

APOLLO

The Apollo Theater Presents

Ta-Nehisi Coates In Conversation: A Post Mid-Term Reflection **Monday, November 19 at 7:00 p.m.**

Harlem, N.Y., November 15, 2018 – The Apollo Theater announced today that critically acclaimed writer, artist and thinker **Ta-Nehisi Coates** and investigative journalist **Nikole Hannah-Jones** will be in conversation about the midterm elections, the state of American politics, and the historical currents that inform our present. The program will take place on Monday, November 19 at 7:00 p.m.

In his sweeping collection of new and selected essays, *We Were Eight Years In Power*, Ta-Nehisi Coates employs the same erudite storytelling, self-reflection and unsparing honesty that propelled *Between the World and Me* into the cultural zeitgeist and led Toni Morrison to hail it as “required reading.” Part memoir and part polemic, Coates powerfully examines the threads between the unprecedented election of Barack Obama and the vicious backlash that fueled the last Presidential election.

“A master class... Anyone who wants to know who we are—and where we came from—must sit with [Ta-Nehisi Coates] for a good while... It should inspire us as writers, and as Americans, that he urges us... to become better—or at least clearer on why we’re not.” –**Kevin Young, *New York Times Book Review***

Tickets and Information

Tickets begin at \$20 and are available at the Apollo Theater Box Office: (212) 531-5305, 253 West 125th Street, and Ticketmaster at 1-800-745-3000, www.ticketmaster.com.

About the Book

In 2008, National Book Award-winning author Ta-Nehisi Coates went from believing that a black president was impossible, to being challenged by the sudden prospect of one. In his new book, ***WE WERE EIGHT YEARS IN POWER: An American Tragedy***, Coates recalls the moment: “*I remember how Obama caused me to question myself and my basic relationship with my country. All my life I had seen myself, and my people, backed into a corner. Had I been wrong?*”

More than an analysis of our first black president, *We Were Eight Years In Power* is a personal narrative that examines the symbiosis of Obama’s influence on American culture, Coates’s intellectual and professional growth, and the inspiring new voices, ideas, and movements that emerged together over this period. This masterwork is comprised of eight fresh essays, in which Coates revisits each year of the Obama administration through his own immersive experiences and observations, and nine iconic essays previously published in *The Atlantic*, including “Fear of a Black President,” “The Case for Reparations,” “The Black Family in the Age of Mass Incarceration,” and more.

We Were Eight Years In Power combines Ta-Nehisi’s award-winning journalism with the more introspective voice of *Between the World and Me* to illuminate what this period has taught us about the heart of America and the shadow of our nation’s old and unreconciled history.

About Ta-Nehisi Coates

Ta-Nehisi Coates is a distinguished writer in residence at NYU’s Arthur L. Carter Journalism Institute. He is the author of the bestselling books *The Beautiful Struggle*, *We Were Eight Years in Power*, and *Between the World and Me*, which won the National Book Award in 2015. Ta-Nehisi is a recipient of a MacArthur Fellowship. He is also the current author of the Marvel comics *The Black Panther* and *Captain America*.

About Nikole Hannah-Jones

Nikole Hannah-Jones is an award-winning investigative reporter covering racial injustice for the *New York Times Magazine*. Her reporting has won several national awards, including the Peabody Award, George Polk Award, National Magazine Award, Sigma Delta Chi Award for Public Service, and the Hechinger Grand Prize for Distinguished Education Reporting. She was named Journalist of the Year by the National Association of Black Journalists in 2015. Nikole is writing a book on school segregation entitled, *The Problem We All Live With*, to be published on the One World imprint of Penguin/Random House.

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, 100: The Apollo Celebrates Ella, the annual Africa Now! Festival, and the 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 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.

Support

The Apollo's season is made possible by leadership support from Coca-Cola, Citi, Ford Foundation, Howard Gilman Foundation, and the Jerome L. Greene Foundation.

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