacey** as the “Executioner,” who escorts contestants who have been booed off the stage and the *Amateur Night* house band led by music director, **Michael Mitchell**.

*Tickets for Amateur Night begin at \$20 and are available at The Apollo Theater Box Office: (212) 531-5305, 253 West 125<sup>th</sup> Street and Ticketmaster at 1-800-745-3000 or [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com). Tickets are on sale now.*

### **Apollo Music Café**

*Monthly, Fridays and Saturdays at 10:00 p.m. (doors open for bar and food at 9:00 p.m.)*

The *Apollo Music Café* presents forward-thinking artists and draws out equally adventurous audiences, and features diverse performances across a myriad of genres from R&B, hip-hop, soul, jazz, pop, funk, to rock. Presented in the Theater’s intimate Soundstage, the series continues the Apollo’s longstanding commitment to presenting diverse and innovative artistic voices. Since its debut in February 2011, the series has become a favorite destination for music lovers of all kinds—from Harlem tastemakers, to tourists, to the downtown hipster set. The *Apollo Music Café* 2016-2017 season will run monthly on Fridays and Saturdays from October 2016 to June 2017 and feature special editions including *Apollo Music Café: Women of the World*.

*Friday, October 7, 2016 at 10:00 p.m.*

*Saturday, October 8, 2016 at 10:00 p.m.*

*Friday, November 11, 2016 at 10:00 p.m.*

*Saturday, November 12, 2016 at 10:00 p.m.*

*Friday, December 2, 2016 at 10:00 p.m.*

*Saturday, December 3, 2016 at 10:00 p.m.*

*Friday, January 13, 2016 at 10:00 p.m.*

*Saturday, January 14, 2016 at 10:00 p.m.*

*Additional performers and dates for the Apollo Music Café season (February 2017 – June 2017) will be announced at a later date.*

**Opening Night Def Jam Takeover**

**Next2Shine Takeover**

**Tank and the Bangas**

**Kwame Binea Shakedown Roots Rock**

**Marcus Machado and Friends**

**Vox Sambou**

**Dwight & Nicole**

**JC Brooks and the Uptown Sound**

*Tickets for Apollo Music Café are \$20 and \$15 in advance for the Apollo’s A-List. There is a \$10 drink/food minimum for each show. Tickets will be available at the Apollo Theater Box Office: (212) 531-5305, 253 West 125th Street, and Ticketmaster at 1-800-745-3000, [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com). Tickets are on sale now.*

### **Apollo Comedy Club**

*Monthly, Thursdays at 10:00 p.m. (doors open for bar and food at 9:00 p.m.)*

The Apollo has returned to its comedic roots with *Apollo Comedy Club*, which launched in October 2015. Presented in partnership with the legendary Bob Sumner (Co-Executive Producer and Talent Producer of Def Comedy Jam, creator of LaffMobb on Aspire), the *Apollo Comedy Club* will feature an evening of comedy on the Apollo’s intimate Soundstage starring the best up-and-coming talent in comedy today. The comedy shows will precede the Theater’s weekend music series, *Apollo Music Café*, extending the Theater’s late-night offerings. The *Apollo Comedy Club* 2016 – 2017 season will run monthly on Thursdays from October 2016 to June 2017.

*Thursday, October 6 at 10:00 p.m.*

*Thursday, November 10 at 10:00 p.m.*

*Thursday, December 1 at 10:00 p.m.*

*Thursday, January 12 at 10:00 p.m.*

**Lawrence Owens, Trev Houston and Esther Ku**

**Pat Brown, Nate Jackson and Topp Flight**

**Larry Lancaster, Noah Gardenschwartz and Ray Diva**

**Kate Wolf, Suga Sean Riley and Lawrence Killebrew**

*Additional performers and dates for the Apollo Comedy Club season (February 2017 – June 2017) will be announced at a later date.*

*Tickets for Apollo Comedy Club are \$20 and \$15 in advance for the Apollo's A-List. There is a \$10 drink/food minimum for each show. Tickets will be available at the Apollo Theater Box Office: (212) 531-5305, 253 West 125<sup>th</sup> Street, and Ticketmaster at 1-800-745-3000, [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com). **Tickets are on sale now.***

### **Salon Series**

Expanding on the Apollo's tradition of nurturing artists and providing critical support in their creation of new work, the Theater's Salon Series acts as an incubator for artists to develop and test new work across disciplines. Artists presented in the Salon Series have the opportunity for a full week to develop their work on the Apollo's Soundstage (150 seat black box theater), culminating in workshop performances.

#### ***Maurice Chestnut "Beats + Rhymes + Tap Shoes"***

*April 21 – 22, 2017*

Beats, Rhymes and Tap Shoes is a dance piece that explores and reimagines the music of popular hip-hop group, A Tribe Called Quest, through tap and jazz.

