



Apollo Theater Launches First International Tour

***James Brown: Get on the Good Foot – A Celebration in Dance* Features Original Dances by Choreographers from Around the Globe Set to the Soul Icon’s Legendary Music**

Original Production Continues Apollo’s Commitment to Engaging Contemporary Artists across a Range of Disciplines, Drawing Inspiration from Institution’s Legendary Impact on American Culture

Harlem, NY, January 8, 2015 – The Apollo Theater announced today the details of its first international tour, of its original production, *James Brown: Get on the Good Foot – A Celebration in Dance*. Long recognized as a creative catalyst for Harlem and New York, the Apollo is increasingly extending its reach nationally and globally—a reflection of the institution’s far-reaching impact and continued influence on American culture. Following the work’s world premiere at the Apollo in October 2013, *Get on the Good Foot* toured to Atlanta, GA; Baton Rouge, LA; and Los Angeles, CA. In February 2015, *Get on the Good Foot* begins an international tour with engagements in Germany, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands.

Get on the Good Foot showcases the broad cultural influence the “Godfather of Soul” continues to have on contemporary creativity. Under the artistic direction of acclaimed choreographer Otis Sallid, *Get on the Good Foot* features original choreography by artists from the United States, Europe, Southeast Asia, and West Africa. The score is comprised of classic Brown music and original compositions inspired by his work.

“James Brown made the Apollo Theater his home and honed his craft in front of our famous audiences, as musicians, choreographers, actors, dancers, comedians, and others continue to do today,” said Mikki Shepard, Apollo Theater Executive Producer. “Brown’s influence is global and we are so thrilled to be able to share *Get on the Good Foot* with global audiences.”

“The significance of James Brown’s artistry reaches far beyond the popularity of his music. The impact of his radically innovative compositions and choreography continues to exert enormous influence on artists across cultures, styles, and genres,” said *Get on the Good Foot* Artistic Director Otis Sallid. “The diverse mix of choreographers chosen for this program helps us gain a deeper understanding of James Brown’s significance as interpreted from these varied, individual perspectives.”

In Harlem, the Apollo Theater’s 2014/2015 season includes a range of programming across artistic disciplines, as the institution continues its commitment to supporting emerging and established artists and engaging its legacy to inform contemporary artistic expression. Upcoming engagements include *Harlem Nights/U Street Lights*, a collaboration with the Kennedy Center curated by Jason Moran, which explores the deep musical connections between the Harlem and D.C. jazz scenes, as well as the Apollo’s signature program, *Amateur Night*, which continues to launch legends virtually every Wednesday night, and the *Apollo Music Café*, a series presented on the Theater’s soundstage that showcases up-and-coming musicians in a club-like atmosphere. More information may be found at apollotheater.org.

James Brown: Get on the Good Foot – A Celebration in Dance

Produced by the Apollo Theater

Concept and Artistic Direction: Otis Sallid

Featuring The Philadelphia Dance Company (PHILADANCO) with guest artists Ephrat Asherie, Corey Hutchins, Subhash Viman

Choreographers: Ephrat Asherie, Souleymane Badolo, Camille A. Brown, Ronald K. Brown, Thang Dao, Derick K. Grant, Aakash Odedra, Abdel Salaam, Otis Sallid, Jennifer Weber

Music Direction and Original Compositions: Ronobir Lahiri, Kevin Toney

Lighting Design: Clifton Taylor

Costume Design: Danté Anthony Baylor

Stadttheater Fürth, Fürth, Germany

Wednesday, February 18, 2015 at 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, February 19, 2015 at 7:30 p.m.

Friday, February 20, 2015 at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 21, 2015 at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, February 22, 2015 at 7:30 p.m.

Stadttheater Schweinfurt, Schweinfurt, Germany

Tuesday, February 24, 2015 at 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, February 25, 2015 at 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, February 26, 2015 at 7:30 p.m.

Friday, February 27, 2015 at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 28, 2015 at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 1, 2015 at 7:30 p.m.

Stadttheater Esch-Sur-Alzette, Luxembourg

Wednesday, March 4, 2015 at 8 p.m.

Lucent Danstheater The Hague, The Netherlands

Wednesday, March 5, 2015 at 8:15 p.m.

Theater der Stadt Gütersloh, Gütersloh, Germany

Friday, March 6, 2015 at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 7, 2015 at 7:30 p.m.

