

APOLLO

MEDIA ADVISORY

TA-NEHISI COATES AND THE ROOTS' TARIQ "BLACK THOUGHT" TROTTER COME TOGETHER TO DISCUSS CREATIVE PROCESS AND THE FUTURE OF THEIR ART AT THE APOLLO LIVE AND IN-PERSON ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30

Hailed as “our most vital public intellectual” (*Vanity Fair*), MacArthur “Genius” Fellow **Ta-Nehisi Coates** is no stranger to the Apollo stage, as he serves as the Theater’s inaugural Master Artist-in-Residence, an initiative that deepens the Apollo’s relationship with an influential artist whose work aligns with the Apollo’s mission. His work with the Apollo includes the theatrical premiere of the staged adaptation of his seminal work *Between the World and Me*, as well as conversations with Oprah Winfrey about his debut novel *The Water Dancer*; and Lupita Nyong'o and the late Chadwick Boseman about *Black Panther*. As part of his multi-year residency, Coates will be joined by multi-talented rapper, singer, and actor **Tariq “Black Thought” Trotter** of the Grammy Award-winning band The Roots on the Apollo stage on **Wednesday, March 30 at 7:00 p.m. EDT** to discuss their work, what inspires them, and the ways in which they are reimagining their artforms for the future.

As an award-winning author and journalist, Coates gained a wide readership during his time as national correspondent at *The Atlantic*, where he wrote about cultural, social, and political issues, particularly regarding African Americans and white supremacy, and went on to pen numerous bestselling books and comic series. Praised by *The New York Times* as “Hip-hop’s Dostoyevsky,” Tariq “Black Thought” Trotter’s latest work, *Black No More*, a musical for which he wrote the music and performs in, based on George S. Schuyler’s Afrofuturist novel by the same name, recently premiered Off-Broadway.

WHAT: IN CONVERSATION: TA-NEHISI COATES AND BLACK THOUGHT

WHEN: Wednesday, March 30, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. EDT

WHERE: The Apollo’s Historic Theater

253 West 125th Street
New York, NY 10027

TICKETS: Tickets, starting at \$15, are on-sale now at www.ApolloTheater.org and in-person at the Apollo Theater Box Office. Harlem residents, employees, business owners, and students can save 50% on tickets through Apollo’s Half off for Harlem program at www.ApolloTheater.org/half-off-for-harlem,

TA-NEHISI COATES is an award-winning author and journalist. He is the author of the bestselling books *The Beautiful Struggle*, *We Were Eight Years in Power*, *The Water Dancer*, and *Between the World and Me*, which won the National Book Award in 2015. He was a recipient of a MacArthur Fellowship that same year. As a journalist with a career spanning over two decades, he’s written for numerous publications including, *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *The Washington City Paper*, and *The Village*

Voice. During his time reporting for *The Atlantic* between 2008-2018, he penned the National Magazine Award-winning 2012 essay “Fear of a Black President” and the influential June 2014 essay “The Case For Reparations.” Ta-Nehisi also contributed to Marvel’s *Black Panther* (2016-2021) and *Captain America* (2018-2021) comics series. Coates is currently writing the screenplays for the upcoming films *Wrong Answer*, *Superman* and the film adaptation of his first fiction novel, *The Water Dancer*. In the fall of 2022, he is planning to join Howard University’s faculty as a writer-in-residence and the Sterling Brown Chair in the Department of English.

TARIQ “BLACK THOUGHT” TROTTER is a Grammy Award-winning rapper and multi-hyphenate perhaps best known as lead vocalist of The Roots. He has released 14 studio albums with the group and has gone on to work on many other creative projects, including producing *Hamilton* (Original Broadway Cast Recording) with bandmate Questlove. The two also co-executive produced the AMC documentary series *Hip Hop: The Songs that Shook America*, which put out seven episodes, each diving into a track that contributed to hip-hop's rise from a cultural revolution to the dominant global genre. Beginning in 2009, Trotter and The Roots could be seen nightly by millions of viewers as the in-house band on *Late Night with Jimmy Fallon*, followed by *The Tonight Show*. Trotter has since stepped away to focus on his upcoming projects, including *Black No More*, an Afro-futurist musical for which he wrote the music and lyrics, premieres Off-Broadway this Spring with Trotter playing the lead role.

APOLLO’S MASTER-ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE

Apollo’s Master-Artist-in-Residence program is a three-year initiative that deepens the Apollo’s relationship with a prominent, influential artist whose work aligns with the Apollo’s mission as a beacon of Black culture and catalyst for artistic production for the Harlem community and around the world.

COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

The health and safety of our audiences, artists, and staff is the Apollo’s top priority. Please note that all attendees must present a government-issued picture ID prior to entry and show a completed vaccination card authorized by the FDA or WHO against COVID-19 (dated at least 14 days before the show). Proof of vaccination can be displayed on smartphones. Proof of vaccination may also include a CDC Vaccination Card (or photo), NYC Vaccination Record, or an official immunization record from outside New York City or the United States. Photo ID for children under 12 will not be required if they are accompanied by parents/guardians with government-issued photo ID. All attendees are required to wear masks inside the theater. For a complete list of the Apollo’s COVID-19 safety protocols, please visit www.ApolloTheater.org.

ABOUT THE APOLLO:

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 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, 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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For more information, please contact:

Fatima Jones
Senior Director of Marketing and Communication
press@apollotheater.org

Julie Danni / Destanie Martin-Johnson / Josh Balber / Elizabeth Cregan
Resnicow and Associates
JDanni@resnicow.com / dmartin-johnson@resnicow.com / JBalber@resnicow.com /
ecregan@resnicow.com
212-671-5173 / 212-671-5172 / 212-671-5175 / 212-671-5183