

APOLLO



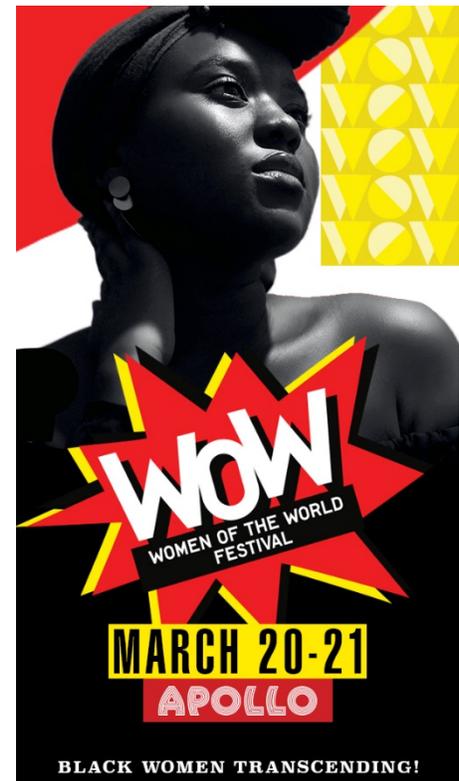
For Immediate Release
February 12, 2021

**ELAINE WELTEROTH, NIKKI GIOVANNI, AUNJANUE ELLIS,
BEVY SMITH, HARRIETTE COLE, ADELINE & MORE TO TAKE PART
IN THE
2021 WOW – WOMEN OF THE WORLD VIRTUAL FESTIVAL
MARCH 20TH – MARCH 21ST**

The Apollo Theater's Fifth Bi-annual WOW (Women of the World Festival) presented in partnership with The WOW Foundation: Black Women Transcending! features more than 80 thought leaders, scholars, artists, and performers.

HARLEM, N.Y. | FEBRUARY 12, 2021 (Updated)— Today the Apollo Theater announced plans for the fifth bi-annual WOW – Women of the World Festival, an international festival that elevates the voices, experiences, and truth of women spanning all ages. The festival will take place online this year starting **Saturday March 20th to Sunday March 21st** via apollotheater.org. The two-day, all digital festival sets the tone with this year's theme **Black Women Transcending!** and will provide global access to an array of music, film, workshops, conversations, panels and performances featuring participants including HBO's "Lovecraft Country" award-winning actress **Aunjanue Ellis**; *New York Times* best-selling author and co-host of CBS' "The Talk" **Elaine Welteroth**; poet, writer, and activist **Nikki Giovanni**; host of SiriusXM's "Bevelations," media personality and author **Bevy Smith**, motivational speaker, editor, and author **Harriette Cole**; and political and women's rights activist **Dr. Shola Mos-Shogbamimu** with performances by **Adeline**, **Julie Dexter**, and many more to be announced. Festival tickets are available beginning today.

As part of the festival, the Apollo will feature a **Live Wire** conversation, **Hazel Scott: The Darling of Café Society**, part of the Apollo's popular series that honors iconic individuals who have impacted the Theater's history. Karen Chilton, author of "Hazel Scott: The Pioneering Journey of a Jazz Pianist," will lead this celebration of Scott with special guests, Damien Sneed and Camille Thurman. Returning this year to the festival, **WOW: Teen Summit** will dissect gender politics and how it impacts girls and young women of color. Through performances from singer, songwriter and spoken-word artist **Brianna Knight** and singer **Alyssa Martinez** and a panel discussion moderated by reporter and producer **Kay Angrum** with community activists **Akia S. Callum**, **Malaysia Freeman**, and **Hebh Jamal**, audience members will be encouraged as a collective to take action towards their goals. The Festival will close with **Apollo Film Presents: ImageNation's Cocktails & Sol Cinema**, featuring short films by women from around the world in speculative fiction, sci-fi, fantasy and folklore. Additional details and a complete WOW Festival line-up will be announced at a later date. WOW Apollo is presented in partnership with The WOW Foundation.



TICKET INFO:

Tickets for **WOW (*Women of the World*)**, the live, virtual, two-day event start at \$15 (through March 13), \$20 for the week of the event (March 14-21) and are available now via www.apollotheater.org

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 Master Artist-in-Residence 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 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 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.

ABOUT THE WOW FOUNDATION

WOW – Women of the World Festival is a global movement launched by Jude Kelly, CBE at Southbank Centre London in 2010. To date, The WOW Foundation has reached over 2 million people worldwide with its groundbreaking programs for change, including the WOW Festival.

The WOW Foundation produces WOW festivals across the world to celebrate women and girls, take a frank look at what prevents them from achieving their potential, and raise awareness globally of the issues they face while focusing on possible solutions. It is the biggest, most comprehensive, and most significant festival dedicated to presenting work by women and promoting equality for women and girls.

<https://www.thewowfoundation.com/>

WOW Festivals are presented by arrangement with Southbank Centre, London

SUPPORT

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

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