

APOLLO

The Apollo to hold Amateur Night Auditions in
Multiple Cities for Its 2017 Season

***Auditions to be held in New York City at the Apollo, in
Philadelphia and Washington, D.C.***

Contestants chosen will secure a spot in the
Amateur Night at the Apollo 2017 season line-up
Competing for a chance to win a new Grand Prize of \$20,000

Philadelphia - Saturday, September 17, 2016
NYC at the Apollo Theater - Saturday, September 24, 2016
Washington DC - Saturday, October 1, 2016

(Harlem, NY, August 18, 2016) –The Apollo Theater announced today that it will hold auditions for its legendary Amateur Night show, now in its 82nd year, in multiple cities this Fall. Auditions will be held in Philadelphia at the Kimmel Center on Saturday, September 17th, in New York City at the Apollo Theater on Saturday, September 24th and will conclude in Washington, D.C. at Howard University on Saturday, October 1st. Amateur Night producers will screen hundreds of vocalists, rappers, dancers, comedians, spoken word artists, and other performers vying for a coveted spot on the Apollo’s stage, where they will then compete for a chance to win the new grand prize amount of \$20,000.

“The Apollo is driven by a commitment to explore all possibilities of contemporary artistic expression. One way to achieve this is by opening our Amateur Night 2017 auditions to a geographically-diverse pool of talent,” said **Jonelle Procope**, President and CEO of the Apollo Theater. “Amateur Night is not only a beloved live, weekly show but also a great catalyst renown for sparking the careers of so many legendary performers.”

“The Apollo is the world’s stage and, as such, we want to make sure the performers are equally world-class. By reaching out to talent in locations like Washington, DC, we ensure we are getting the best possible competitors. Long before *American Idol*, *America’s Got Talent*, and *Star Search*, the Apollo’s Amateur Night was, and continues to be, a primary source for discovering and spotlighting up-and-coming artists. We’re on a hunt for the best of the best,” said Amateur Night Producer and audition judge, **Marion J. Caffey**.

Since its inception in 1934, the Apollo Theater's signature show, **Amateur Night**, has been one of New York City's most popular live entertainment experiences, 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. **Ella Fitzgerald, James Brown, Stevie Wonder, Lauryn Hill** and **Michael Jackson** are just a few of the legendary performers who launched their careers on the Apollo stage.

Auditions for Amateur Night are as follows:

September 17th in Philadelphia (10am- 6pm)

Location: *Kimmel Center*

300 South Broad Street

Philadelphia, PA 19102

September 24th in NYC (10am-6pm)

Location: *Apollo Theater*

253 West 125th Street

New York, NY 10027

October 1st in Washington, D.C. (10am- 6pm)

Location: *Cramton Auditorium - Howard University*

2455 6th St NW

Washington, DC 20059

***Important Note: For Amateur Night, only children ages 5 to 17 will be considered for the "Child Stars of Tomorrow" segment. For those competing in the adult category, you must be 18 years and older to compete in the adult category. Children under 18 MUST be accompanied by an adult. For a complete list of audition guidelines and rules, visit apollotheater.org**

For Amateur Night auditions, judges will only see the first 250 acts if time permits, so please arrive early. Amateur Night at the Apollo weekly performances are independent from the APOLLO LIVE and SHOWTIME AT THE APOLLO taped events.

RULES:

- An Amateur is anyone who has not had a recording, Film or TV contract with a major studio.
- NO profanity including any racial epithets or slurs all material must be appropriate for a family show.
- Children under 18 MUST be accompanied by an adult.
- Only children ages 5 to 17 will be considered for the "Child Star of Tomorrow" segment.
- For those competing in the adult category, you must be 18 years and older.

- No lip synching, singing along with track vocals or post-production engineering of vocals is permitted.
- The audition is open to singers, dancers, comedians, spoken word artists and musicians and other variety performances.
- Each live contestant will have up to 90 seconds to perform.
- Singers can bring a track on cassette or CD or sing a cappella. A band is NOT available.
- Musicians must bring their own instruments.
- Dancers should bring a CD.
- Do NOT bring CD's in CD-RW format.

All media outlets interested in covering any of the auditions, MUST submit requests via email to Nina Flowers at nina.flowers@apollotheater.org or Cynthia Tate at cynthia.tate@apollotheater.org

Amateur Night at the Apollo is sponsored by Coca-Cola.

The Apollo's 2016-2017 season is made possible by leadership support from Citi, Coca-Cola, Troy and Keisha Dixon, Ford Foundation, The Howard Gilman Foundation, Jerome L. Greene Foundation, Robert K. Kraft, The Reginald F. Lewis Foundation, Merrill Lynch, The Parsons Family Foundation, the Ronald O. Perelman Family Foundation, JoAnn Price, Earl W. and Amanda Stafford, Time Warner Inc., the Reginald Van Lee Fund for New Works, the Apollo Board of Directors, and many other generous donors.

Public support provided by the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo 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 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. This includes the October 2014 premiere and 2015 international tour of the dance celebration project James Brown: Get on the Good Foot, the annual Africa Now! Festival, Apollo Club Harlem, and the recent New York premiere of the opera Charlie Parker's YARDBIRD. The Apollo is a presenting organization that also produces festivals, large-scale dance and music works organized around a set of core initiatives: Apollo Music Signature Programs—Amateur Night, Salon Series, Apollo Music Café; Legacy Series— work that celebrates and extends 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 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 D'Angelo, Lauryn Hill, Machine Gun Kelly, Miri Ben Ari, 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 with the mission to extend the institution's role in fostering artistic innovation and in building appreciation of American culture around the world. For more information, visit www.apollotheater.org.

Follow the Apollo Theater:
Facebook.com/apollotheater
Twitter.com/apollotheater
YouTube.com/apollotheater
Instagram.com/apollotheater

CONTACTS:

Nina Flowers
212.531.5334
Nina.Flowers@apollotheater.org

Cynthia Tate
212.531.5340
cynthia.tate@apollotheater.org