

APOLLO

Apollo Theater Presents
The Critically Acclaimed Global Hip-Hop Dance Theatre Festival
Breakin' Convention Festival

In Collaboration with London's Sadler's Wells Theatre

*Headline programming includes groundbreaking works from internationally renowned dance crews, a special performance by popping icon **Popin' Pete**, and appearance by Hip-Hop Legend and Co-Host **Biz Markie***

*Festival Expands to Week-long Celebration to Include:
Artist Talks, Workshops, Dance Master Class with **Jon Boogz** and **Lil Buck**, a Unique Art Exhibition Created by Internationally Celebrated Sculptor/Painter **Carlos "Mare139" Rodriguez**, and Much More*

October 20 – 28, 2017

(Harlem, NY – October 12, 2017) – The **Apollo Theater** presents the return of London's Sadler's Wells' critically acclaimed international hip-hop dance theatre festival—**Breakin' Convention**, one of the world's greatest celebrations of hip-hop culture. The festival, a collaboration with London's Sadler's Wells and now in its third year at the Apollo, provides a platform for the Theater to celebrate its hip-hop legacy and to highlight the global impact of contemporary hip-hop culture through both mainstream and experimental dance.

This year's festival will directly address several pressing issues that are part of America's current sociopolitical landscape through performances and accompanying events, with highlights including an artist talk with dancers **Jon Boogz** and **Lil Buck** centered on dance as a tool for social justice and prison reform.

Curated and hosted by nationally recognized U.K. hip-hop emcee and theater pioneer **Jonzi D**, *Breakin' Convention* will take over the entire Apollo building and will include performances by world renowned dance companies and local crews. In addition to the mainstage performances, this year's Festival is expanding to a week-long series of events and activities consisting of artist talks, master classes, dance workshops, freestyle sessions, an art exhibition by **Carlos "Mare139" Rodriguez**, and special *Breakin' Convention*-themed editions of the Theater's signature programs, Apollo Music Café and Family Workshop.

“With this festival, we are creating a global dance experience through a series of events building on New York’s and most importantly, the Apollo’s hip-hop roots. The Apollo has always been a pioneer in the hip-hop and dance realms, and we are ecstatic to be partnering with Sadler’s Wells Theatre to bring this international movement back to New York, the birthplace of hip-hop,” said **Kamilah Forbes**, Apollo Theater’s Executive Producer.

International Performers:

Protocol Dance Company (UK)

Title of Piece: I Can’t Breathe

Protocol has evolved from a competitive street dance group to an established dance theatre company—but their core ethos has never changed. At the heart of Protocol is innovation and risk. The group are constantly experimenting with movement to create fresh and dynamic pieces of theatre. Protocol’s creative fluidity means that they don’t subscribe to any one traditional form of dance. The group use a fusion of techniques, including street styles such as popping, hip-hop, and krump, along with physical theatre, to create their own unique language of movement.

Salah (France)

Title of Piece: The Sickness

A living legend in the world of hip-hop dance, this consummate performer is a master popper, locker, b-boy, clown, and all-round entertainer. After his award-winning performances all over the world Salah, returns to the Breakin’ Convention stage after a seven-year hiatus that has seen him work with Cirque Du Soleil, Puma, and David Blaine, among others.

Soweto Skeleton Movers (South Africa)

Title of Piece: Seven 7

From the most notorious township on the African continent comes the Soweto Skeleton Movers. Experts in a particular form of pantsula dance developed by Skeleton Mover pioneer Jabulani, the crew use comedic contortionism, frenetic footwork, and magical hat tricks that astound and amaze! In Soweto in the 1950s, commuters developed a dance style known as ‘isparapara’ inspired by their jumping on and off of moving trains. This was mixed with tap dance and later became known as Pantsula. More than a dance, Pantsula is a lifestyle. Influences can be seen in jazz, breaking, popping, house, and bone-breaking.

