

# APOLLO

**APOLLO THEATER  
ANNOUNCES  
*APOLLO RESOUNDING*  
A VIRTUAL BENEFIT TO SUPPORT THE APOLLO ON  
MONDAY, JUNE 7 AT 7:30PM ET**

**Honoring Felicia and Ben Horowitz with the Impact Award and  
Derrick ‘D-Nice’ Jones with the Percy E. Sutton Award**

**Apollo to induct Mary J. Blige, award-winning singer/songwriter, actress and  
producer, to its legendary Apollo Walk of Fame**

Harlem, NY – May 12, 2021 – The Apollo today announced the non-profit’s annual spring fundraiser will take place virtually on the [Apollo Theater’s Digital Stage](#) on **Monday, June 7 at 7:30pm ET**. This year’s benefit, *APOLLO RESOUNDING*, will honor **Felicia and Ben Horowitz** with the inaugural **Impact Award**, given to individuals whose philanthropic leadership has made an extraordinary impact on the arts and artists and who share the Apollo’s values of innovation, diversity, and inclusion. Multihyphenated producer and DJ **Derrick ‘D-Nice’ Jones** will receive the **Percy E. Sutton Award**, recognizing individuals who uphold the value of the arts and philanthropy as a crucial part of the fabric of our community. The benefit is chaired by the Apollo Board Chair **Charles Phillips** and **Karen Phillips, Cheryl and Derek Jones**, and **Carolyn and Mark Mason**.

*APOLLO RESOUNDING* will include highlights from the induction ceremony of nine-time Grammy Award-winning and two-time Academy Award nominee **Mary J. Blige** into the **Apollo’s Walk of Fame**. Additional details for the outdoor ceremony to be shared at a later date. The evening will also feature tributes to Motown Records Chairwoman and CEO **Ethiopia Habtemariam**; activist and co-founder of Campaign Zero **Brittany Packnett Cunningham**; and President and Director-Counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund **Sherrilyn Ifill** for their dedication to amplifying Black culture and their ongoing work for a more just and equitable future. The program will also include performances with additional details to be announced.

*APOLLO RESOUNDING* underscores the Apollo’s role as a mission-driven cultural and community anchor, which provides a safe space for creativity and unites people all over the world, including thousands of artists at every stage of their careers. Always at the forefront of new cultural movements, even during the pandemic, the messages and music from the storied theater have resounded for nearly 90 years.

“The Apollo has long been an anchor in Harlem, supporting Black culture and safeguarding the community in ways that cannot be contained in its walls. The Apollo speaks to artists, families, students, music, theater, and comedy fans across the world,” said **Jonelle Procope, Apollo Theater President and CEO**. “As we move forward, I want to recognize the fantastic staff, artists, educators, and supporters who have helped us continue our work. I send my profound thanks the incomparable Felicia and Ben Horowitz and Derrick ‘D-Nice’ Jones for their support of our mission to champion the arts.”

*APOLLO RESOUNDING*, the Apollo’s annual fundraising event, will illuminate the power of the arts to transform, build community, and heal. In addition to raising funds for the Apollo’s innovative artistic and

educational programs that serve more than 200,000 people annually, a portion of the resources raised will – once again – support the micro-grant initiative, which was launched last year in partnership with the Apollo, 125<sup>th</sup> Street Business Improvement District (BID), and Harlem Commonwealth Council. This spring, the micro-grant initiative will continue. Additional details and how to apply will be available soon.

“For generations of artists, the Apollo has been a safe and revolutionary space for creativity, but as 2020 has taught us, our art is so much more than its physical form. *Apollo Resounding* will amplify the Apollo’s commitment to rise to the needs of our community and the resounding calls for justice, equity, and humanity, as we continue to create spaces for artists and audiences to express themselves freely,” said **Kamilah Forbes, Apollo Theater Executive Producer**. “I’m also thrilled to pay tribute to one of our most iconic and genre-defying artists, Mary J. Blige, on the Apollo’s Walk of Fame. It’s one of the most important ways for us to celebrate artists who have contributed to and amplified Black culture. For over 30 years Ms. Blige has astonished audiences with her music and her film and television performances, and it’s an honor to recognize her and the ways in which she has shaped the American musical landscape.”

Additional details for *APOLLO RESOUNDING*, including a full lineup of performers and special guests, will be announced at a later date on [www.ApolloTheater.org](http://www.ApolloTheater.org).

### **About the Apollo Digital Stage**

When the pandemic forced the Apollo Theater to close its doors to in-person events, the Theater created the Apollo Digital Stage, offering live and pre-taped concerts, presentations and more, including a livestreamed performance with Wyclef Jean, past *Amateur Night at the Apollo* performances, live sessions with Apollo Music Café artists such as Infinity Song, the bi-annual Women of the World Festival, last June’s *Let’s Stay (In) Together Benefit*, education events for children and teens, and conversations with an array of artists and thought leaders, including Ta-Nehisi Coates, John Legend, and more. Since March 2020, programs on the Digital Stage have garnered more than 420,000 views. For more information, please visit [apollotheater.org/digitalstage](http://apollotheater.org/digitalstage).

### **Support**

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

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### **ABOUT THE APOLLO**

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](http://www.ApolloTheater.org).

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**For more information, please contact:**

Fatima Jones  
Senior Director of Marketing and Communication  
[press@apollotheater.org](mailto:press@apollotheater.org)

Destanie Martin-Johnson / Julie Danni / Josh Balber  
Resnicow and Associates  
[dmartin-johnson@resnicow.com](mailto:dmartin-johnson@resnicow.com) / [JDanni@resnicow.com](mailto:JDanni@resnicow.com) / [JBalber@resnicow.com](mailto:JBalber@resnicow.com)  
212-671-5172 / 212-671-5173 / 212-671-5175