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# BROOKLYN NEWS

"Good News You Can Use"

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FREE



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Their Stuff on  
Broadway**

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The Harlem Community Newspapers, Inc. will publish positive news and information. Our mission is to deliver “good” and informative news to our readers focusing on health, education, housing, business and employment opportunities. We look for and publish results, not problems. We promote businesses, opportunities and events happening in the communities we serve. We are dedicated to providing our readers with valuable information they can use to improve the quality of life for themselves, their families and our communities.

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PAT STEVENSON

This week in Harlem News, we celebrate the vibrant energy of the NY Marathon as runners passed through Harlem, cheered on by an enthusiastic crowd, soul music, and refreshing water. (see pages 24-25)

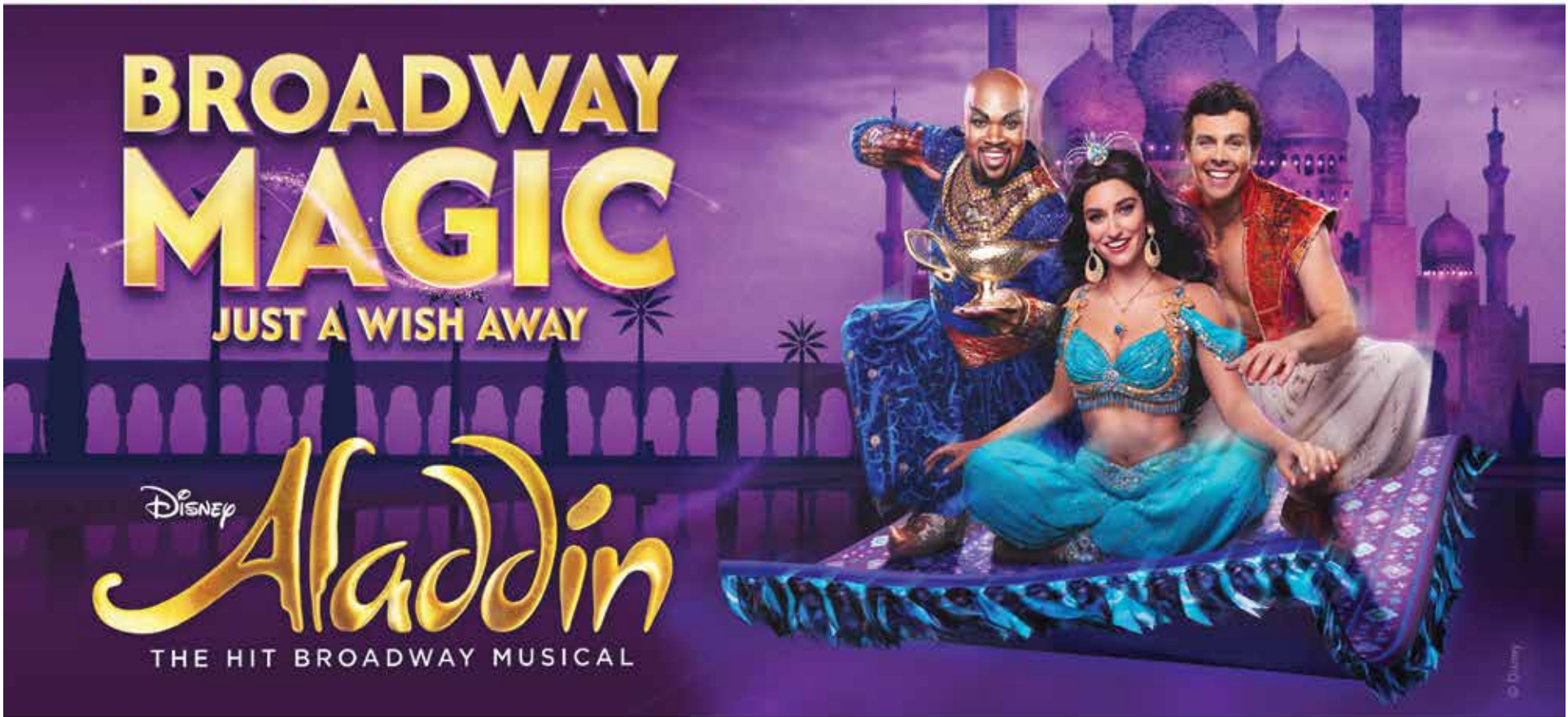
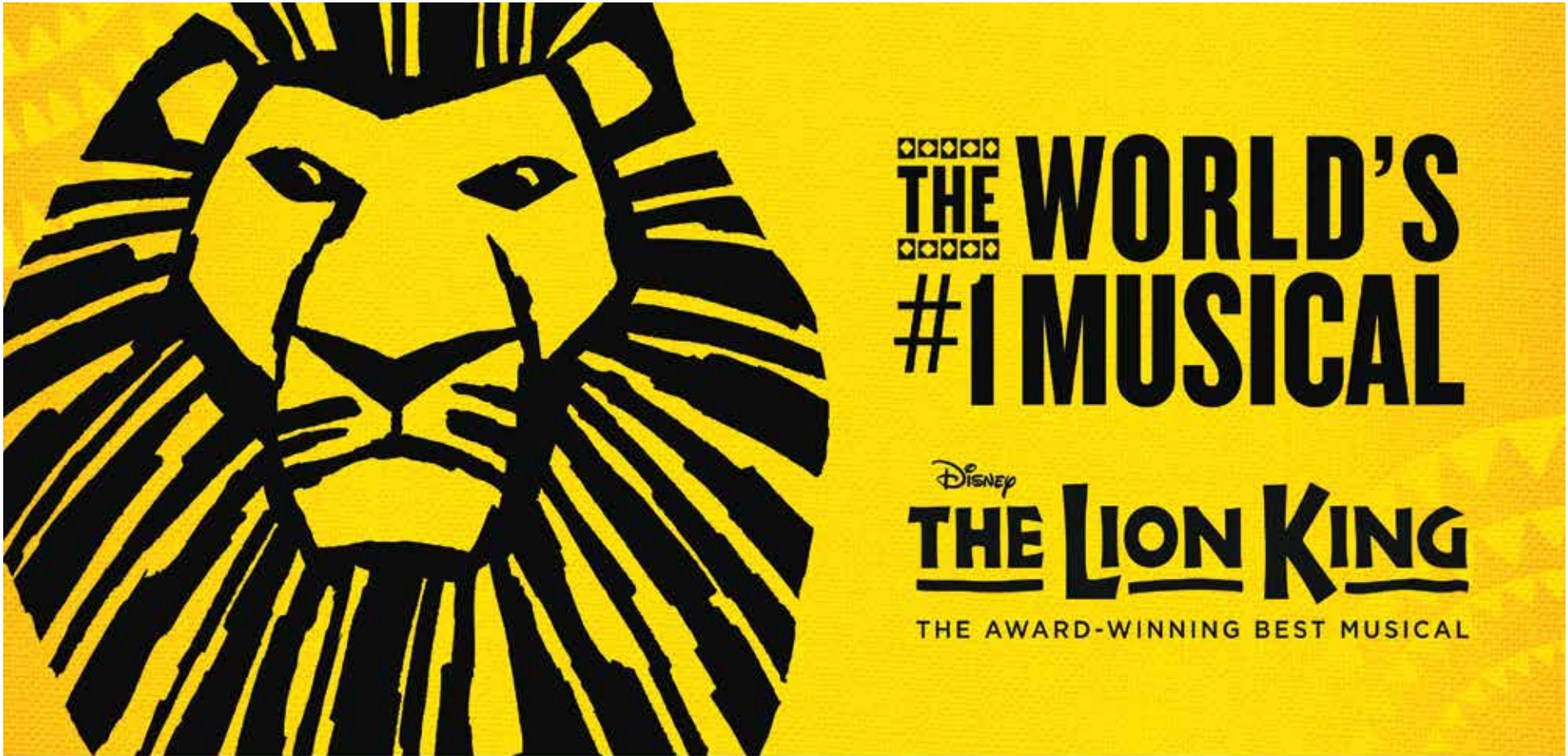
The Studio Museum is set to reopen later this month after years of renovation, promising a renewed cultural experience. (see page 20)

We also welcome back Dr. Susan J. Cook, who honored seven remarkable women of faith at her annual Gala—a tradition she’s proudly hosted for a decade. (see page 26)

In this issue we are presenting the Black actors on Broadway, They are appearing in 24 shows. You can go see one show a day between now and Christmas. Broadway tickets are excellent gifts and going to a Broadway show is a really nice thing to do during the holidays. Support our Black actors and enjoy the holidays.’ (see pages 9-19)

As the holiday season approaches, consider giving the gift of a Harlem News subscription to friends and family. Your support helps us continue sharing the stories that matter. Visit [www.harlemcommunitynews.com](http://www.harlemcommunitynews.com) to subscribe, donate to our GoFundMe, and sign up for our free daily digital newsletter. From all of us at Harlem News, thank you for being part of our community. Wishing you peace, joy, and a Happy Holidays!

