

APOLLO

MEDIA ADVISORY

The Apollo Celebrates HARLEM WEEK with a Free Virtual Panel Discussion about Harlem's Own Luke Cage

**Virtual program about Marvel's Harlem-based super hero
to stream on the Apollo's Digital Stage for Free Comic Book Day**

WHAT: On **Saturday, August 14** at **11am ET**, the **Apollo Theater** will celebrate HARLEM WEEK and Free Comic Book Day, the largest annual comic book event, with an exploration of Harlem-based superhero, Luke Cage. This free virtual panel of comic creators and television producers illuminates Luke Cage's rise from the comic book page to Netflix series while tackling social justice issues.

Panelists include *New York Times* best-selling author Brian Michael Bendis; Cheo Hodari Coker, creator and former showrunner and executive producer of *Marvel's Luke Cage* on Netflix; former Marvel writer and editor Jo Duffy; and award-winning comic book writer, filmmaker, journalist, and educator David F. Walker. Featuring analysis by Professor Jonathan W. Gray whose forthcoming project, *Illustrating the Race*, investigates the representation of African Americans in comics and moderated by Apollo Community Programs Director (and former comic book editor,) L. Adé Williams.

HARLEM WEEK and Midtown Comics are this program's community partners.

WHERE: *Luke Cage: Harlem's Super Hero* will stream on the Apollo Digital Stage, Apollo's Facebook and YouTube pages, Harlemweek.com and Harlem Week's Facebook page. This program will also be available on demand immediately after the broadcast. (www.apollotheater.org/digitalstage).

WHEN: **Saturday, August 14 at 11:00am ET.**

TICKETS: Tickets are free with an RSVP and suggested donation, available at <https://www.apollotheater.org/event/luke-cage-harlems-super-hero/>

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 the world premiere of the theatrical adaptation of Ta-Nehisi Coates’s *Between the World and Me* and the New York premiere of the opera *We Shall Not Be Moved*; special programs such as the blockbuster concert *Bruno Mars Live at the Apollo; 100: The Apollo Celebrates Ella*; and the annual *Africa Now! Festival*. The non-profit Apollo Theater is a performing arts presenter, commissioner, and collaborator that also produces festivals, large-scale dance and musical works organized around a set of core initiatives that celebrate and extend the Apollo’s legacy through a contemporary lens, including the *Women of the World (WOW) Festival* as well as other 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 Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughan, Billie Holiday, James Brown, Stevie Wonder, Gladys Knight, Luther Vandross, H.E.R., D’Angelo, Lauryn Hill, Machine Gun Kelly and Miri Ben Ari; and the Apollo’s forward-looking artistic vision continues to build on this legacy. For more information about the Apollo, visit www.ApolloTheater.org.

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