October 18, 2017 – The Association of Performing Arts Professionals (APAP) today announced important programming highlights for APAP|NYC 2018, the world’s leading global performing arts gathering, marketplace and membership conference, taking place from January 12-16. On January 11-12, APAP|NYC 2018 will hold its pre-conference, with many professional development sessions open to the public, including a critical discussion on event preparedness and a first-time forum focusing on circus arts. In its 61st year, this annual industry gathering will host more than 3,600 performing arts professionals as they experience more than 1,000 performance showcases, a robust 370-booth EXPO Hall, and thought-provoking plenary and professional development sessions.

Programming highlights for this year’s conference demonstrate APAP’s commitment to embracing the performing arts industry’s role in engaging in the constant and dynamic societal transformation of which we artist and arts makers are all a part. This year’s conference theme, Trans.ACT, focuses on the multiplicity and the fluidity of the word “trans” and all its iterations—transformation, transcendence, transdisciplinary, transition, and the importance of transgender artists in our field and communities and by the word “ACT” and its various iterations—action, activism, activate, actualize.

APAP|NYC 2018 offers more than 50 professional development sessions focused on eight subject-matter tracks in addition to daily plenary sessions bolstered by artrepreneurs, artists, activists and innovators who are shaping the future in powerful ways. These tracks explore a range of current topics facing both the artist and industry both in the U.S. and abroad: arts and activism; engaging new audiences and communities; presenting international artists; ways to achieve greater inclusion, diversity and equity across the field; artrepreneurial strategies and best practices, innovation in the arts and the art of curation and
programming. APAP|NYC’s daily plenary sessions, as well as the awards luncheon, will also be streamed Facebook Live.

“APAP|NYC 2018 will be the first conference under APAP’s new name, the Association of Performing Arts Professionals,” notes Mario Garcia Durham, President and CEO of APAP. “While for many years the organization and our flagship event have been growing more inclusive and forward-looking, with the name change, APAP is embracing more than ever our role in the evolution of the performing arts industry and the broad definition of the professionals within it.”

APAP|NYC 2018 will bring together the artistry, industry and community of the performing arts to enhance the creativity, knowledge and experience of artists, agents, managers and presenters, and affirm the transformative power of the performing arts. Below is a partial list of featured speakers and artists at APAP|NYC 2018.

**Oskar Eustis**, Artistic Director of The Public Theatre, will join a panel of speakers at the opening plenary of the conference on Friday, January 12. Known for pushing the cultural needle and as a powerful vortex for incubating new works, The Public Theater has continued to embrace the complexities of contemporary society while nurturing both artists and audiences, as it continues Joseph Papp’s legacy of creating a place of inclusion and a forum for ideas. Under Mr. Eustis’ visionary leadership, the institution serves as a breeding ground for younger, smaller theater companies as well as emerging artists who have lent important voices in exploring the transformative power of the arts.

**Bassem Youssef**, a former heart surgeon turned political satirist and comedian, famously known as the “Jon Stewart of Egypt,” will share his wisdom and wit at the closing plenary of the conference, taking place on Monday, January 16. Earlier this year, Mr. Youssef’s book, *Revolution for Dummies: Laughing through the Arab Spring* was released and his story is the subject of a new, captivating documentary called *Tickling Giants*.

**Featured Speakers and Artists**

**Plenary sessions** feature artists and industry leaders from arts, culture and other sectors including:

**Kyle Abraham**, choreographer, dancer and founder, *Abraham.In.Motion*  
**Kaumakaiwa Kanaka’ole**, hula vocalist  
**Christina Tsoules Soriano**, associate professor and director of the dance program, Wake Forest University and **Christina Hugenschmidt**, assistant professor of gerontology and geriatric medicine, Wake Forest University  
**Jason Moran**, jazz pianist, composer and educator

See more about the conference at APAPNYC.org, @APAP365, #APAPNYC and [facebook.com/APAPNYC](http://facebook.com/APAPNYC). APAP membership information can be found at
APAP365.org. APAP|NYC is also founding partner of JanArtsNYC, the most comprehensive annual celebration of the performing arts around the globe and annual convergence of 11 major performing arts industry forums and public festivals. 2018 event dates and descriptions of all 11 partnering events available at JanArtsNYC.org.

**About APAP, the Association of Performing Arts Professionals**

APAP, the Association of Performing Arts Professionals, based in Washington, D.C., is the national service, advocacy and membership organization dedicated to developing and supporting a robust, performing arts presenting field and the professionals who work within it. Our 1,600 national and international members represent leading performing arts centers, municipal and university performance facilities, nonprofit performing arts centers, culturally specific organizations, foreign governments, as well as artist agencies, managers, touring companies, and national consulting practices that serve the field, and a growing roster of self-presenting artists. As a leader in the field, APAP works to effect change through advocacy, professional development, resource sharing and civic engagement. APAP is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization governed by a volunteer board of directors and led by President & CEO Mario Garcia Durham. In addition to presenting the annual APAP|NYC conference - the world's leading forum and marketplace for the performing arts (Jan. 12-16, 2018) - APAP continues to be the industry's leading resource, knowledge and networking destination for the advancement of performing arts presenting.

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