Pat Stevenson  
Celebrating  
32 Years Publishing



MEMORIES BEGIN AT [DisneyOnBroadway.com](https://www.DisneyOnBroadway.com)

## PONDER THIS! Straighten Up and Fly Right



By Hazel Rosetta Smith

The titles of songs have always fascinated me. The more enticing the title, the greater the interest in the story and the artist. Oftentimes, the title becomes a source of useful wording in expressing deep feelings in conversations and has subtle meanings beyond its original concept.

Perhaps you have used a song title to get your message across in a personal situation. Remember: "What's Going On," by Marvin Gaye, and "I Will Survive," by Gloria Gaynor, among numerous others. My favorite delves into a question by Brian Knight inquiring, "Do I Ever Cross your Mind Anytime."

In 1943, Nat King Cole partnered with Irving Mills in the writing of "Straighten Up and Fly Right." The words of the song came to Cole from a sermon on truth and trust preached by his father, who was a pastor. It became an instant hit for the King Cole Trio.

Unfortunately, Cole was on the sidelines watching the monetary

progression of his work move to a million-dollar recording without reaping royalty fees because he had sold his rights to Irving Mills for a mere \$50.

To add salt to Nat's wound, his song was also recorded by The Andrew Sisters, who had become the most popular female group of the forties and took it to even greater heights singing it to troops during the war.

Straighten up and fly right were words often used by my father to influence my brother to do the right thing, which was a warning in the song given by a monkey to a buzzard in the storyline.

The gist of the lyrics was to expose the trickery of the buzzard, who was offering rides on his back

to smaller birds. Upon reaching a height above their flying capacity, the buzzard would unexpectedly shake the bird loose and digest it upon its descent.

If contemplation is given to why the buzzard would approach something smaller than himself with an offer of a fun time ride on his back, the revelation is how bullies get over on smaller and more vulnerable subjects.

Simply put, be careful of what is offered to you, without first considering why and how the offer came and most importantly from whom it is coming. I like to believe that straightening up means facing the facts realistically so that you can stand confident in your deci-

sion-making. Flying right is moving along appropriately with a focus on what you know to be the truth.

To do better, we must be better and that is an individual process that can benefit collectively. Contemplation and meditation are the tools for good decision making. You have the right to take your time. Do not be tempted by a free ride.

[Hazel Rosetta Smith is a journalist, playwright, and artistic director for *Help Somebody Theatrical Ministries*. Former, retired Managing Editor and Woman's Editor of the *New York Beacon*. Contacts: [misshazel@twc.com](mailto:misshazel@twc.com) and online [www.hazelrosettasmith.com](http://www.hazelrosettasmith.com)]

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# School Safety Saves Lives!



By Mayor Eric Adams

I've always said that public safety is the prerequisite to prosperity in our city and it has always been our administration's North Star. We strive to ensure that all New Yorkers feel safe in their homes, on the streets, and in other public spaces — this includes in our schools where our young people spend much of their time.

Our students must be able to feel safe in school so they can focus on their studies, parents must feel that they are leaving their children in a secure environment, and our teachers and staff must feel confident that we are keeping them safe at work so they can focus on teaching our young ones.

That is why our administration is proud to announce this country's first pilot program that directly integrates public schools with New York City's 911 services. Through this new initiative, we will be able to save lives by providing rapid response in active shooter situations.

We have tested this program, and now, we are rolling it out to a total of 51 schools across the five boroughs during the 2025-2026 school year, starting with the Spring Creek campus in Brooklyn.

Our Emergency Alert System (EAS) can be activated from multiple fixed buttons and wireless lanyards within a school, and it is capable of initiating a 911 response in under 10 seconds without going through a switchboard. This school-activated EAS will also bypass the New York City 911 call flow and be routed directly to real-time dispatch.

At the same time, schools will provide audio and visual cues that notify students and faculty that New York City 911 has been alerted and that their school is on a hard lock-down.

In an ideal world, we would not need to be planning for how to respond in the case of a school shooting, but sadly, we do not live in an ideal world — and in our current reality, we must be proactive and ready for all possibilities, however shocking they may be.

Since we came into office nearly four years ago, our administration has already taken more than 24,300 illegal guns off our streets, and thanks to our proactive public safety efforts, shooting incidents and shooting victims are at their lowest levels in the city's recorded history.

Shootings have also decreased by 55 percent and homicides have declined by 36.5 percent citywide compared to the same period before

we came into office, and in October 2025, major crimes dropped by 6.5 percent.

New York City is and remains the safest big city in America, and our new EAS will build on our work to make sure our schools have the most secure line of defense possible as we protect our students, teachers, and school staff.

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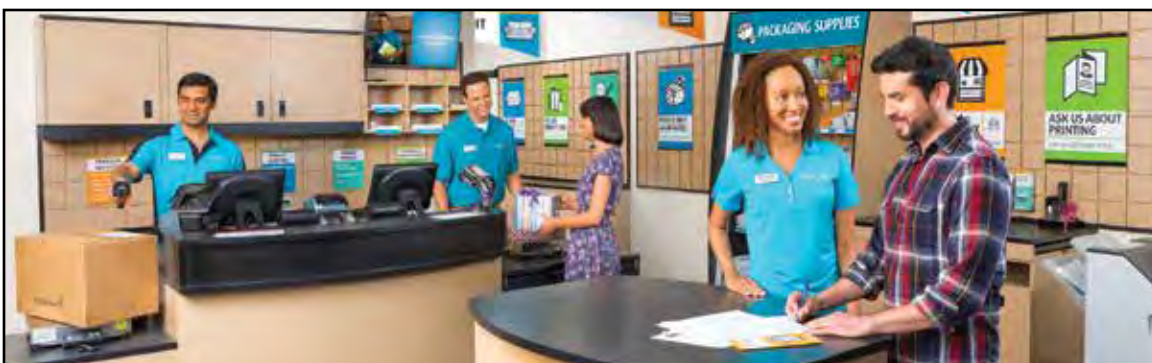
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# Home Buying in Harlem Be Prepared to Buy Now



By Rev. Dr. Charles Butler  
I received an alarming call from a perspective home buyer this week. She was working with a program that provided her with a loan officer, a real estate broker, a real estate attorney and a home inspector. All these professionals were employed by one company. This is called a 'One Stop Home Buying Center.' I thought these organizations no longer existed, but I was wrong. They still exist and will try to steal your money!

It is never a good idea for your home buying team to come from one source. You must select the members of your team. You must remain in control of your home purchase. You must do research, interview, and select the members of your team. In this instance, her team used her lack of knowledge to work against her. She signed a contract without proper legal counsel and lost most of her

down payment. She called me seeking assistance to recoup her money. I told her she could report them, but since she had signed the contract there was little that could be done.

This is the importance of attending the home buyer education workshop seminar series offered at HCCI. Even if you are not eligible for the grant, the program could help you from making a costly mistake and losing your money. You should attend an approved housing counseling workshop at the beginning of the process.

The home buying workshop will give you insights on how to navigate through the dangerous waters of negotiating a purchase price, determining the right type of property for your specific needs and selecting a team of professionals. You will learn industry terminology, mortgage products and available grant programs. You will acquire the confidence needed to successfully become a homeowner.

Here are some things you need to know: (1) Do not make an offer on a home until you have a pre-approval letter from an authorized lender. Know

how much you can afford to spend on a monthly mortgage payment. Understand the various types of mortgage products and determine which one is suitable for you. If you make an offer before getting a pre-approval your deposit will be in jeopardy.

(2) Sign nothing until your attorney has reviewed the sales contract. Sit down with your attorney and go over the contract with him/her until you completely understand all its legal ramifications. Once you and the seller have signed the contract, it is a legally binding document. It can be very difficult to get out of the agreement.

(3) Get referrals from your housing counselor or people you trust who have just recently completed the home buying process. Do not under any circumstances do what is called "a one stop shop" where the entire team is pre-selected.

If you are interested in attending the workshop or have questions regarding the home buying process, contact Rev. Dr. Charles Butler at (212) 281 4887 ext. 231 or email at [cbutler@hcci.org](mailto:cbutler@hcci.org).

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## HARLEM CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## HARLEM EVENTS

Nov 8, 2pm-10pm

**Tribute to Stevie Wonder at Symphony Space**

Symphony Space's beloved annual marathon returns with a joyful, all-day tribute to the iconic Stevie Wonder. This "gift to the city of New York" brings together music, dance, conversation, and more—all inspired by Wonder's extraordinary legacy. Symphony Space is located at 2537 Broadway & 95th Street. From chart-topping hits to hidden gems, the event will showcase a wide range of artists reimagining Stevie Wonder's songbook through soul, R&B, hip-hop, world music, and beyond.

Dive deep into classic albums, discover fresh interpretations, and experience a grand finale featuring a powerhouse ensemble performing some of his most unforgettable songs.