Yeah Yellow (France)

Title of Piece: Yeah Yellow Sunshine

Founded in 2012 by dancers Kami and Bee D, Yeah Yellow are a multidisciplinary hip-hop dance group from France. Since their inception they have performed and battled internationally, representing France with numerous titles under their belt. To them their obsession with the colour yellow represents the Sun, the Force, and the Light—a collective of dancing Jedi Knights showcasing their creativity, originality, and “joie de vivre,” whatever style they dance, whether hip-hop or breaking.

New York City Performers:

Popin' Pete

Title of Piece: My Dance Life

Pioneer and popping icon Popin' Pete is a member of the legendary dance group the Electric Boogaloos. Working with everyone from Michael Jackson to Chris Brown; appearing in everything from "Soul Train" to cult classic *Breakin'*, all the way to FOX's "So You Think You Can Dance." Popin' Pete continues to innovate, teaching workshops, judging, and spreading the original techniques he learned from his brother, Boogaloo Sam, who created the popping and boogaloo styles that are being done all over the world to this day.

The Dynamic Rockers

Title of Piece: Generations

The Dynamic Rockers are a renowned b-boy crew established in 1979 in Queens, New York. They played an influential part in the global spread of b-boy culture, beginning in 1981 with their legendary battle against the Rock Steady Crew in front of Lincoln Center. This battle played a large role in sparking mainstream and international interest in b-boying. The Dynamic Rockers' technique of blending acrobatics, gymnastics, and traditional b-boy moves together provided a lot of influence for modern b-boy style. Thanks to Kid Glyde, son of Glyde of the original Dynamic Rockers, the crew continues to innovate and create endless possibilities for the b-boying culture.

Rep Your Style

Title of Piece: Crash to Create

Rep Your Style explores the effect of internalizing both feminine and masculine energies on a man struggling to cope with the balance of both in his day-to-day life and situations. Led by Dynamic Rockers' leader Kid Glyde and Melanie Aguirre, Rep Your Style was formed in 2012, consisting of members who have been dancing for as long as 16 years. As an organization, their goal is to serve the urban arts community as leaders to encourage individuality, having represented USA internationally for the opening show for international street dance battle Juste Debout in Paris.

Bwreckfast Club from Litefeet Nation

Title of Piece: Level Up Litefeet Nation

Bwreckfast Club from Litefeet Nation was formed in 2005, brought together by their love of hip hop. Litefeet is the continuation of hip hop culture, influenced by classic hip-hop dance, evolved in the streets. Made up of several technical components that require precision, technique, timing, high energy, and ability, Litefeet style lets go and has fun! At past Breakin' Conventions Bwreckfast Club has performed under the Apollo marquee; this is their debut on the world-famous stage to showcase this upbeat, vigorous, stealthy, exciting, funny, and pleasingly entertaining genre.

Passion Fruit Dance Company

Title of Piece: Dance Within Your Dance

Passion Fruit Dance Company is a New York-based company, composed of three dancers: Mai Lê Ho, Lauriane Ogay, and Tatiana Desardouin, the founder and choreographer. Originally from Switzerland, Tatiana has been a dancer instructor for 12 years and has won many notorious street dance competitions.

Tatiana launched Passion Fruit Dance Company in 2016 at the sixth annual Clutchfest Street Dance Award event in New Jersey, going on to perform showcases across many states such as Bronx Artists Now, BAAD!Ass Women Festival in New York, Spring Up Festival Lehigh Valley in Pennsylvania, and at Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

Passion Fruit has received the Dance Your Future 2017 residency at BAAD! organized by Pepatián in collaboration with BAAD! Theater. They will premiere the full performance of Dance Within Your Dance at BAAD! Theater on November 10, 2017.

Havoc & Klassic

Title of Piece: Mixed Emotions

In a classic tale of sibling rivalry, The Breakthrough sees two brothers falling out and having to rebuild their relationship. With a collective 16 years of dance experience behind them, Joseph “Klassic” Carella and Huwer “Havoc” Marche, Jr. met at Medgar Evers College, brought together by their love of flexn, animation, and a view to change the world.

Their style is flexn—a dancehall-based style created in Brooklyn, with both Havoc & Klassic picking up their dance vocabulary from the flexn community. Their performances have been seen from events on the underground to fashion shows to TV screens on “So You Think You Can Dance” and “World of Dance.”

