

# APOLLO

The Apollo Theater and the Kennedy Center  
Present Final U.S. Performances for Hip-Hop Legend

## **YASIIN BEY**

Formerly Known as “Mos Def”

**The Apollo Theater**  
Tuesday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016

**The Kennedy Center**  
**New Year’s Eve Celebration**  
**at the Kennedy Center Concert Hall**  
Saturday, December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016 – Monday, January 2, 2017

(Harlem, NY) – The Apollo Theater and The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts announced today that they will present the final U.S. performances of one of hip hop’s most influential artists - **Yasiin Bey** (formerly known as Mos Def). These special engagements follow Bey’s announcement earlier this year of his retirement from the music business and will kick-off at the Apollo Theater on Tuesday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, culminating at The Kennedy Center from Saturday, December 31<sup>st</sup> through Sunday, January 2, 2017.

Every show will offer a unique musical experience for audiences with Bey performing songs from a different album each night including *The New Danger*, *True Magic*, *The Ecstatic*, and *Black on Both Sides*, alongside new material. He will also be joined by surprise special guests for each performance. Additionally, The Kennedy Center shows will serve as a New Years Eve celebration and will feature a post-show party in the Grand Foyer. Yasin Bey has appeared at both the Apollo Theater and Kennedy Center multiple times throughout his career.

“We are so excited to collaborate with the Kennedy Center on what will be a milestone moment in not only hip-hop history but also in popular culture. The Apollo is the epicenter of African American culture and has always been a nurturer and supporter of innovation and artistic brilliance, so it is only fitting that Yasiin Bey have his final U.S. performances here as his contributions to hip-hop, and music in general, are endless,” said the Apollo Theater’s Executive Producer Kamilah Forbes. “We are looking forward to creating an unforgettable and celebratory evening for Mr. Bey and his fans as he enters the next phase in his career.”

Following his final U.S. performances, Bey will venture to Africa to focus on his arts, culture, and lifestyle collective *A Country Called Earth* (ACCE). He will also continue to pursue his newly formed passions as a painter and his art, as well as that of various other ACCE artists, will be anonymously displayed at the Apollo Theater and the Kennedy Center.

The Yasiin Bey concerts mark the third collaboration between the Apollo Theater and the Kennedy Center. Past collaborations include *Harlem Nights/U Street Lights* starring Jazz pianist Jason Moran and *Apollo Music Café: New Voices in Jazz* featuring Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead.

## **TICKET INFORMATION**

### ***Apollo Theater***

*Tickets for Yasiin Bey at the Apollo go on sale on Friday, December 2 at 12 Noon. Tickets are \$65 – 225 and will be available at The Apollo Theater Box Office: (212) 531-5305, 253 West 125<sup>th</sup> Street, and Ticketmaster at 1-800-745-3000, [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com). Special \$35 Community Tickets are available to Harlem residents with ID at the Apollo Box Office only.*

*An online ticket pre-sale will be offered to the Apollo's "A-list" email list beginning Tuesday, November 29 at 12 Noon. Fans can sign-up for the A-list at [Apollotheater.org](http://Apollotheater.org).*

### ***The Kennedy Center***

Performances are December 31st, 2016 at 8:30 p.m. and January 1st–2nd 2017 at 8:00 p.m. Tickets include a post-show party in the Grand Foyer. For more information please visit the Kennedy Center website, in-person at the Kennedy Center box office, or call (202) 467-4600 or (800) 444-1324.

## **ABOUT THE APOLLO THEATER**

The legendary Apollo Theater—the soul of American culture—plays a vital role in cultivating emerging talents 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, performance art, spoken word initiatives, and more. This includes the October 2014 premiere and 2015 international tour of the dance celebration project James Brown: Get on the Good Foot, the annual Africa Now! Festival, and the recent New York premiere of the opera Charlie Parker's YARDBIRD. The Apollo is a presenting organization that also produces festivals, large-scale dance and music works organized around a set of core initiatives: Apollo Music Signature Programs—Amateur Night, Salon Series, Apollo Music Café; Legacy Series—work that celebrates and extends 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 work 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.