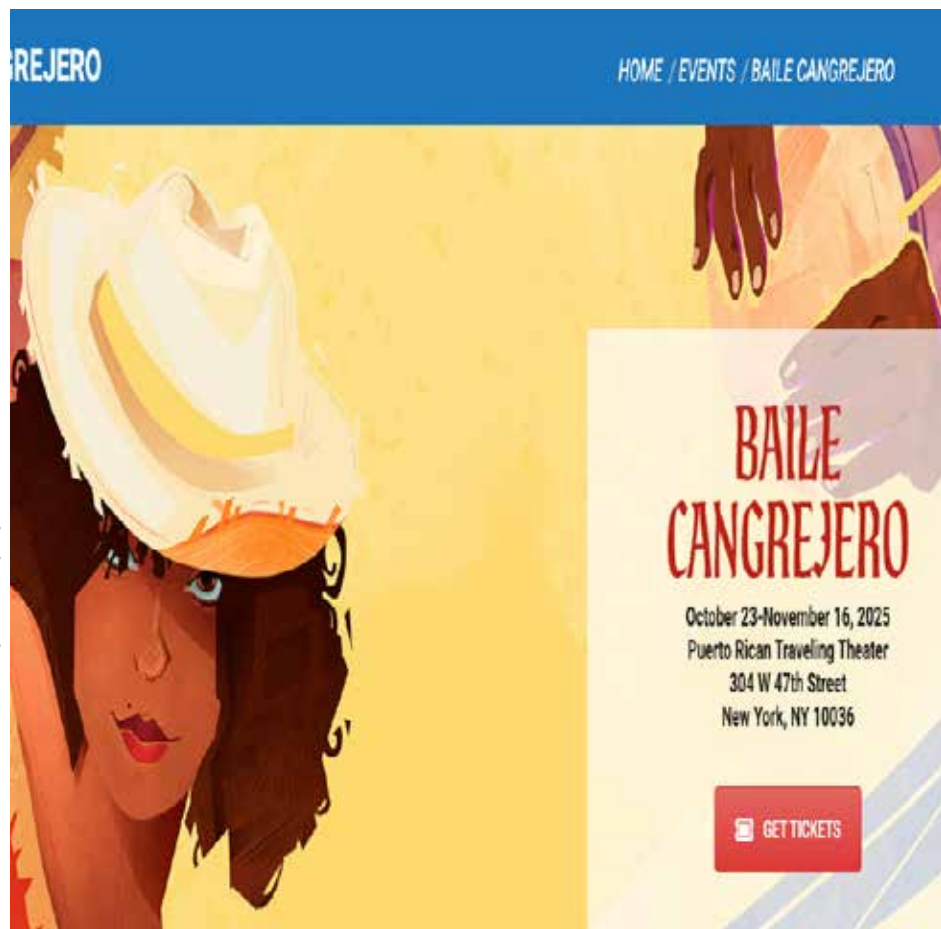
Join us for a day of nonstop Wonder. This event is free and no tickets are required. Drop in for a bit or stay awhile.

This event is Free.

Nov 20-Dec 14, Sat 7pm, Sat 2pm, Wed 3pm, Sun 3pm

**"The Wash" by Kelundra Smith**

Woodie King Jr.'s New Federal Theatre to present a return engagement of "The Wash" by Kelundra, a play inspired by the Atlanta Washer women's Strike of 1881. Incredible, if little-known interracial labor uprising takes center stage. Being held at WP Theater - 2162 Broadway @ 76th St. Presented by Woodie King, Jr.'s New Federal Theatre, Elizabeth Van Dyke, Producing Artistic. Tickets \$30-\$45



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–Naveen Kumar, *Variety*



Photo by Matthew Murphy

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# Blacks Are Strutting Their Stuff on Broadway

By Linda Armstrong

There are 24 shows gracing Broadway stages and showcasing the enormous talents of Blacks. One of the most anticipated musicals is "Ragtime" and it lives up to the anticipation, as it floors the audiences at Lincoln Center's, Vivian Beaumont Theatre. As always "The Lion King" and "MJ The Musical" are playing an enormous role in keeping Blacks beautifully employed. This is just such a wonderful season of theater to behold. You must make plans to go where our people take the stage and do a grand job!

"& Juliet" playing at the Stephen Sondheim Theatre asks what would happen next if Juliet didn't end it all over Romeo? She gets a second chance at life and love her way. It stars Gianna Harris (Juliet) and features Mackenzie Meadows (Lady Capulet/Nell); Khailah Johnson (Judith); Darien Daah Van Rensalier (Augustine); Cheryl Porter (Angelique); and Michael

Ivan Carrier (Thomas).

"Aladdin" playing at the New Amsterdam Theatre is Disney's movie story come to life and shares the story of Aladdin, a poor boy, falling in love with Princess Jasmine. The musical features Michael James Scott (the Genie); JC Montgomery (Sultan); and Dennis Stowe (Jafar).

"Beetlejuice" playing at the Palace Theatre tells the story of a ghost that has a haunting good time as he terrorizes a family in his home. It features Madison Mosley (Lydia, certain performances).

"The Book of Mormon" playing at the Eugene O'Neill Theatre, is a musical that deals with the Mormon faith. Derrick Williams (the General); Jacques C. Smith (Mafala Hatimbi), and Sydney Quildon (Nabulungi).

"Buena Vista Social Club," playing at the Schoenfeld Theatre is inspired by true events and shows you the heart of Cuba, telling the story of

the legends who lived and created the musical sounds of Havana. The cast features Natalie Venetia Belcon (Omara); Chris Myers (Juan De Marcos); Wesley Wray (Young Ibrahim); Isa Antonetti (Young Omara); Leonardo Reyna (Young Ruben); Da'Von T. Moody (Compay); Ashley De La Rosa (Young Haydee); Julio Monge (Young Compay); Mel Seme (Ibrahim); and Jainardo Batiste Sterling (Ruben).

"Chess" playing at the Imperial Theatre is a romantic story.

"Chicago," playing at the Ambassador Theatre, tells the delightful, sexy stories of the women of murderess row. It features Angela Grovey as Matron "Mama" Morton and Sean Samuels as Martin Harrison.

"Death Becomes Her" playing at the Lunt Fontanne Theatre is a musical comedy based on the 1992 film of the same name, about two women who want to stay young and workout

an unholy alliance to stay beautiful, so of course it backfires. It stars Michelle Williams (Viola Van Horn) and features Taurean Everett (Chagall).

"The Great Gatsby" playing at The Broadway Theatre is an amazing musical telling of the classic novel by F. Scott Fitzgerald. It stars Aisha Jackson (Daisy Buchanan).

"Hadestown" playing at the Walter Kerr Theatre, tells the mythical story of Orpheus trying to overcome Hades and get back to his love. The cast stars Morgan Dudley (Eurydice) and features Rebecca Naomi Jones (Persephone); and Marla Louissaint (Fate).

"Hamilton" playing at the Richard Rodgers Theatre, is a beloved musical that focuses on the life of Alexander Hamilton. The



"MJ The Musical"

cast stars Trey Curtis (Alexander Hamilton), and features Stephanie Umoh (Angelica Schuyler); Morgan Anita Wood (Eliza Hamilton); Bryson Bruce (Mar-

quis de Lafayette/Thomas Jefferson); and Tamar Greene (George Washington); Ebrin R. Stanley (Hercules Mulligan/James Madison); Cherry Torres (Peggy



"Ragtime" (Photo by Matthew Murphy)



"Hell's Kitchen"

## BLACKS ON BROADWAY

Blacks Are Strutting Their Stuff on Broadway, cont'd...

Schuyler) and Leslie Odom Jr. (Aaron Burr).

"Harry Potter and the Cursed Child" playing at the Lyric Theatre tells an engaging story of Harry Potter and other students at Hogwarts. It's a magical time at the theatre! It features Ayanna Nicole Thomas (Rose Granger-Weasley) and Rachel Christopher (Hermoine Granger).

"Hell's Kitchen" playing at the Shubert Theatre features Alicia Keys songs and is a loosely based autobiographical story on her life growing up in Hell's Kitchen. The musical stars Amanda Reid (Ali) and features Christopher Jackson (Davis); Phillip Johnson Richardson (Knuck); Jackie Leon (Jessica); Vanessa Ferguson (Tiny); Rema Webb (Crystal); Chad Carstarphen (Ray); Lamont Walker II (Riq); and Jakeim Hart (Q).

"Just In Time" playing at Circle In The Square Theatre is about the life of singer Bobby Darin. It features Lance Roberts (Ahmet Kirshner).

"Liberation" playing at James Earl Jones The-

atre tells a story about the Women's Movement in this country in the 1970s, focusing on a small women's group, it is very relevant with what women are going through today. The story is poignant and based on real people. It features Kristolyn Lloyd (Celeste) and Kayla Davion (Joanne).

