

APOLLO 85

**The Apollo Theater
In Partnership with World Music Institute
Presents the 7th Annual
AFRICA NOW!**

*Featuring
African Dancehall & Afrobeat Stars
**Patoranking, Seyi Shay,
Buffalo Souljah and Kaleta & Super Yamba Band**
Saturday, April 13 at 8:00 p.m.*

Hosted by **Young Prince** with sounds by **DJ mOma**

Additional Weekend Events Include
Apollo Music Café
Featuring Performances by **Tosin and Allinor**
Friday, April 12, 2019, 10:00 p.m.

New York African Film Festival free screenings of ***Martha and Niki*** and ***I Love Kuduro***
Curated in Partnership with the New York African Film Festival
Saturday, April 13, 2019, 2-6:00 p.m.

And an Africa Now! after-party performance by **Young Paris**
Saturday, April 13, 2019, 11:00 p.m.

Harlem, NY, February 20, 2019– The **Apollo Theater**, in partnership with **World Music Institute**, presents African dancehall artists **Patoranking** (Nigeria), **Seyi Shay** (Nigeria), **Buffalo Souljah** (Zimbabwe), and Afrobeat sensation **Kaleta & Super Yamba Band** (Benin/Nigeria) as part of **AFRICA NOW!** hosted by **Young Prince** and music by **DJ mOma**. The 7th annual collaboration returns to the legendary Apollo stage on **Saturday, April 13 at 8:00 p.m.** This year’s concert, a highlight of the Apollo’s season, celebrates not only the best of today’s African contemporary music but spotlights how the music of the diaspora has impacted the continent.

“African Dancehall music has become increasingly more mainstream since the 1980s. Most recently, artists such as Drake and Wizkid have infused Dancehall into their music, introducing the beautiful blends of Caribbean and African beats to a global audience. Part of the Apollo’s mission is to recognize and spotlight movements that have shaped the contemporary musical

landscape. Now, in its seventh year, *Africa Now!* continues to highlight the sounds from the continent and the artists who are pushing Africa's music scene forward," said Apollo Theater Executive Producer, **Kamilah Forbes**.

Additional *Africa Now!* events include the Theater's popular Apollo Music Café with performances by **Tosin and Allinor** on April 12 at 10 p.m. and an *Africa Now!* after-party performance by **Young Paris** on April 13 at 11 p.m. Also, on April 13 at 2 p.m., the Apollo in partnership with the New York African Film Festival will present free film screenings of *Martha and Niki* and *I Love Kuduro*. Check out ApolloTheater.org for updates.

About Africa Now! Artists

Patoranking is an award-winning Nigerian dancehall artist who has made major waves over the last couple of years with hits such as "No Kissing," "My Woman My Everything," "Happy Day," and "Girlie O." His unique blend of Dancehall, Reggae and Afrobeats has allowed him to create a distinct sound recognized by many. With his vocal command and patois flair Patoranking has collaborated with some of Africa's most respected artists such as Roc Nation's Tiwa Savage, Ghanaian favorites Sarkodie and Bisa Kdei, as well as one of Africa's other top dancehall artists Timaya.

In 2015, **Seyi Shay** released her debut album, *Seyi or Shay* which featured 15 tracks including hits, "Right Now" and "Crazy" featuring Nigerian international pop star Wizkid. Seyi Shay has become a household name and one of the brightest breakout stars representing Nigeria. In 2018, she released her seven-track extended play titled *Electric Package*, which Nigerian music writer Victor Okpala calls "a delicious musical buffet."

Buffalo Souljah's career began when he composed his first song "Zuva Randisingakanganwe" (The Day I Will Never Forget) at the tender age of eight. Hailing from Zimbabwe, Buffalo Souljah credits his talent to his father who was a jazz artist and saxophonist. In 2008, Buffalo Souljah won two Channel O Music Video Awards for *Best Reggae Dancehall Video* and *Best Newcomer* pitting him as a rising star on the dancehall music scene. Additional honors for Buffalo Souljah include the *Zimdancehall Best Diaspora Artist Award*, *ZIMA Award for Best International Achievement*, and nomination for the *AFRIMMA Award for Best African Dancehall Act*.

Kaleta & Super Yamba Band, formed in Brooklyn, NY, is fronted by Afrobeat veteran Leon Ligan-Majek a.k.a. Kaleta. The singer, guitarist and percussionist from the West African country of Benin Republic lived his adolescent life in Lagos, Nigeria where Afrobeat was born. Kaleta has performed and toured the world with artists such as Fela Kuti and King Sunny Adé, along with Majek Fashek and recently Lauryn Hill. Since taking the helm of the Super Yamba Band in 2017, Kaleta and his band have erupted onto the stages of major music festivals across the United States and have even been featured in multiple music publications.