The Apollo Theater is a not-for-profit organization with the mission to extend the institution's role in fostering artistic innovation and in building appreciation of American culture around the world. For more information, visit [www.apollotheater.org](http://www.apollotheater.org).

## **ABOUT THE KENNEDY CENTER**

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, overlooking the Potomac River in Washington, D.C., is America's living memorial to President John F. Kennedy. Under the guidance of Chairman [David M. Rubenstein](#), and President [Deborah F. Rutter](#), the nine theaters and stages of the nation's busiest performing arts facility attract more than 3 million visitors a year to enjoy more than 3,000 performances, while center-related touring productions, television, and radio broadcasts reach more than 40 million around the world. To further serve as the nation's performing arts center, the Center announced in 2013 a significant expansion project to be constructed south of the existing facility. The [Kennedy Center Expansion](#) is intended to be a place where visitors can more actively engage with artists, while also creating new and much-needed rehearsal, education, and flexible indoor and outdoor event and performance spaces.

Opening its doors on September 8, 1971, the Center produces and presents performances of music, dance, and theater; supports artists in the creation of new work; and serves the nation as a leader in arts education. With its artistic affiliates, the [National Symphony Orchestra](#) and [Washington National Opera](#), the Center's achievements as a commissioner, producer, and nurturer of developing artists have resulted in more than 300 theatrical productions, and dozens of new ballets, operas, and musical works. The Center has produced and co-produced *Annie*, the American premiere of *Les Misérables*, the highly acclaimed *Sondheim Celebration*, a revival production of *Side Show*, and the Kennedy Center's world premiere production of the Flaherty/Ahrens musical, *Little Dancer*. Other important festivals have included: *maximum INDIA*, *Festival of China*, *Shakespeare in Washington*, *JAPAN! culture + hyperculture*, *Nordic Cool 2013*, an exploration of the culture of the 22 Arab nations titled *Arabesque: Arts of the Arab World*, *Iberian Suite: global arts remix*, and *Finding a Line: Skateboarding, Music, and Media* and most recently during the 2015-2016 season, the Center highlighted Irish culture and its relationship to America with *Ireland 100: Celebrating a Century of Irish Arts and Culture*. The Center's Emmy® and Peabody Award-winning [The Kennedy Center Honors](#) is broadcast annually on the CBS network; [The Kennedy Center Mark Twain Prize](#) airs annually on PBS.

The education programs of the Kennedy Center, including those of its affiliate [VSA](#), the international organization on arts and disability, have become models for communities across the country and have unlocked the door to learning for millions of young people. [Education at the Kennedy Center](#) produces and presents age appropriate performances and educational events for young people and their families; school-and community-based programs that directly impact teachers, students, artists, and school and arts administrators through professional development; systemic and school improvement through arts integrated curricula, inclusive classrooms, and

universal design in facilities and learning; creating partnerships around the issues of arts education and arts integrated education; creating and providing educational materials via print and the Internet; and developing careers in the arts for young people and aspiring professionals.

The Center and its affiliates stage more than 400 free performances of music, dance, and theater by artists from throughout the world each year on the Center's main stages, and every evening at 6 p.m. on the Millennium Stage. The Center also offers reduced and complimentary tickets to young people, active members of the military, and the underserved through its [MyTix program](#) and offers a Specially Priced Tickets program for students, seniors, persons with disabilities, and others with fixed low incomes. To learn more about the Kennedy Center, please visit [www.kennedy-center.org](http://www.kennedy-center.org).

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**Press Contacts**

Nina Flowers

212-531-5334

[nina.flowers@apollotheater.org](mailto:nina.flowers@apollotheater.org)

Kelly Carnes

(202) 416- 8441

[kmcarnes@kennedy-center.org](mailto:kmcarnes@kennedy-center.org)