The Apollo Theater’s Full Schedule of Breakin’ Convention Festival Includes:

October 20

Exhibition

“BREAKING ALGORHYTHMS” Opening Reception

Featuring Carlos “Mare139” Rodriguez

Location: Apollo Soundstage

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Exhibition/Soundstage Lobby and Theater (Oct 20 – 28)

Breaking Algorhythms—Re-Coding B-boy Dance Toward the Future is a project by Carlos “Mare139” Rodriguez that envisions modern b-boy dance through the integration of advanced technologies and traditional visual practices in drawing, painting, and sculpture.

Breaking Algorhythms is a mixed-media exhibition that is both a testimony and an inquisition into the space where art, entertainment, and technology converge.

In this dynamic installation, Mare explores the intersection of new tech and performance through the direction and capturing of Bboy Ynot of the legendary Rock Steady Crew via the Rokoko Smartsuit, the first independent motion-capture body interface of its kind. Tobias Gremmler, data visualization programmer and animator, transforms the information into an emotive and captivating visual display.

The work is true celebration of the human innovative spirit and the foundations of iconic b-boy dance forms in a virtual, cerebral

space. It is a glimpse into uncharted territory, where technology, movement, and entertainment collide.

Opening Reception

Friday October 20 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Free with RSVP. Visit apollotheater.org for details.

Exhibition Schedule

(Free and Open to Public)

Saturday October 21	10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Sunday October 22	10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday October 24	10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday October 25	10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Thursday October 26	10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Friday October 27	10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Saturday October 28	10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

***Apollo Music Café: Breakin' Convention
Featuring Farrah Boulé and Loaf Muzik
Hosted by Jodine Dorce***

Music by DJ Hard Hittin Harry

Location: Apollo Soundstage

Time: 10:00 p.m.

To kick off the Apollo's Breakin' Convention Festival, the Apollo Music Café opens its 2017–18 season recognizing MCs who are changing the game. Farrah Boulé brings the art of storytelling to life with the birth of tribal hop, a vibrant new age narration steeped in the tradition of the West African Griot-style rapping. LOAF Muzik, a NYC-based hip-hop collective, puts a fresh twist on the classic boom bap style by perfectly blending soul and jazz samples with modern beats and dense rhymes.

*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. **Tickets are on sale now.***

October 21

***Apollo Music Café: Breakin' Convention
Featuring ENÍ and Oswin Benjamin
Curated by The Brooklyn Hip-Hop Festival
Hosted by Jodine Dorce***

Music by DJ Hard Hittin Harry

Location: Apollo Soundstage

Time: 10:00 p.m.

The Brooklyn Hip-Hop Festival, New York City's largest hip-hop cultural event, takes over the Apollo Music Café with a special

evening featuring Oswin Benjamin, a Brooklyn-bred artist whose music grapples with societal struggles and offers messages of hope; and ENÍ, a pop-soul singer-songwriter with an eclectic trendsetting style.

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. Tickets are on sale now.

October 24

Artist Talk with Jonzi D, Jon Boogz, and Lil Buck

Moderated by Kamilah Forbes

Followed by a Master Class with Lil Buck and Jon Boogz

Location: Apollo Soundstage

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Founders of MAI (Movemnt Art Is), Jon Boogz and Lil Buck join Jonzi D, Breakin' Convention's Artistic Director; and Apollo Theater's Executive Producer Kamilah Forbes for a conversation on the role of dance in today's social justice movement.

The conversation will be followed by a special hip-hop dance master class led by Jon Boogz and Lil Buck. The master class is free and open to dancers at all levels. Participants should wear comfortable clothes.

Free with an RSVP. Visit apollotheater.org for details.

October 25

Columbia University's Undergraduate Committee on Global Thought and The Apollo Theater present Fight the Power: A Global Conversation Exploring Hip-Hop and Social Consciousness

Location: Columbia University

Lenfest Center for the Arts

615 West 129th Street, New York, NY 10027

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Hip-hop music and culture have reverberated far beyond their birthplace on the streets of New York. From the favelas of Brazil to the trenches of the Arab Spring rebellion, the music fuels and inspires countless millions around the globe. Harlem's World Famous Apollo Theater and Columbia University's Undergraduate Committee on Global Thought present this compelling exploration of hip-hop music's impact on global culture and social consciousness.