"The Lion King" playing at the Minskoff Theatre, is the beloved Disney musical that brings the movie version of the same name to glorious life with lifestyle puppets, a captivating storyline, powerful, meaningful songs, and it will help one to appreciate the circle of life. It stars L. Steven Taylor (Mufasa); Sidney Nicole Wilson (Sarabi); Vincent Jamal Hooper (Simba); Pearl Khwezi (Nala); Albert Rhodes Jr. (Young Simba); and Bonita Hamilton (Shenzi).

"MJ The Musical" playing at the Neil Simon Theatre, tells the story of Michael Jackson's life and features 25 of his biggest hits. The cast stars Matte Martinez (MJ) and features Tavon Olds-Sample (Michael); Apollo Levine

(Rob/Joseph Jackson); Sasha Allen (Katherine Jackson); Christopher Sean Cooper Jr. and Emjay Roa alternate as Little Michael; Julius Raymond Weems IV (Little Marlon); Matthew Frederick Harris (Tito Jackson/Quincy Jones); Antoine L. Smith (Berry Gordy/Nick); Lloyd A. Boyd III (Randy Jackson); John Edwards (Jackie Jackson); Nick T. Daly (Jermaine Jackson); and Zachary Downer (Marlon Jackson).

"Mamma Mia!" will begin performances on August 2 at the Winter Garden Theatre and will feature the marvelous music of ABBA. It will feature Jalynn Steele (Tanya).

"Moulin Rouge" is playing at the Al Hirschfeld Theatre. As Bohemians and Aristocrats mingle, this musical is a celebration of truth, beauty, freedom, and love. It features Wayne Brady (Harold Zidler); Andre Ward (Toulouse-Lautrec); Taye Digg (The Duke of Monroth), Rayven Bailey (Arabia) and Donnie Hammond (La Chocolat).

"The Outsiders" playing at the Jacobs Theatre is a

musical that tells a story of the haves and the have nots, as the poor and rich kids battle. It stars Alex Joseph Grayson (Dallas Winston); and features Sky Lakota-Lynch (Johnny Cade); Tilly Evan-Krueger (Ace); and Renni Anthony Magee (Steve).

"Ragtime" playing at Lincoln Center's Vivian Beaumont Theater tells the incredibly musical story of three families going after the American Dream, it shows racism against Blacks and prejudice against immigrants in this country and features a brilliant Black cast including Joshua Henry (Coalhouse Walker Jr.); Nichelle Lewis (Sarah); John Clay III (Booker T. Washington); and Kaleb Johnson and Kane Emmanuel (Coalhouse Walker III).

"Six" is playing at the Brooks Atkinson Theatre. A British pop musical, it goes into the lives of the six ex-wives of King Henry VIII. The cast features Najah Hetsberger (Catherine of Aragon) and Taylor Marie Daniel (Catherine Parr).

"Stranger Things: The First Shadow" playing at the Marquis Theatre is based on the Netflix tv show, the story captivates on Broadway. The production features Gabrielle Nevaeh (Patty Newby) and Ayana Cymone (Sue Anderson).

"Wicked" playing at the Gershwin Theatre tells the story of the wicked witch and Glinda in a way you have never heard before and will not soon forget. It stars Lencia Kebede (Elphaba), the first time a Black actress has done this role and Natasha Yvette Williams (Madame Morrible).

There is nothing more inspiring to me, than to see



"The Lion King"

our people doing what they were born to do on that stage and giving their whole hearts to it. It's incredibly to know how much more their hearts are filled when they look in the audience and see us looking back at them. Support our people who are blessing us with intense, creativity and phenomenal performances. See you at the theater.



"Death Becomes Her" (photo by Matthew Murphy)



"The Outsider"



"Wicked"

Blacks on Broadway 2025

& Juliet



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Cheryl Porter



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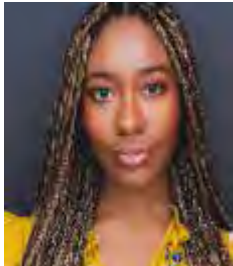
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Caleb B. Barnett



Dennis Stowe



Jaz Sealy

Aladdin



JC Montgomery



Keely Beirne.



Marcus M. Martin



Michael James Scott

Bettlejuice



Madison Mosley

Book of Mormon



Ashley Jenkins



Brett Michael Lockley



C.K. Edwards



Darius Nichols



Derrick Williams



Garfield Hammonds



Jacques C. Smith



Jamard Richardson



Jevares Myrick



John Eric Parker



Kristen Jeter



Racquel Williams.



Randy Aaron



Rosharra Francis.



Sydney Qildon



Teralin Elise Jones



Terrie Lynne

Buena Vista



Andrew Montgomery Coleman



Angelica Beliard



Anthony Santo



Ashley De La Rosa



Chris Myers



Da'Von T. Moody



Isa Antonetti



Jainardo Batista Sterling



Julio Monge



Leonardo Reyna's

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# Blacks on Broadway 2025

**Buena Vista**



Mel Seme



Natalie Venetia Belcon



Ricardo Zayas



Sophia Ramos

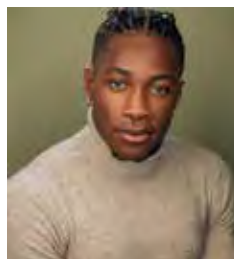


Wesley Wray

**Chess**



Aliah James



Michael Olaribigbe



Nicholas Christopher

**Chess**



Ramone Nelson



Shavey Brown

**Chicago**



Angela Grovey



Arian Keddell



Celia Nightengale



James T. Lane



Sean Samuels



Sharon Moore

**DEATH BECOMES HER**



Johanna Moise



Marija Abney



Michelle Williams



Sarita Colon



Sir Brock Warren



Taurean Everett



Ximone Rose

**The Great Gatsby**



Aisha Jackson



Curtis Holland



Mariah Reeves



Runako Campbell



Tracie Elaine Lee

**Hadestown**



Alex Lugo



Brandon Cameron



Jeffrey Cornelius



Marie Louissaint



Malcolm Armwood



Max Kumangai



Morgan Dudley



Rebecca Naomi Jones

**Hamilton**



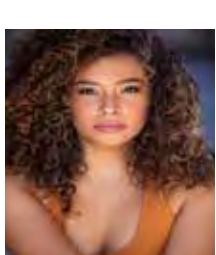
Adam Ali-Perez



Ashley Merritt



Bryson Bruce



Cherry Torres



Chloe Campbell



Colby Lewis



Daniel Gaymon



Dahron Jones



Jonathan Butler-Duplessis



Leslie Odom Jr.



Morgan Anita Wood.



Shonica Gooden

Blacks on Broadway 2025

Hamilton



Tamar Greene



Trey Curtis

Harry Potter



Alexandra Peter



Ayanna Nicole Thomas



Chadd Alexander



Chance Marshaun Hill



Eleasha Gamble



Gabrielle Reid



Gary-Kayi Fletcher



Janae Hammond



Jay Mack



Julius Williams



Khadija Tariyan.



Kira Player



Rachel Christopher

Hell's Kitchen



Aaron Nicholas Patterson



Amanda Reid



Benjamin H. Moore



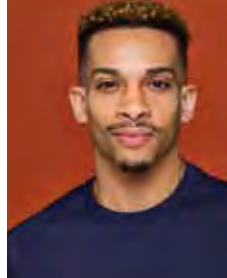
Chad Carstarphen



Christopher Jackson



Eric Parra



Gabriel Hyman



Jackie Leon



Jakeim Hart



Keenan D. Washington



Lamont Walker II



Lindsey Jolyn Jackson



Maggy van den Heuvel



Miki Michelle



Onyxx Noel



Oscar Whitney Jr



Phillip Johnson Richardson



Reid Clarke



Takia Hopson



Vanessa Ferguson



William Roberson

Just In Time



Khorl Petinaud



Lance Roberts

Lion King



Amanda Kunene



Andrew Arrington



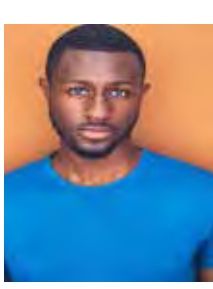
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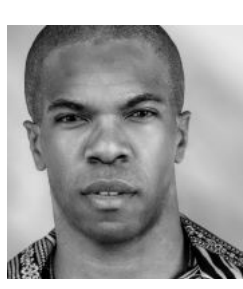
Bongli Duma



Bonita J. Hamilton



Cameron Amandus Jones



Christopher L. McKenzie Jr



Daniel Harder



Daphne Marcelle



Dylan Santos

HARLEM COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

# Blacks on Broadway 2025

Lion King



Jacqueline Rene'



Jamaris Mitchell



James Vessell



Jaysin McCollum



Julius-Raymond Weems IV



Kyle Lamar Mitchell



L. Steven Taylor



Lindiwe Dlamini



McKenzie Sherie Lewis



Nteliseng Nkhela



Paige Fraser-Hoffman



Pearl Khwezi



Phylicia Pearl Mpasi



Ray Mercer



Shawn Alynda Fisher



Sidney Nicole Wilson



Tshidi-Manye



Zaki A'Jani Marshall



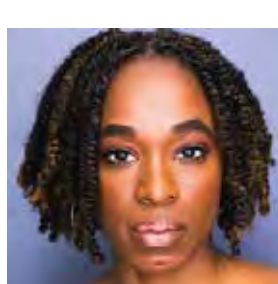
Zinhle Dube



Kayla Davion



Kedren A. Spencer



Kristolyn Lloyd



Adia Olanethia Be



Andea Michelle Sessoms



Andre Ward



Bahiyah Hibah



Brooke Taylor



Donnie Hammond



Frank Viveros



George Vickers



Hailee Kaleem Wright



Janaye McAlpine



Jalynn Steele



Jasmine Overbaugh



Kamal Lado



Nico DiPrimio



Patrick Clanton



Rayven Bailey



Ricardo A. Zayas



Antoine L. Smith



Apollo Levine

Brett Gray  
(photo missing)

Brett Gray



Blu Allen



Chelsea Mitchell-Bonsu



Christopher Sean



Dasia Amos



Emjay Roa

MJ The Musical

Mamma Mia!

