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Apollo Theater Announces 2022 Spring Benefit

Tyler Perry** to receive the Impact Award presented by **Whoopi Goldberg

Hosted by SNL's Kenan Thompson

*Musical performance by **The Roots** with a special appearance by **Stephanie Mills** and more to be announced*

***LionTree** to receive Corporate Award*

Monday, June 13 at 7:00PM ET, in-person event at the Apollo Theater

HARLEM, NY – May 17, 2022 – The **Apollo Theater** today announced the **2022 Apollo Spring Benefit**, the historic Theater's largest annual fundraising event, will return as an in-person event on **Monday, June 13**, with the theme "The Renaissance Is Now!"

Hosted by Emmy® winner and SNL Cast member **Kenan Thompson**, the celebratory benefit concert for the iconic non-profit Theater will honor Filmmaker, Actor and Philanthropist **Tyler Perry** with the **Impact Award**. It will be presented by Academy Award® winner and *The View* co-host **Whoopi Goldberg**. The event will also feature exciting musical performances by **The Roots**, with a special appearance by **Stephanie Mills** and more to be announced. International Celebrity DJ, **Derrick "D-Nice" Jones** will return with his signature sounds for a lively benefit afterparty. Global investment and merchant banking firm **LionTree**, will receive the Corporate Award.

"After two years, we are thrilled to once again celebrate the future and legacy of the Apollo Theater in-person at our annual Spring Benefit," said **Jonelle Procope, President & CEO of the Apollo Theater**. "Now more than ever, we recognize the significance of supporting artists, uplifting the community, and serving as a cultural organization that centers on Black voices."

Proceeds from the Spring Benefit support the non-profit organization's year-round, world-class artistic, education, and community programs and collaborations, as well as its commitment to using arts and culture to articulate and project the African American narrative and create a 21st century performing arts canon.

The Apollo season's theme, "The Renaissance is Now!," and its presentations expanded the non-profit theater's role as a partner, commissioner, and co-producer of programming that centers Black artists and voices from the African Diaspora, while tackling social issues that are important to Harlem, New York, and the nation.

"The Apollo has long been at the intersection of artistry and activism, and this season paid special tribute to our incredible community of artists with timely presentations that honored our past, examined our present, and looked ahead to our bold future," said **Apollo Theater Executive Producer Kamilah Forbes**. "From the inspiring new projects by our Apollo New Works artists to the annual Kwanzaa Celebration and Apollo education events that serve

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students across the city, both at the Apollo, in the community at large and on our digital platforms, we continue the Apollo's legacy in this time of renewal and renaissance.”

The Apollo Spring Benefit begins with red carpet arrivals at 6:00 PM followed by the Benefit concert and awards ceremony at 7:00 PM. The evening will also include a post-performance party with a lounge created by celebrity event planner and Apollo Board Member Bronson van Wyck.

Additional details for the 2022 Spring Benefit including a full lineup of performers and special guests, will be announced at a later date. Visit www.ApolloTheater.org for more information.

Tickets

Tickets for the Apollo Spring Benefit are now on sale. To purchase Benefit tickets or to make a donation to the Apollo Theater, please email special.events@apollotheater.org.

Proceeds from the Apollo Spring Benefit support the Theater's year-round performing arts programming, innovative education initiatives, and community programs.

For more information, visit www.ApolloTheater.org

Leadership

Event Chairs:

Kwanza Jones and José E. Feliciano
Pam and Jon Henes
Pat and Al Zollar

Honorary Chairs:

Angela Bassett and Courtney Vance
Taraji P. Henson
Susan Kelechi Watson
Tonya Lewis Lee and Spike Lee
Phylicia Rashad
LaTanya Richardson Jackson and Samuel L. Jackson
Pauletta and Denzel Washington

Premier Sponsors:

BNY Mellon
SUPERCHARGED by Kwanza Jones

Support

The Apollo's 2022-23 season is made possible by leadership support from Coca-Cola, Accenture, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Citi, the Sherman Fairchild Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the Howard Gilman Foundation, the Jerome L. Greene Arts Access Fund in the New York Community Trust, HBO, and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Public support for the Apollo Theater is provided by the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Kathy Hochul and the New

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York State Legislature, and from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.

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 special programs such as the blockbuster concert *Bruno Mars Live at the Apollo*, the world premiere theatrical reading of Ta-Nehisi Coates’s National Book Award-winning *Between the World and Me, 100: The Apollo Celebrates Ella*, the annual Africa Now! Festival, and the recent New York premiere of the opera *We Shall Not Be Moved*. 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 Michael Jackson, Ella Fitzgerald, Stevie Wonder, Billie Holiday, James Brown, D’Angelo, Lauryn Hill, Dave Chappelle, Machine Gun Kelly, Miri Ben Ari, Sarah Vaughan, Gladys Knight, and Luther Vandross; and the Apollo’s forward-looking artistic vision continues to build on this legacy.

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