Panelists include: Jonzi D (U.K.), Salah Belemqawanssa (France), Julien Saint Maximin—also known as Bee D (Yeah

Yellow/France), and Lanre Malaolu (Protocol/U.K.). Moderator: Columbia faculty member Mamadou Diouf, Professor of African Studies.

Free with an RSVP. Visit apollotheater.org for details.

Apollo Amateur Night with Special Guests Soweto Skeleton Movers

Location: Apollo Mainstage

Time: 7:30 p.m.

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

October 26

Battlefest at the Apollo

Featuring Freestyle Funk Forum

Location: Soundstage

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Battlefest is one of the biggest and most elite dance competitions in the underground hip-hop community. Dancers from all over the nation will flock to the Apollo to participate in structured one-on-one battles.

Free with an RSVP. Visit apollotheater.org for details.

October 27

Breakin Convention – School Day Live Performance

Hosted by Jonzi D & Mayhem Poets

Featuring: Yeah Yellow, Soweto Skeleton Movers and Bwreckfast Club

Location: Mainstage

Time: 11:30 a.m.

Price: \$4 per person

Apollo School Day Live is a special student performance of the 2017 Breakin' Convention International Festival of Hip-Hop Dance Theatre featuring the Soweto Skeleton Movers from South Africa, B-Boy Crew, Yeah Yellow from France, and Harlem's own Bwreckfast Club. Hosted by the hip-hop theatre improv trio Mayhem Poets. Most appropriate for grades 4–12.

Generous support for *School Day Live* tickets provided by the Jerome L. Greene Foundation.

For tickets to *Apollo School Day Live* and information visit www.apollotheater.org

Uptown Gets Down

Location: Under the Apollo Marquee

Time: 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

This dance party under the iconic Apollo Marquee is hosted by Jorge “Popmaster Fabel” Pabon and features some of NYC’s hottest dance crews, **Floatmasters** and **It’s Showtime NYC**. Performances by **The Beatbox House NYC** with live graffiti by **Letters First Crew**.

Free and open to the public.

Breakin Convention Mainstage Performance

Hosted by Jonzi D and Celebrity Co-Host Biz Markie

Music by DJ Boogie Blind and DJ Precision

Featuring: Dynamic Rockers (USA), Havoc and Klassic (USA), Popin' Pete (USA), Rep Your Style (USA), Protocol (UK), Salah (France), Soweto Skeleton Movers (SA), Yeah Yellow (France)

Location: Mainstage

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Tickets for Breakin' Convention are \$28.50 – \$48.50. Tickets are available at The Apollo Theater Box Office: (212) 531-5305, 253 West 125th Street, and Ticketmaster at 1-800-745-3000, www.ticketmaster.com. Tickets are on sale now.

October 28

Family Workshop: Family Cypher and Beat Making Workshop

Hosted by Momma's Hip Hop Kitchen

Location: Apollo Soundstage

Time: 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Price: Free with registration

This 90-minute family workshop teaches elements of hip-hop and how to use your body to create unique beats. The session will feature a participatory cypher and ideas on how you can take the hip-hop experience back home. Led by Momma's Hip Hop Kitchen, an all-women's hip-hop collective. With guest artists MC LiKWUiD and the cypher collective Toni Blackman's Rhyme Like a Girl Collective.

Appropriate for ages 8 and up. Children must be accompanied by an adult for the duration of the workshop.

Apollo Family Workshops are free and pre-registration is strongly suggested. For registration information visit www.apollotheater.org

Film Screening – Get Lite

Location: Apollo Soundstage

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Free screening with post-screening talk with the film’s director, Lance Steagall. *GET LITE* is a documentary film featuring Litefeet dancers, known to most New Yorkers for their cries of SHOWTIME! on the subway.

Free with an RSVP. Visit apollotheater.org for details.

