

APOLLO

**The World Music Institute
In Association With The Apollo Present
Oumou Sangaré
A One-Night Only Performance**

Saturday, October 29, 2022, at 8PM EST



Harlem, NY (September 20, 2022) - The World Music Institute in association with **The Apollo** present Malian musician and GRAMMY Award-winner **Oumou Sangaré** for an incredible one-night only performance on **Saturday, October 29, 2022, at 8:00pm ET** at the world-famous Apollo Theater. Tickets are on sale now at www.ApolloTheater.org

One of West Africa's most celebrated vocalists, Sangaré infuses her music with traditional African percussion, distinctive vocals, and progressive social criticism, creating a unique sound that has propelled her onto the international stage. In her Apollo debut, Sangaré, "The Songbird of Wassoulou," will perform music that spans traditional Wassoulou music to contemporary sounds coming out of Africa as well as songs from her recent critically acclaimed album, *Timbuktu*.

"We're thrilled to have Oumou, make her Apollo debut during our Next Movement season. Over the past eight decades the Apollo has amplified Black voices and used its platforms to create an intersection of art and activism, so having Oumou perform a range of music from Wassoulou music to contemporary sounds is exactly the kind of artistic conversation that we champion," said **Kamilah Forbes, the Apollo's Executive Producer**.

As an activist, businesswoman and global icon, Oumou Sangaré is considered an ambassador of Wassoulou; her music has been inspired by the music and traditional dances of the region. She writes and composes her songs, which often include social criticism, especially concerning women's low status in society. Drawing comparisons to legendary performers such as Grace Jones, Nina Simone, and Aretha Franklin, Sangaré has been praised by stars including Beyoncé and Alicia Keys for her powerful voice and unwavering commitment to the betterment of women.

"We are pleased to present Mali's legendary "Songbird of Wassoulou" Oumou Sangaré in association with our friends at the Apollo; in her debut at this historic venue, no less! This performance is part of our Women's Voices series, which celebrates the role that female artists play in the preservation and promotion of their cultures and traditions. As a social activist, businesswoman and global musical icon, Oumou Sangaré embodies the spirit of this series. It will be a musical experience to remember," said **Gaby Sappington, the World Music Institute's Executive Director.**

This concert is presented as part of Apollo's Fall 2022 Season as well as WMI's WOMEN'S VOICES series celebrating the role that female artists play in the preservation and promotion of their respective cultures and traditions.

TICKETS & INFORMATION

Tickets for Oumou Sangaré start at \$33.50. To purchase tickets to the conversation and all other events of the Fall 2022 season, visit www.ApolloTheater.org

ACCESSIBILITY

The Apollo is wheelchair accessible throughout the building and offers assisted listening devices. For more information on accessibility or to request special assistance, please visit apollotheater.org/accessibility or contact the Apollo Box office at access@apollotheater.org or (212) 531-5305

ABOUT WORLD MUSIC INSTITUTE

Founded in 1985 as a not-for-profit, World Music Institute (WMI) has served as one of the leading presenters of world music and dance within the United States. WMI is committed to presenting the best in traditional and contemporary music and dance from around the world with the goal of inspiring wonder for the world's rich cultural traditions, promoting awareness and appreciation and encouraging cross-cultural dialog and exchange. WMI presents at venues throughout the city and depends on both public and private funding to accomplish its mission.

The program is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature and 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 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, 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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