Maurice Chestnut is one of the brightest young stars in tap dance today (*Bring in da Noise / Bring in da Funk, Happy Feet*). A former *Amateur Night at the Apollo* Top Dog winner, Chestnut's classical rhythm tap style is presented with a jazz orchestra, wherein his footwork serves as lead instrument infused with hip-hop, funk, and soul.

Chestnut is an original member of the New Jersey Tap Dance Ensemble. His extensive list of credits includes his appearance at Carnegie Hall and throughout Europe with the Geri Allen Trio as a featured soloist, and his performances in productions with Savion Glover such as *Bring In 'Da Noise, Bring In 'Da Funk, Improvography, Classical Savion, Tappin' Into Monk, Invitation to the Dancer*, and on ABC-TV's "Dancing With The Stars." At the turn of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Newark's *The Star Ledger's* arts reviewers named Maurice "one of the twenty New Jersey faces to watch for in the new century."

***Tickets for Salon Series go on sale September 1, 2016. Tickets will be available at the Apollo Theater Box Office: (212) 531-5305, 253 West 125<sup>th</sup> Street, and Ticketmaster at 1-800-745-3000, [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).***

### **HOLIDAYS AT THE APOLLO**

A celebration of holiday traditions and special programming that includes:

#### **Coca-Cola Winter Wonderland**

*Saturday, December 3, 2016 from 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.*

Before the Apollo Amateur Night Holiday Special, the Apollo and Coca-Cola are partnering to bring the magic of the holiday season to Harlem. Under the Apollo's iconic marquee, Coca-Cola will offer a variety of holiday-themed activities and performances free and open to the public. Hosted by **Billy Mitchell**, Apollo tour director and in-house historian, festivities include picture-taking with Santa Claus and giveaways. Additionally, in the spirit of giving, the Apollo will be a designated location for a toy drive.

*This event is free and open to the public.*

#### **Amateur Night Holiday Special**

*Saturday, December 3, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.*

Featuring: **Apollo Stars of Tomorrow and Special Guest Performances**

*(For description see page 6, Signature Programs: Amateur Night at the Apollo.)*

#### **Classical Theatre of Harlem and the Apollo Theater Present *The First Noel***

*December 10 – 18, 2016*

*(For description see page 4, Season Highlights: The First Noel.)*

### **Kwanzaa Celebration: Regeneration Night – Celebrating the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Forces of Nature**

A Special New Year's Eve Edition

Saturday, December 31, 2016; 2:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

Featuring: **Abdel R. Salaam's Forces of Nature Dance Theatre, Imhotep Gary Byrd, and more**

The Apollo Theater celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> annual **Kwanzaa Celebration**, on New Year's Eve, featuring the renowned New York-based dance company **Abdel R. Salaam's Forces of Nature Dance Theatre** and guest performances. Since 2006, the Apollo has established an annual show to celebrate this holiday tradition on one day of the Kwanzaa holiday. The Apollo's celebration is a joyful evening of dance and music honoring the principles of Kwanzaa—family, community, and culture. Hosted by radio personality **Imhotep Gary Byrd**, this event will also celebrate the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Forces of Nature.

*Tickets for Kwanzaa Celebration: Regeneration Night are \$20 - \$35. Tickets are available at The Apollo Theater Box Office: (212) 531-5305, 253 West 125<sup>th</sup> Street, and Ticketmaster at 1-800-745-3000, [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com). Tickets are on sale now.*

## **COMMUNITY & EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

The Apollo Theater's Community and Education Programs extend the Apollo's commitment to serve as a resource and gathering place for the entire community. The nonprofit Theater's education program includes events for school children and families, as well as career development for teens and adults through the Apollo Theater Academy. Both the Apollo's education program and its community program include discussions on cultural and civic issues important to the Harlem community that highlight the history of the Apollo and its impact on American art, culture, and entertainment. Events and programs include:

### **EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

#### **Apollo Live Wire**

The *Apollo Live Wire* series was created to invite deeper engagement with the Apollo's artistic programming. The discussions are recorded and created into podcasts to extend the audience reach and for inclusion in the Theater's archives. Planned *Apollo Live Wire* events for the 2016-2017 Season include:

***Legendary: A Conversation with Melba Moore & Dionne Warwick*** (For description see page 2 and 3, Season Highlights *Apollo Live Wire: Legendary*)  
***The Gospel Caravan***  
***Ella! A Centennial Celebration***  
***WOW/Artist-Activist***  
***Black Men/Soul Music II: Soul Revolution***

*Tuesday, October 11, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.*

*Sunday, February 5, 2017 at 3:00 p.m.*

*Thursday, March 23, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.*

*Thursday, May 4, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.*

*Thursday, June 15, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.*

*Apollo Live Wires are free and pre-registration is strongly suggested. For registration information visit [www.apolloeducation.org](http://www.apolloeducation.org).*