Liberation

Blacks on Broadway 2025

MJ The Musical



John Edwards



Joshua Kenneth Allen



Julius-Raymond Weems IV



Kyle DuPree



Lincoln Alejandro



Lloyd A. Boyd III



Matte Martinez



Matthew Frederick Harris



Michael Andreaus



Michael Harmon



Nick T. Daly



Nyla Sostre



Sage Lee



Sarah Sigman



Sasha Allen



Tavon Olds-Sample



Tre Frazier

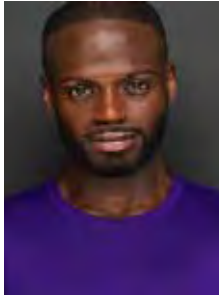


Tyrone Reese



Zachary Downer

MOULIN ROUGE



Shaun-Avery Williams



Tamrin Goldberg



Taye Diggs



Wayne Brady

Outsiders



Alex Joseph Grayson



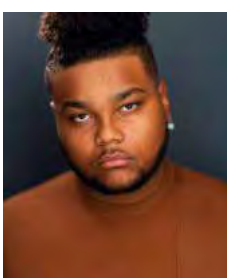
Andre Malcolm



Cameron Burke



Renni Anthony Magee



SeQuoia



Sky Lakota-Lynch



Tilly Evans-Krueger

Ragtime



Alan Wiggins



Allison Blackwell



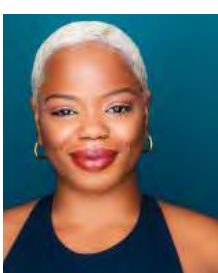
David Jennings



Deandre Sevon



Eean Sherrod Cochran



Jenny Mollet



John Clay III



Jordan Chin.



Joshua Henry



Kaleb Johnson



Kane Emmanuel



Kayla Pecchioni



Kent Overshown



Nichelle Lewis



Rheaume Crenshaw



Ta'Nika Gibson

SIX



Alyana Smash

Blacks on Broadway 2025

Six



Najah Hetsberger



Ayana Cymone

Stranger Things



Gabrielle Nevaeh



Malcolm Callender



Maya West



Robert T. Cunningham



Sean Mikesh



Ta'Rea Campbell

Wicked



Cajai Kennedy



Dashi Mitchell



Matthew Deloch.



Michael Williams



Lencia Kebede



Natasha Yvette



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# Theater Listings

Go to: [www.harlemcommunitynews.com](http://www.harlemcommunitynews.com)

**“& Juliet” Stephen  
Sondheim Theatre**  
124 W 43rd St.

**“Aladdin”**  
New Amsterdam Theatre  
B’way & 42nd St.

**“Beetlejuice”**  
Palace Theatre  
1564 Broadway

**“The Book of Mormon”**  
Eugene O’Neill Theatre  
230 W 49th St.

**“Buena Vista Social Club”**  
Schoenfeld Theatre  
236 W 45th St.

**“Chess”** (previews begin  
opens Nov. 16, 2025  
Imperial Theatre  
249 W 45th St.

**“Chicago”**  
Ambassador Theatre  
219 W 49th St.

**“Death Becomes Her”**  
The Lunt Fontanne Theatre  
205 W 46th Street

**“The Great Gatsby”**  
The Broadway Theatre  
53rd St. and Broadway

**“Hadestown”**  
Walter Kerr Theatre  
219 W 48th St.

**“Hamilton”**  
Richard Rodgers Theatre  
226 W 46th St.

**“Harry Potter and the  
Cursed Child”**  
Lyric Theatre  
214 W 43rd St.

**“Hell’s Kitchen”**  
Shubert Theatre  
225 W 44th St.

**“Just In Time”**  
Circle In The Square  
235 W 50th St.

**“Liberation”**  
James Earl Jones Theatr  
138 W 48th St.

**“The Lion King”**  
Minskoff Theatre  
Broadway and 45th St.

**“MJ The Musical”**  
Neil Simon Theatre  
250 W 52nd St.

**“Mamma Mia!”**  
The Winter Garden Theatre  
1634 Broadway

**“Moulin Rouge”**  
Al Hirschfeld Theatre  
302 W 45th St.

**“The Outsiders”**  
Jacobs Theatre  
242 W 45th St.

**“Ragtime”**  
Vivian Beaumont  
Theatre, Lincoln Center  
150 W 65th St.

**“Six”**  
Brooks Atkinson Theatre  
256 W 47th St.

**“Stranger Things:  
The First Shadow”**  
Marquis Theatre  
210 W 46th St.

**“Wicked”**  
Gershwin Theatre  
222 W 51st St.



“Harry Potter and the Cursed Child”



“Mama Mia”

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MUST-SEE.”**

The New York Times

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“A MARVEL!”

the guardian

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PHOTO BY MARC J. FRANKLIN

# Annual Studio Museum in Harlem Gala Celebrates Fall 2025 Opening of its New Building

On Monday, October 27, leaders of the Studio Museum in Harlem welcomed more than seven hundred and fifty artists, cultural luminaries, civic leaders, philanthropists, and a host of prominent New Yorkers to the Museum's annual Gala, held at The Glasshouse (660 12th Avenue, New York). In anticipation of the Museum's public opening of its new home on 125th Street in Harlem on November 15, the annual event celebrated the Museum's past, present, and future, and honored long-time Trustees Gordon J. Davis, Sandra Grymes, Arthur J. Humphrey Jr., George L. Knox, and the late Nancy L. Lane, who have collectively given two hundred and nineteen years of service to the Museum's Board of Trustees.

Thelma Golden, Director and Chief Curator, said, "For almost sixty years, the Studio Museum in Harlem has been a champion of artists of African descent. Tonight, it stands on the threshold of its future, just days away from opening a new home; the Museum's first ever purpose-built space. We have reached this moment thanks to, and inspired by, all of you who are here, and so many who have come before us."

Golden greeted the guests and presented the annual Joyce Alexander Wein Artist Prize to Kenturah Davis.

Raymond J. McGuire, Chairman of the Board, said, "Tonight, let's remember: this isn't just about bricks and mortar, it's about legacy and light. The Studio Museum has never simply reflected the times; it has helped shape them. And as we open our doors in a few weeks, we will do so with the same conviction that guided our founders in 1968: with faith in art, and faith in community."

The Gala's Lead Corporate Sponsor was Lafayette Square.

Attendees included notable figures such as Mara Brock Akil, Commissioner of Cultural Affairs for New York City, Laurie A. Cumbo, Maurice DuBois, Jay Ellis, Jon Gray, Spike Lee and Tonya Lewis Lee, Usher Raymond, and Colson Whitehead.

Arts patrons, philanthropists, and luminaries included Dr. Elizabeth Alexander, President, Mellon Foundation; Linda Goode Bryant, Founder, Project EATS; Connie Butler, Director, MoMA PS1; Stuart Comer, Chief Curator of Media and Performance Art, The Museum of Modern Art; Adrienne Edwards, Senior Curator and Associate Director of Curatorial Programs, Whitney Museum of American Art; Anna Glass, CEO, Dance Theatre of Harlem; Ebony L. Haynes, Global Head of Curatorial Projects, David Zwirner; Sandra Jackson-Dumont, Cu-

rator and Educator; Christine Y. Kim, Britton Family Curator-at-Large, Tate T. Lax, Curator, The Museum of Modern Art; Sade Lythcott, CEO, National Black Theatre; Courtney J. Martin, Executive Director, Robert Rauschenberg Foundation; Scott Rothkopf, Director, Whitney Museum of American Art; Legacy Russell, Executive Director and Chief Curator, The Kitchen; Antwaun Sargent, Director, Gagosian; Jack Shainman, Founder, Jack Shainman Gallery; Franklin Sirmans, Director, Pérez Art Museum Miami.