Uptown Gets Down

Location: Under the Apollo Marquee

Time: 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

This dance party under the iconic Apollo Marquee is hosted by Jorge “Popmaster Fabel” Pabon and features some of NYC’s hottest dance crews, **Floatmasters** and **It’s Showtime NYC**, performances by **The Beatbox House NYC** with live graffiti by **Letters First Crew**.

Free and open to the Public

Breakin Convention Mainstage Performance

Hosted by Jonzi D and Celebrity Co-Host Biz Markie

Music by DJ Boogie Blind and DJ Precision

Featuring: Bwreakfast Club from Litefeet Nation (USA), Passionfruit Dance Company (USA), Popin’ Pete (USA), Protocol (UK), Salah (France), Soweto Skeleton Movers (SA), Yeah Yellow (France)

Location: Mainstage

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Tickets for Breakin’ Convention are \$28.50 – \$48.50. Tickets are available at The Apollo Theater Box Office: (212) 531-5305, 253 West 125th Street, and Ticketmaster at 1-800-745-3000, www.ticketmaster.com. Tickets are on sale now.

About the Apollo Theater

The legendary Apollo Theater—the soul of American culture—plays a vital role in cultivating emerging artists 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, spoken word, and more. This includes *100: The Apollo Celebrates Ella* blockbuster concert, the annual Africa Now! Festival, and the recent New York premiere of the opera *Charlie Parker’s YARDBIRD*. The Apollo is a performing arts presenting organization that also produces festivals and large-scale dance and music works organized around a set of core initiatives that celebrate and extend the Apollo’s legacy through a contemporary lens; global festivals including the Women of the World (WOW) Festival

and Breakin' Convention, international and U.S.-based artist presentations focused on a specific theme; and Special Projects, multidisciplinary collaborations 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, 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.

Apollo Theater Information

Box Office Hours:

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri – 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday – 10:00 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Saturday – 12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

About Sadler's Wells

Sadler's Wells is a world leader in contemporary dance, committed to producing, commissioning, and presenting new works and to bringing the very best international and U.K. dance to London and worldwide audiences. Under the artistic directorship of Alistair Spalding, the theatre's acclaimed year-round programme spans dance of every kind, from contemporary to flamenco, Bollywood to ballet, salsa to street dance, and tango to tap. Since 2005 it has helped to bring over 90 new dance works to the stage, and its international award-winning commissions and collaborative productions regularly tour internationally. Sadler's Wells supports 16 appointed world-class Associate Artists, three Resident Companies, and an Associate Company, and nurtures the next generation of talent through hosting the National Youth Dance Company, its Summer University programme, Wild Card initiative, and its New Wave Associates.

Located in Islington in north London, the current theatre is the sixth to have stood on the site since it was first built by Richard Sadler in 1683. The venue has played an illustrious role in the history of theatre ever since, with The Royal Ballet, Birmingham Royal Ballet, and English National Opera all having started at Sadler's Wells.

Sadler's Wells is an Arts Council National Portfolio Organization and currently receives approximately nine percent of its revenue from Arts Council England.

About Breakin' Convention

Breakin' Convention is committed to celebrating, elevating, and supporting hip-hop dance theatre. Spearheaded by Jonzi D, the company works with the most respected, innovative, and inspirational hip-hop artists in the industry. Through its eponymous world-renowned annual international festival, professional development, youth projects, and educational programme, Breakin' Convention seeks to position hip-hop dance alongside more historically established art forms. Breakin' Convention is a Sadler's Wells Project and Jonzi D, an Associate Artist, is based at the theatre.

Get social! For exclusive photos, updates, and more use the hashtag #BreakinConvention

Follow the Apollo Theater:

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[Twitter.com/apollotheater](https://twitter.com/apollotheater)

[YouTube.com/apollotheater](https://www.youtube.com/apollotheater)
[Instagram.com/apollotheater](https://www.instagram.com/apollotheater)

The Apollo's Breakin' Convention is sponsored by Coca-Cola and Citi.

The Apollo's season is made possible by leadership support from Coca-Cola, Citi, Ford Foundation, Howard Gilman Foundation, and the Jerome L. Greene Foundation.

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