News Release
Media Contact: Carol Miller, cmiller@artspresenters.org +1.202.306.0130
Public Contact: APAPNYC.org

APAP|NYC 2015 Announces Lineup of Speakers for January Conference

Grammy-winning singer-songwriter and activist Angélique Kidjo featured with public radio host Ira Glass, Tony-winning spoken word artist Lemon Andersen and more

NOVEMBER 17, 2014 - Grammy Award-winning singer-songwriter and activist, Angélique Kidjo; beloved public radio personality Ira Glass; and spoken word artist, writer and Tony Award-winner, Lemon Andersen lead the line-up of more than a dozen acclaimed speakers who promise to inspire, educate and engage attendees at the Association of Performing Arts Presenters’ (APAP) 58th annual member conference, APAP|NYC 2015, to be held Jan. 9-13 in New York City. Two days of preconference forums will offer sessions and events Jan. 8 and 9, many that are free and open to the public.

“Our plenary sessions bring together performing arts professionals to hear from some of the most inspiring thought leaders and creative artists from around the world who influence our field and our future,” said Mario Garcia Durham, president and CEO of APAP. “This year we take that opportunity to honor and champion the creativity, collaboration and reciprocity that effects important change in the communities we serve together.”

The APAP|NYC 2015 theme, “Together,” is threaded through the plenary sessions and professional development tracks aimed at expanding the reach and relevance of the presenting field through collective action. Sessions address industry trends and issues, including: targeting untapped and more diverse audiences, working with artists to better draw and sustain those audiences, and using performance to make a social or humanitarian impact on individuals and their communities. Sessions will highlight case examples of programs and projects where APAP members have successfully collaborated with their peers and other partners, in addition to innovative business strategies and tools that are critical to thriving in the business of performing arts presenting.

KEY SESSIONS AND SPEAKERS

“In the Beginning: The Creative Act” - Friday, Jan. 9, 5-6:30 p.m.
APAP|NYC 2015 will open with an important discussion on the responsibility for growth and sustainability of live performance from the perspective of the artist. Spoken word artist, writer and Tony Award-winner, Lemon Andersen; jazz pianist, composer and artistic director for jazz at The Kennedy Center, Jason Moran, and others offer perspectives from different genres and generations. Indira Etwaroo, executive producer and director of NPR Presents, will moderate. Jane Chu, chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts will give remarks leading into this opening plenary.

“The Arts as Levelers of Experience” - Saturday, Jan. 10, noon-1:30 p.m.
Mehmet Dede, co-founder, New York Gypsy Festival and instructor at Tisch School of the Arts at NYU; Heidi Latsky, dancer/choreographer and founder of Heidi Latsky Dance; David Lutken, musician/actor and creator of Woody Sez; Dr. Ahmad Naser Sarmast, founder and director, Afghanistan National Institute of Music; and Tanya Tagaq, Inuit throat singer and 2014 Polaris Music Prize Winner, deliver a series of pecha kucha-style, rapid-fire
presentations, followed by a lively conversation between the speakers and the audience, moderated by Marc Bamuthi Joseph, spoken word poet and director of performing arts, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts.

“Togetherness” - Sunday, Jan. 11, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Ira Glass, American public radio personality and the host and producer of the radio and television show “This American Life,” will bring a live production with stories and special guests.

“Until We Meet Again” - Tuesday, Jan. 13, 9:30-11 a.m.
Grammy Award-winning singer-songwriter and activist, Angélique Kidjo, will close the conference with her influential music and inspirational perspective on arts and humanity.

APAP|NYC 2015, the world’s largest convening of performing arts professionals, will bring together more than 3,600 performing arts professionals this year and feature more than 1,000 world-class performance showcases held around the City, with nearly 370 exhibitors and dozens of professional development sessions.

The conference will be held at the New York Hilton Midtown and the Sheraton New York Times Square. APAP|NYC brings together performing arts professionals—artists, agents, presenters, producers and others—to explore the latest trends in performing arts and to network and conduct the business of arts presenting. Leaders in the performing arts from across America and around the world preview showcases and decide which to bring back to their communities.

“Feedback from our past participants surveyed indicates that there is no substitute for meeting and networking face-to-face, regardless of the immediacy of access we have to one another through technology. Our conference theme ties to that notion, as does our partnership with colleagues who plan performing arts industry events just before and after our conference,” said Durham.

Preconference forums on Jan. 8 and 9 include APAP World Music Preconference and sessions on dance (presented by Dance/USA), classical music, family programming, festivals and relevant topics including economic realities, global performing arts and more. Many forums are free and open to the public, and online registration is encouraged.

APAP|NYC Conference co-chairs this year include Cathy Edwards, director of programming, International Festival of Arts and Ideas, New Haven, Conn.; Rachel Cohen, president, Cadence Art Network, Inc., Los Angeles, Calif.; and Daniel Bernard Roumain, composer and performing artist, New York, NY.

APAP|NYC 2015 is one of 11 conferences, festivals and other performing arts forums collaborating as “January In NYC,” a partnership which brings more than 48,000 industry professionals, performing artists and enthusiasts to New York City Jan. 2–18. Some participating festivals and forums were incubated at APAP|NYC. Other events sprung, in part, from the fact that the APAP|NYC Conference draws so many performing arts professionals to New York City every January.

ABOUT APAP
The Association of Performing Arts Presenters is the national service, advocacy and membership organization for presenters of the performing arts. APAP is dedicated to developing and supporting a robust performing arts industry and the professionals who work within it.

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