Artists included Nina Chanel Abney, Derrick Adams, Dawoud Bey, Sanford Biggers, Jordan Casteel, Karon Davis, Kenturah Davis, Derek Fordjour, Genevieve Gaignard, Cy Gavin, Chase Hall, Hugh Hayden, Rashid Johnson, Deana Lawson, Simone Leigh, Glenn Ligon, Tyler Mitchell, Naudline Pierre, Tschabalala Self, Gary Simmons, Lorna Simpson, Mickalene Thomas, Carrie Mae Weems, Cosmo Whyte, Amanda Williams, and Hank Willis Thomas.

Studio Museum Trustees included Raymond J. McGuire, Kathryn C. Chenault, Damien R. Dwin, Carol Sutton Lewis, Rodney M. Miller, Jacqueline L. Bradley, Nicholas Antoine, Laura Day Baker, Dr. Anita Blanchard, Peter A. Boyce II, Joan S. Davidson, Sandra Grymes, Natasha A.

Holiday, Russell Hutchinson, Bernard I. Lumpkin, Dr. Amelia Ogunlesi, Holly Peterson, Victoria Rogers, Troy D. Taylor, Ann G. Tenenbaum, Reginald Van Lee, Lise Wilks, and Danielle Cooper Williams.

The Joyce Alexander Wein Artist Prize, one of the most significant awards given to individual artists in the United States today, was established in 2006 by jazz impresario, musician and philanthropist George Wein to honor his late wife, Joyce Alexander (1928–2005), a long-time Trustee of the Studio Museum and a woman whose life embodied a commitment to the power and possibilities of art and culture. Presented each year at the Studio Museum's fall Gala, the award recognizes and honors the artistic achievements of an African American artist who demonstrates great innovation, promise, and creativity. Past winners include Derrick Adams, Diedrick Brackens, Njideka Akunyili Crosby, Leonardo Drew, Torkwase Dyson, Samuel Levi Jones, Cy Gavin, Trenton Doyle Hancock, Leslie Hewitt, Jennie C. Jones, Caroline Kent, Simone Leigh, Glenn Ligon, Toyin Ojih Odutola, Robert Pruitt, Nadine Robinson, Gary Simmons, Lorna Simpson, and Cauleen Smith.

Kenturah Davis is an artist working between Los Angeles and Accra (Ghana). Deeply



Kathryn Chenault, Carol Sutton Lewis, Thelma Golden, Damien Dwin, Raymond McGuire

concerned with the intricacies of Black life, her work oscillates between various facets of portraiture and design. Using text as a point of departure, she explores the fundamental role that language has in shaping how we understand ourselves and the world around us. This manifests in a variety of forms including drawings, textiles, sculpture, and performances. Her work has been included in institutional exhibitions in Africa, Asia, Australia and Europe. Davis earned her BA from Occidental College and MFA Yale University School of Art. Davis was commissioned by LA Metro to create large-scale, site-specific works permanently installed on the new Crenshaw/LAX rail line. Davis was an inaugural artist fellow at NXTHVN in New Haven, CT.

The Studio Museum in Harlem is internationally known for its catalytic role in promoting the work of artists of African descent. The Studio Museum is preparing to open its new home at its long-time location on West 125th Street. Designed by Adjaye Associates with executive architect Cooper Robertson, the building—the first created expressly for the institution's program—will enable the Studio Museum to better serve a growing and diverse audience, provide additional educational opportunities for people of all ages, expand its program of world-renowned exhibitions, effectively display its singular collection, and strengthen its trailblazing Artist-in-Residence program.



Tonya Lewis Lee and Spike Lee



Elizabeth Alexander



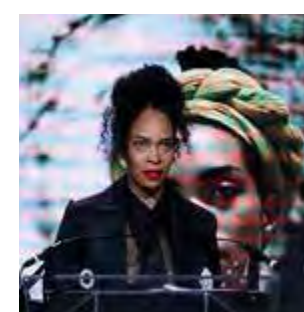
Hannah Bronfman



Usher



Tyler Mitchell and Jordan Casteel



Kenturah Davis

# Lehman Center Presents Deborah Cox, Estelle & Vivian Green (Ladies Night)



**L**ehman Center for the Performing Arts celebrating the 45th Anniversary is proud to present DEBORAH COX, ESTELLE, & VIVIAN GREEN LADIES NIGHT on Saturday, November 29, 2025 at 8:00 pm. Deborah Cox, Estelle, and Vivian Green will showcase powerhouse vocals that celebrate the very best of contemporary and classic R&B.

Lehman Center for the Performing Arts is on the campus of Lehman College/CUNY at 250 Bedford Park Boulevard West, Bronx, NY 10468. Tickets for DEBORAH COX, ESTELLE, & VIVIAN GREEN LADIES NIGHT on November 29,

2025 at 8pm (VIP \$115, \$85, \$65, \$40, \$35) can be purchased by calling the Lehman Center box office at 718-960-8833 (Monday through Friday, 10am–5pm, and beginning at 4pm on the day of the concert), or through online access at <https://www.lehmancenter.org/events/ladies-night>. Lehman Center is accessible by #4 or D train to Bedford Park Blvd. and is off the Saw Mill River Parkway and the Major Deegan Expressway.

Lehman Center for the Performing Arts, Inc. is supported, in part, by public funds through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the New York City Coun-

cil and the Bronx Delegation. Additional funding is provided by the New York State Council on the Arts with support from the office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature. We are thrilled to share that Goya Foods has agreed to renew their sponsorship for this season which will help Lehman Center expand our reach to the community. In addition we have secured funding from the Howard Gillman foundation to help grow our programming. The 2025 season is also made possible through sponsorships by Con Edison, Havana Café, Friends of Lehman Center, and our cherished audience members.

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# The Walls Remember: Murals and the Unyielding Story of Black America

By Stacy M. Brown, Black Press USA

You can try to bury people. You can rewrite their history books, close their schools, and burn their libraries. You can pass laws that punish truth-tellers and silence teachers who dare speak the name of freedom. But you cannot silence color. You cannot silence the wall. Across this country, in cities both proud and scarred, the story of Black America refuses to die. It is written not in the ink of permission, but in the paint of defiance. It rises on concrete, brick, and steel. The murals speak where the history books fall silent.

Philadelphia, the so-called birthplace of America, has become a vast open-

air scripture of the Black experience. On its walls, the dead rise again, the forgotten are called by name, and the children of this century inherit the truth their nation keeps trying to erase. Mural Arts Philadelphia has filled the city with living testimony. The Colored Conventions: A Buried History calls back the men and women who, long before Emancipation, gathered to demand that their humanity be recognized. The Legacy of Bishop Richard Allen reminds every passerby that resistance can begin with a single step away from the back of a segregated church.

Across Germantown Avenue, Harriet Tubman &

the Underground Railroad stands as both memory and prophecy. Nearby, Octavius Catto returns through Remembering a Forgotten Hero, his face no longer hidden in the shadows of history. And then there is Dr. J, the mural of Julius Erving not as an athlete but as a man—a man of dignity, intellect, and command. These walls do not whisper; they roar. In Baltimore, the city holds a long lineage of African American creativity, from the classrooms of Morgan State University to the heart of the Black Arts District along Pennsylvania Avenue. The murals of Ernest Shaw tower above streets once broken by ne-

glect, affirming that art can be armor and prayer all at once.

Baltimore's artists work in the spirit of survival. They know that the paintbrush, in the hands of the oppressed, becomes a weapon sharper than any blade. Their colors speak to a people long told to be invisible, declaring instead, We are still here. Out west, Los Angeles wears its resistance across miles of concrete. Its murals were born in the heat of rebellion and the ache of inequality. The artists of SPARC, the Social and Public Art Resource Center, took what was once the language of graffiti and turned it into gospel.

Charles "Boko" Freeman's Return to the Light reflects a hunger for justice, while Noni Olabisi's To Protect and Serve lays bare the truth of state violence. City officials tried to silence her, but her work still stares down the same forces she painted against. Alice Patrick's Women Do Get Weary But They Don't Give Up honors the women who built the bones of America: Mary McLeod Bethune, Dorothy Height, Josephine Baker, and Oprah Winfrey. Women who carried nations on their backs and never complained of the weight. These murals are not decorations. They are sermons painted in public view, declaring that beauty without justice is a lie.

In Topeka, Kansas, across from the sacred ground of Brown v. Board of Education, a mural calls the people to remember the battle that opened the schoolhouse doors. In Birmingham, Alabama, the



colors stretch across old segregation lines, transforming the streets of suffering into streets of pride. In Jacksonville, Florida, the likenesses of A. Philip Randolph, Zora Neale Hurston, and James Weldon Johnson speak to the city's long lineage of brilliance. These are not mere portraits; they are warnings and promises painted on brick. At St. Louis Lambert International Airport, a mural spans 51 feet of history. Black Americans in Flight tells of men and women who defied both gravity and hatred. Created by Spencer Taylor and Solomon Thurman, it chronicles the Tuskegee Airmen, astronaut Mae Jemison, and Ronald McNair, who perished in the Challenger explosion but are not remembered. Every panel sings of ascent. It is a mural that tells every traveler what America owes to those who lifted her higher than she deserved to go.