Tickets and Information

Tickets for *Africa Now!* start at \$28.50 and are available at the Apollo Theater Box Office: (212) 531-5305, 253 West 125th Street, and Ticketmaster at 1-800-745-3000, https://www1.ticketmaster.com/africa-now-dancehall/event/0000558CDFB16AED?dma_id=345

Apollo Music Café: Africa Now!
Featuring Tosin and Allinor
Friday April 12 at 10 p.m.
Tickets: \$22

A renaissance force to be reckoned with, the music of composer, vocalist and percussionist Tosin speaks highly of his African origin, coupled with his exploration of jazz, funk, rock, reggae and Latin American music.

Being a bandleader with four albums to his credit, his most recent projects include singles: "What Are We Gonna Do?", and African-themed remix of Pharrell Williams' "Happy." With keen interest and passion for teaching, Tosin continues to inspire both the young and older generations of drummers and music lovers through his teaching programs and workshops.

Originally from Ghana, West Africa, Allinor has always been influenced by the music of his motherland as well as his deep roots in spiritual music. Blending western blues, highlife and reggae with traditional music, he creates a soul stirring, mood setting style of melodic rhythms.

Africa Now! Film Series

Curated in Partnership with the New York African Film Festival

Featuring *Martha and Niki* and *I Love Kuduro*

Saturday April 13 2-6 p.m.

Soundstage

Tickets: Free

About Martha and Niki – Screening at 2 p.m. in the Soundstage

In 2010, Swedish friends Martha Nabwire and Niki Tsappos were the first-ever female hip-hop dance duo to beat all of their opponents—men included—at the most important international street-dance competition, Paris's Juste Debout. Armed with boundless energy and huge amounts of talent, they annihilated the opposition. But what happens when they don't come out on top? After one such disappointment, the first cracks began to appear in their friendship, and despite their shared passions, the girls' different backgrounds and personalities come into conflict. This documentary not only captures two successful dancers in action, but also two young adults grappling with very different life questions. Where are your roots, and what elements of your culture do you bring along from your homeland? How do you keep your heritage alive, and how can you deal with all of these things within such a dynamic friendship?

About I Love Kuduro – Screening at 4 p.m. in the Soundstage

Kuduro, which literally translates as 'hard ass', is an urban cultural movement that was born in Angola during the last decade of the country's 30-year Civil War. Created in discos and raves in downtown Luanda through a blending of House, Techno beats and traditional Angolan rhythms, Kuduro music and dance spilled over from the capital city to the suburbs. It rapidly spread throughout Angola, and then across Africa. It's now becoming popular around the world. I Love Kuduro follows the most idolized stars of this urban phenomenon including Cabo Snoop, Os Namayer, Francis Boy, Titica, and Os Lambas, that today influences scores of young Africans, musically, in fashion, and overall lifestyle.

Apollo Music Café: Africa Now! Afterparty

Featuring Young Paris

Saturday April 13 at 11 p.m.

Tickets: \$22

Born to Congolese parents in France, and raised in New York, Young Paris totes an original story that blends cultures from three corners of the world. Through his work as an artistic director,

music producer, and songwriter, Young Paris is re-defining EDM with his combination of Afrobeats and has been featured in *Billboard*, *Complex*, *The Fader*, *REVOLT*, *BET*, *Vice*, *Paper Mag*, and *Pigeons & Planes*.

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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 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. For more information visit <https://www.apollotheater.org/>

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 finest in traditional and contemporary music and dance from around the world with the goal of inspiring wonder for world cultures through music and dance. WMI aims to enrich the lives of people living in New York by promoting awareness of other cultures and their traditions. WMI collaborates with community organizations and academic institutions in fostering greater understanding and appreciation of the world's cultural traditions and presents at venues throughout the city.

Under new leadership since 2015, its 30th anniversary season, World Music Institute has introduced an ambitious expansion of concert offerings that include contemporary as well as the traditional world music that WMI has long been known and admired for. In addition, the institution has launched new partnerships with Cathedral of St. John the Divine, City Winery, The

Cutting Room, and Joe's Pub, while continuing partnerships with Merkin Concert Hall, Storm King Art Center, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Town Hall, Symphony Space, (le) poisson rouge, Littlefield, and Apollo Theater (the annual *Africa Now* festival).

WMI has presented more than 1,500 concerts and events featuring artists from more than 100 countries across all continents. Through powerful programming, WMI is creating a movement that promotes awareness of and engagement with other cultures, helping to encourage deeper understanding of communities around the globe.

Support

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