Theater Marl, Marl, Germany

Sunday, March 8, 2015 at 8 p.m.

Theater im Pfalzbau, Ludwigshafen, Germany

Monday, March 9, 2015 at 8 p.m.

Tuesday, March 10, 2015 at 7:30 p.m.

Theater am Ring, Villingen-Schwenningen, Germany

Thursday, March 12, 2015 at 8 p.m.

About Otis Sallid

Otis Sallid is an accomplished director and choreographer in dance, theater, television, and film. A native of Harlem, Sallid attended the High School of Performing Arts in New York City and The Juilliard School. He has studied and worked with leading dance pioneers and legends including Martha Graham, Antony Tudor, Pearl Primus, Alvin Ailey, May O'Donnell, José Limón, Thelma Hill, Louis Johnson, Donald McKayle, Anna Sokolow, Lucas Hoving, Mary Hinkson, David Wood, Eleo Pomare, Arthur Mitchell, and Benjamin Harkarvy. Sallid co-

conceived the 1995 hit Broadway show *Smokey Joe's Café* and his film credits include *Sister Act II* and Spike Lee's *School Daze*, *Do the Right Thing*, and *Malcolm X*.

About the Philadelphia Dance Company

Founded in 1970 by the legendary Joan Myers Brown (the 2012 recipient of The National Medal of Arts Award presented personally by President Barack Obama), PHILADANCO is a nonprofit organization that features the highest quality of professional dance performance and improves the skills of emerging and professional dancers in a nurturing environment. PHILADANCO is celebrated for its innovation, creativity, and preservation of predominantly African American traditions in dance. The Company has a legacy of breaking barriers and building bridges across cultural divides, consistently performing for audiences from diverse communities. Inherent in their mission is a commitment to empowering youth with crucial leadership and development skills that facilitate achievement and success in the world of dance and everyday life.

About the Apollo Theater

The legendary Apollo Theater—the soul of American culture—plays a vital role in cultivating emerging talents 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, performance art, spoken word initiatives, and more. Recent highlights have included *James Brown: Get on the Good Foot*, which will begin an international tour in 2015, the *Africa Now!* Festival, and *Apollo Club Harlem*. The Apollo is a presenting organization that also produces festivals and large-scale dance and music work. The Apollo's vision is global and includes touring and a digital media presence. The Apollo's work is organized around a set of core initiatives: Apollo Music (African American and culturally diverse artists); Signature programs (Amateur Night, Salon Series and the Apollo Music Café); Legacy Series (work that celebrates and extends the Theater's legacy in a more contemporary way); Global Festival (international and U.S.-based artist presentations focused on a specific theme); Special Projects (multidisciplinary work 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 Lauryn Hill, Machine Gun Kelly, Miri Ben Ari, D'Angelo, 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.

The Apollo Theater is a not-for-profit organization and currently in the midst of fundraising for its 21st Century Apollo Campaign, created to extend the institution's role fostering artistic innovation and building appreciation of American culture around the world. For more information, visit www.apollotheater.org.

Generous support for the creation of the Apollo Theater's production of the James Brown: Get on the Good Foot, a Celebration in Dance come from the Ford Foundation Fund for Global Programs, JoAnn Price, Earl W. and Amanda Stafford, and the Reginald Van Lee New Works Fund.

This program was launched in partnership with the Lafayette Consolidated Government, Lafayette, LA, Joey Durel, President; the University of Louisiana Lafayette, Joseph Savoie, PhD, President; Lafayette Convention and Visitors Commission; Lafayette Economic Development Authority; Van Eaton & Romero; and Renee and Tawasky Ventroy.

Co-commissioned by Gloria Kaufman Presents Dance at The Music Center and the Rialto Center for the Arts, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA.

The Apollo's 2014-2015 season is made possible by generous support from BNY Mellon, Citi, Coca-Cola, Troy and Keisha Dixon, EmblemHealth, the Ford Foundation Fund for Global Programs, Frederick Wildman, The Howard Gilman Foundation, Carla A. Harris, Robert K. Kraft, The Reginald F. Lewis Foundation, The Parsons Family Foundation, the Ronald O. Perelman Family Foundation, The Pinkerton Foundation, JoAnn Price, Prudential Financial, Inc., Earl W. and

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