Even in the seat of power, where politics tries to silence the soul, the walls still speak. At The Wharf, artist Shawn Perkins painted portraits of Benjamin Banneker, Marvin Gaye, and Reverend Anthony Bowen, each one a local monument to a greater story. Just

blocks away, the "Black Lives Matter" mural once stretched across the pavement like a hymn of protest, bright yellow and unyielding. Before Mayor Muriel Bowser was forced to capitulate to Donald Trump and remove the plaza, it pointed straight toward the White House as if to remind those inside: This nation was built by hands it tried to chain. Before any of these murals, there was Aaron Douglas. In 1934, his series Aspects of Negro Life told the story from the shores of Africa through the slave ships and into the modern city. His art carried the weight of memory and the hope of deliverance. Douglas painted the very thing this country still refuses to see: that Black life is America's most enduring masterpiece.

The murals that cover this nation are not ornaments. They are testaments. They are the faces of ancestors who will not fade. Each brushstroke defies the lie that our story can be rewritten. Each color insists that our memory cannot be outlawed. Black history is not a month. It is not a chapter. It is a mural that stretches across the American conscience, daring anyone to paint over it.

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like success,  
is not a destination  
but a continuous  
journey"*

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## Balance Your Left and Right Brain with Tools That Inspire Learning

(StatePoint)

Whether you're still a student or long past your school years, making learning a hobby outside the classroom can keep you sharp, particularly if you pair activities that involve logic, analysis and facts with those that involve creativity, imagination and intuition. Here are some great tools to inspire you in your educational journey and balance your left brain and right brain:

**Discovering the Joy of Music:** When it comes to immersing yourself in the world of music, there is no more fundamental place to start than the keyboard. The Casiotone CT-S1 is a stylish, ultra-portable keyboard suited for musicians and composers of all levels.

Its incredible sound quality and 61 full-size keys with touch response make it an ideal musical partner for beginners and seasoned players alike, and its sleek, portable design, strap pins and optional battery operation make it fun to play anywhere. If you're a total beginner, connect your keyboard to the free Casio Music Space app, which acts as a digital musical score, music teacher and live performance simulator to help you gain skills fast.

**Fostering a Love of Books:** Assigned reading and independent reading alike are always easier and more enjoyable when you have a huge library at your fingertips. Thankfully, today's ereaders are better than ever – they're waterproof, feature color displays

ideal for absorbing everything from graphic novels to illustrated textbooks, and have extensive note-taking capabilities.

**Mastering Math:** Designed to enhance learning and exploration, the fx-CG100 ClassWiz Color Graph is a cutting-edge handheld calculator with an intuitive, high-contrast user interface. An optional Exam Mode makes it a smart choice for students with upcoming standardized tests. However, with its MicroPython programming capabilities and its robust catalog of mathematical functions, including basic and statistics functions, graphing capabilities and more, it's really a tool for anyone interested in continued STEAM learning.

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sions: Whether your interest is in the performing arts, creative writing, cooking, entrepreneurship or history, there's a course that will fascinate you on MasterClass, a subscription-based service that offers hundreds of courses taught by re-

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# Harlem Cheers on 55,000 Runners During Sunday's Marathon

Photos by Nadezda Tavodova Tezgor

On Sunday, November 2, the streets of Harlem came alive with energy, encouragement, and community spirit as 55,000 runners surged through the neighborhood during the annual marathon. The event, which drew participants from around the globe, transformed Harlem into a vibrant corridor of motion and motivation.

As runners made their way through the historic neighborhood, they were met with an outpouring of support from local residents. Well-wishers

lined the sidewalks, waving signs, clapping, and offering words of encouragement. Many stood ready with cups of water, handing them to grateful athletes who paused briefly to hydrate before continuing their journey.

The Harlem stretch of the marathon is known for its electric atmosphere, and this year was no exception. Local musicians played upbeat tunes, church groups sang gospel hymns, and families cheered from stoops and storefronts. The sense of unity was palpable, with spectators



and runners alike sharing smiles and high-fives.

For many participants, Harlem represented a pivotal moment in the race — a place where fatigue met inspiration. “The energy here is unreal,” said one runner

from Brazil. “It’s like the whole neighborhood is running with you.”

Volunteers played a crucial role in keeping spirits high and bodies fueled. From handing out water and snacks to offering first aid and

directions, their presence ensured a smooth experience for all.

As the sun set on Sunday’s marathon, Harlem stood proud — not just as a passage on the race route, but as a beacon of community, re-

silience, and joy. The cheers may have faded, but the memories made on those streets will carry runners forward for miles to come.



## EVENTS

## HARLEM COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

# The Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce Welcomes Marathon Runners to Harlem

By Hazel Rosetta Smith (Photos by Seitu Oronde)

The temperature was appropriate, the winds had ceased, and the runners were soaring throughout the five boroughs of New York. It was the annual marathon of committed citizens fulfilling their hope of completing the 26.2 miles from the starting line on Staten Island to the finish line in Central Park.

The Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce (GHCC) continued their annual partnership with New York Road Runners in welcoming the international community of marathon athletes and advocates along blocks from 135<sup>th</sup> Street down to 96<sup>th</sup> Street on Fifth Avenue.

This portion of the marathon is named to honor

the iconic civic rights leader and businessman Percy Sutton who was instrumental in establishing the TCS New York City Marathon as a five-borough event.

On Marathon Sunday, November 2, 2025, the Greater Harlem Chamber operated four spectacular stages: Stage 1 at East 135<sup>th</sup> Street & Fifth Avenue - Gospel & Spiritual Live Performances, saluting the music of Hezekiah Walker & Erica Campbell; Stage 2 at East 135<sup>th</sup> Street & Fifth Avenue featured the Best of R&B and Hip Hop, saluting the music of Busta Rhymes & Angie Stone; Stage 3 featured The Sound of Harlem at West 121<sup>st</sup> Street & Mt. Morris Park West, celebrating the music of Quincy Jones & Roberta

Flack, and Stage 4 - Latin & Caribbean-The Beat of the African Diaspora at West 117<sup>th</sup> Street & Fifth Avenue, saluting the music of Eddie Palmieri and Rita Marley.

From my advantage, the tent located at 124<sup>th</sup> Street & Fifth Avenue, where the runners made a historic 22-mile marker turn, the music was popping from the sensational sounds of Uptown Royalty NYC's husband and wife team, Jodi Music and Ron Renaissance, artists of Lewis and Kirk Music.

Winston Majette of GHCC was on point in his usual welcoming spirit introducing notables who stopped by that included: City Councilmember Yusef Salaam, Assemblyman Jordan Wright, Jackie Rowe

Adams of Harlem Mothers & Fathers S.A.V.E., and others.

It was another great day to be in Harlem, to cheer on the runners, to laugh and enjoy the company of community and to thank the Greater Chamber of Harlem for their ongoing community outreach and service.

Our hearts were sadden remembering the recent passing of Lloyd Williams, the Chamber's longtime, most admirable leader, but our hope was confirmed on this day that his good work was not in vain, GHCC is alive and well. Touche.



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## Harlem Women of Faith and Franciscan Nuns Honored at 10th Annual Trailblazers and Unsung She-Roes Awards

On a glittering evening at Marina del Rey on New York's Bronx waterfront, Harlem's legacy of faith, leadership, and community care took center stage at the 10th Annual Trailblazers and Unsung She-Roes Awards International. The prestigious event, founded by Harlem's own Rev. Dr. Ambassador Suzan Johnson Cook (Ambassador Sujay), celebrated a decade of honoring extraordinary women who uplift their communities through service, spirit, and strength.

This year's theme, "Champions Who Care for Our Communities," resonated deeply as 30 Black and Latina women were recognized for their trail-

blazing contributions. In partnership with Pastor Brian Scott of UBC of Harlem, The R.E.A.L. Black Women in Ministry Thrive Initiative—funded by the Lilly Endowment—and co-sponsored by Women on the Worldstage (W.O.W.), the evening brought together over 300 faith, political, and community leaders from around the globe.

Among the honorees were seven remarkable Harlem women of faith whose lives exemplify resilience and devotion. Mercedes Nesfield, a 92-year-old pillar of the community, was celebrated for her enduring legacy. Eleanor "Ms. Ellie" Kennedy, mother of Judge Tanya Kennedy and bereavement specialist at Isaiah Owens

Funeral Home, was honored for her compassionate service. Mothers Mary Sweeting and Deaconess Byrd, matriarchs of judicial and pastoral excellence, were recognized for nurturing generations of leaders. Rev. Caura Washington, Faith Liaison for Governor Kathy Hochul and daughter of Rev. Carl Washington, and Rev. Ruth McDaniels, known for her tireless prison outreach ministry, rounded out the group of Harlem's spiritual luminaries.

