

APOLLO

MEDIA ADVISORY

The Apollo to Hold In-Person Auditions for Return of *Amateur Night at the Apollo* October 9 & 10, 2021

**Vocalists, rappers, dancers, comedians, instrumentalists,
spoken word artists, and other performers chosen will
secure a spot in the *Amateur Night 2022-23* season,
competing for a chance to win a
Grand Prize of \$20,000**

America's Longest Running Talent Show Returns Live February 16, 2022

WHAT: On **Saturday, October 9** and **Sunday, October 10** the Apollo will hold in-person auditions at its legendary theater for the 2022-23 season of its signature program, *Amateur Night at the Apollo*, the original talent show and one of the longest-running events in New York City. Auditions will be held at the Apollo on a first-come, first-served basis beginning at 9 a.m. ET through 6 p.m. ET. Each day, *Amateur Night* producers will audition the **first 200** vocalists, rappers, dancers, instrumentalists, comedians, spoken-word artists, and other performers vying for a coveted spot on the Apollo's stage, where they will compete for a chance to win the \$20,000 Grand Prize. Performers between the ages of 12 and 17 will compete for a spot in the "Child Star of Tomorrow" category and a \$5,000 prize. *Amateur Night at the Apollo* returns live and in-person for its 32-night competition on **Wednesday, February 16, 2022**.

In order to ensure the health and well-being of Apollo staff, performers, and the community, all audition participants and chaperones must show a completed vaccination record (digital or physical copy accepted), along with a government-issued photo ID, and proof of a negative COVID test taken no more than 48 hours prior to their arrival. Masks will be required for entry into the Apollo. In addition to in-person auditions, the Apollo will continue to accept online audition submissions.

Since its inception in 1934, the Apollo's signature *Amateur Night* continues to gain global recognition for launching the careers of thousands of performers and attracting audiences from all over the world. *Amateur Night* has long been revered by artists as a transformative experience where up-and-coming talent feel the power of the legendary performers who have come before them, and where audience responses can help make or break a career. Legendary performers who launched their careers on the Apollo *Amateur Night* stage have included Ella Fitzgerald, Luther Vandross, Lauryn Hill, and H.E.R. Beginning in 2017, the

Apollo incorporated online submissions into its audition process to extend access to artists around the globe and diversify the talent featured in the show. In 2019, the Apollo launched *Amateur Night Japan*, the first-ever licensing partnership that brought the famed contest to Japan, presented by Yoshimoto Kogyo Co., Ltd.

AUDITION INFORMATION

WHEN: Saturday, October 9 and Sunday, October 10 from 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. ET

For a complete list of audition guidelines, please visit <http://www.apollotheater.org/amateur-night/auditions/>.

For online submissions please visit <https://www.apollotheater.org/amateur-night/auditions/>.

SAFETY PROTOCOLS: All contestants, including parents and chaperones, must be fully vaccinated, be able to show proof of vaccination and photo ID, and provide a negative COVID test result taken no more than 48 hours in advance of the audition in order to participate in *Amateur Night* auditions. Face masks are mandatory for entry to the Apollo.

SPONSORS:

Amateur Night at the Apollo is made possible by leadership support from Coca-Cola.

Public support for the Apollo Theater is provided by the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature, and from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.

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 and 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.

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