#### **Behind the Scenes Career Panels**

Career Panels at the Apollo are free and open to the public and take place on-site at the Apollo Theater. Planned *Behind the Scenes Career Panels* for the 2016 – 2017 Season include:

***Careers in the Arts, Entertainment, and Media***  
***BMI Latin/How I Wrote That Song***

*Saturday, October 15, 2016, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.*

*Tuesday, October 25, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.*

*Apollo Career Panels are free and pre-registration is strongly suggested. For registration information visit [www.apolloeducation.org](http://www.apolloeducation.org).*



## **COMMUNITY PROGRAMS**

### **Apollo Uptown Hall**

The Apollo continues to be a natural gathering place and “town hall” for local community residents as well as people from across New York City. This was demonstrated by the huge crowds that gathered under the Theater’s iconic marquee in response to world events such as the 2008 presidential election outcome and the passing of James Brown and Michael Jackson. Launched in September 2012, the Apollo Uptown Hall is a forum for presenting and discussing timely issues relevant to the community, the country, and the world, incorporating video, texting, and live performance to enhance and develop an interactive forum for community gathering and discussion.

### **Presidential Debate Viewing Party**

*Monday, September 26, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.*

*(For description see page 2 Fall Programs Apollo Uptown Hall.)*

### **A Martin Luther King, Jr. Tribute**

*Sunday, January 15, 2017 at 3:00 p.m.*

In celebration of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday, WNYC’s annual Martin Luther King Day celebration will return to the Apollo for a special edition of the Apollo’s Uptown Hall series. The series brings together community members, leaders, scholars and activists to engage in conversation about Dr. King’s legacy and how his teachings affect us today. WNYC’s Brian Lehrer will co-host this free event.

*Apollo Uptown Hall: A Martin Luther King, Jr. Tribute is a WNYC and Apollo Theater presentation.*

### **Trial By Jury, Case of the N-Word**

*February 26, 2017 at 3:00 p.m.*

The Apollo takes on the most provocative, polarizing, and debated word in America. The N-word goes on trial during this interactive community conversation. Select audience members will serve as jury to decide the outcome of a fictional case. A panel of special guests join to explore the word’s historic and current-day resonance.

*Apollo Uptown Halls are free events and pre-registration is strongly suggested. For registration information, visit [www.apollotheater.org](http://www.apollotheater.org).*

### **Apollo Open House**

*February 4, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.*

In celebration of Black History Month, the Apollo Theater open its doors to give members of the Harlem community, New York City residents, and tourists alike a unique and FREE glimpse at the Apollo’s rich history during our Open House. This event also provides insight on current and upcoming activities programs at the Apollo and other local organizations as well.

*Apollo Open House events are free and open to the public.*

***You can follow the Apollo Theater on Twitter and Instagram at @apollotheater and like us on Facebook at [facebook.com/apollotheater](https://www.facebook.com/apollotheater)***

*Amateur Night at the Apollo is sponsored by Coca-Cola.*

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### **About the Apollo Theater**

The legendary Apollo Theater—the soul of American culture—plays a vital role in cultivating emerging talents and launching legends. Since its founding, the Apollo has served as a center of innovation and a creative catalyst for Harlem, the city of New York, and the world.

With music at its core, the Apollo’s programming extends to dance, theater, performance art, spoken-word initiatives, and more. Recent highlights include *James Brown: Get on the Good Foot*, which began an international tour in 2015, the *Africa Now! Festival* and *Apollo Club Harlem*. The Apollo is a presenting organization that also produces festivals, large-scale dance and music works organized around a set of core initiatives: Apollo Music; Signature Programs—Amateur Night, Salon Series and the Apollo Music Café; Legacy Series, work that celebrates and extends the Apollo’s legacy through a contemporary lens; Global Festivals, international and U.S.-based artist presentations focused on a specific theme; and Special Projects, multidisciplinary work with partner organizations.

Since introducing the first Amateur Night contests in 1934, the Apollo Theater has served as a testing ground for new artists working across a variety of art forms, and has ushered in the emergence of many new musical genres—including jazz, swing, bebop, R&B, gospel, blues, soul, and hip-hop. Among the countless legendary performers who launched their careers at the Apollo are D’Angelo, Lauryn Hill, Machine Gun Kelly, Miri Ben Ari, D’Angelo, Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughan, Billie Holiday, James Brown, Michael Jackson, Gladys Knight, Luther Vandross, and Stevie Wonder; and the Apollo’s forward-looking artistic vision continues to build on this legacy.

The Apollo Theater is a not-for-profit organization with the mission to extend the institution’s role in fostering artistic innovation and in building appreciation of American culture around the world. For more information, visit [www.apollotheater.org](http://www.apollotheater.org).

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