Also honored were the Franciscan Nuns Handmaids of Mary Pure Heart, whose quiet but powerful ministry has touched countless lives. Their recognition underscored the event's commitment to

celebrating both visible and behind-the-scenes champions of faith and service.

The international scope of the evening added to its grandeur. From Dublin, Ireland, Councillor Yemi Ade-nuga—the first Black woman elected to public office in Ireland—graced the stage. Elder Vernita Josey, the first Bahamian elected as President of the International Ministers Wives & Widows Association, brought Caribbean pride and inspiration.

The black-tie affair was a dazzling celebration of elegance and empowerment. Guests were treated to heartfelt tributes, stirring performances, and moments of reflection that highlighted the enduring impact of women who lead



with love and purpose. Harlem's presence was palpable, with its rich history and vibrant spirit infusing every moment of the evening.

As the awards ceremony marked its 10th anniversary, it reaffirmed its mission: to shine a light on the unsung heroines whose faith

and fortitude transform communities. With Harlem in the house and the world watching, the Trailblazers and Unsung She-Roes Awards International continues to be a beacon of hope, honor, and healing.



Ambassador Suzan Johnson Cook with Franciscan Handmaids of Mary Pure of Heart

right photo:  
Ms. Eleanor Kennedy  
and TK  
with Dr. Sujay



Gala Trophy

right photo:  
Rev. Malcolm Byrd,  
Mother Byrd and Dr. Sujay



# Holiday Budgeting 101: Financial Advisors Share Their Top Tips

(StatePoint)  
**H**oliday season expenses are a given, but with a bit of planning and effort, you can easily include them in your budget. However, amid inflation, you may have concerns about balancing a merry holiday season with good money management.

**CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER®** professionals are sharing their top tips for keeping finances intact throughout the season.

**Prioritize expenses:** Examine your winter budget and see how much extra you have left for holiday-specific spending (e.g., gifts, decorations, hosting and travel). A financial ad-

visor can help you adjust for these additional expenses, as well as fit a holiday budget into your long-term plans.

Remember, it's important to keep your expectations flexible so that if you overspend in one area, you can reduce spending elsewhere. For example, if seeing family is a priority but visiting involves pricey airfare, consider suggesting a Secret Santa so that everyone is responsible for buying just one gift. Or, if you want to bring loved ones together to celebrate but need to trim expenses, consider hosting a potluck. Your guests might love a chance to contribute their favorite dish.

**Find deals:** Lever-

age technology tools to find deals when online shopping. Consider using a browser extension to automatically test coupon codes and ensure you have the lowest price possible or to learn when the price of an item has dropped.

**Practice self-care:** Give yourself the gift of a stress-free season by setting spending boundaries. This means being guided by your intentions, not peer pressure, when it comes to gift-giving, charitable giving and other areas where spending can become competitive.

**Plan for next year:** Get a head start on next year's festivities by setting aside a little money from each paycheck



into a high-yield savings account, starting now. Make this an annual habit to help ensure each holiday season can be enjoyed comfortably and to the fullest.

For help examining income and expenses during the holiday season, visit [LetsMakeAPlan.org](https://www.LetsMakeAPlan.org) to find a CFP® professional near you.

It takes planning and care to have a financially healthy holiday season, but entering 2026 without additional debt will make it well worth the effort.

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Urbanology: The Green Book



By William A. Rogers

In 1936 a Harlemit Victor Hugo Green published a pamphlet called The Negro Travelers Green Book. Green was an African American postal worker who realized that resulting from the widespread use of car travel large numbers of African Americans were on the road many traveling from the South to a better

life in the North.

Green also understood that this was the height of Jim Crow laws and many rest stops, dinners, motels and stores were white only and some were unfriendly. There were even some areas that were dangerous for African Americans to pass through, especially during the night.

The Green book as it was often called was created by Victor Hugo Green to provide travelers of color with locations where they could find food, fuel and lodging in a safe environment. The Green book also identified a wide range of hospitable amenities and services available along their routes.

After his death on October 16<sup>th</sup>, 1960, Green's wife Alma S. Duke continued to

publish and edit the book until 1966. It was a wonderful travel guide for people of color through out the United States with a major focus for motorist traveling from the South to Harlem, Green's famous community.

Arthur, historian, journalist and Creative Residence, for The Harlem Tourism Board, Regi Taylor, is currently working on a project in honor of Harlemit Victor Hugo Green's famous travel guide, for The Harlem Tourism Board. It will be called the Green Apple Guide.

Regi Taylor introduced research that showed that Harlem was historically the true Birthplace of the Big Apple nickname. The Green Apple Guide will be another marketing campaign not only for tourists but for the

over 6,000.00 people in the Greater Harlem Area, the City Within the City.

Harlem has many stories that reflect the many experiences of living and working in the most famous Urban Community in the world. The Green Apple web letter will tell many of those stories. Like the Green Book, travelers will learn about the best places to shop, eat, lodge and where to find other hospitable amenities and services from Harlemites living and working in the four Manhattan Community Boards {9,10.11.12}

The Green Apple Guide will provide little known facts about the people and places in the Greater Harlem area. There is a great restaurant in Washington Heights that someone in West Harlem would visit if

there was more information about the restaurant's history, best way to get there and a trusted recommendation.

The Guide can be an economic development tool to guide tourists to tourism related businesses in the Greater Harlem area as well as the residents in this City Within a City. Regi Taylor has several interesting and informative features that he is working on for this project. Taylor has worked on similar projects like this in other cities.

The Guide will be a compliment to the HTB Connect Harlem app that will be introduced in 2026. Send an email to [harlem-tourismboard@gmail.com](mailto:harlem-tourismboard@gmail.com) if you would like more information on the Green Apple Guide

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Answers to Crossword on page 29

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HERBS ARE NATURE'S REMEDY Powerful Herbs for Strong Lung Health

By Zakiyyah

Healthy lungs are responsible for more than just breathing - they're central to our overall health and vitality. But keeping our lungs clean and functioning optimally is a growing challenge due to increasing pollution, humidity, and environmental toxins.

Elecampane, a natural antibacterial agent for the lungs, helps lessen infection. INULA, the essential oil that Elecampane yields, is an exponentially more powerful protection for the lungs.

Lungwort is a tree-growing lichen that actually resembles lung tissue in appearance, and contains compounds that are powerfully effective against harmful organisms that affect respiratory health.

Lobelia is thought to be one of the most valuable herbal remedies in existence, as it also stimulates the adrenal glands to release epinephrine which relaxes the airways and allows for easier breathing. Coltsfoot (the cough dispeller) has always been a part of my respiratory arsenal to strengthen the lungs and eliminate coughs. It soothes the mucus membranes in the lungs, and assists with other lung ailments.

Any of these herbs can be powdered, added to honey with other lung herbs, or their essential oils put in an atomizer/diffuser to aerate the benefits for the whole household.

You can change your family's narrative from 'passing

down cycles of illness,' to "passing down cycles of health and vitality LEARN HOW TO USE AND PREPARE HERBS - to join our new herb course launching in September- send me an email requesting course information.

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GAMES

See answers on pages 28

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

See answers on pages 31

HARLEM COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

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THEME: NORTH & SOUTH POLES

- ACROSS
- 1. Impromptu (2 words)
  - 6. Chop
  - 9. Little bit, in Cancun
  - 13. Luffa, alt. sp.
  - 14. The day before
  - 15. Rn, a health hazard
  - 16. Surveyor’s maps
  - 17. Black gunk
  - 18. Run off, as in couple
  - 19. \*Mount \_\_\_\_, Earth’s southernmost active volcano
  - 21. \*Antarctica - world’s largest \_\_\_\_
  - 23. A Bobbsey twin
  - 24. Not to be broken?
  - 25. Eyeball shape
  - 28. Minimal distortion
  - 30. \*Polar bear, a \_\_\_\_ mammal
  - 35. Goldfish or koi
  - 37. Memorial Day solo
  - 39. Red-dot pointer, e.g.
  - 40. Purse to match a gown

- 41. \*Amundsen-\_\_\_\_ South Pole Station
- 43. Hipbones
- 44. Letter H, phoneticaly speaking
- 46. Biblical twin
- 47. Frog delicacy
- 48. Intellectual
- 50. Novice or beginner
- 52. Café alternative
- 53. You, in bygone era
- 55. Ciao, in the U.S.
- 57. \*\_\_\_\_ Nast, imagined Santa at North Pole
- 60. \*The largest lake near South Pole
- 63. Hotel room option
- 64. \*Barents or Laptev
- 68. Remove location from digital map
- 69. Paul Simon’s former partner
- 70. Swelling
- 71. Monster’s loch
- 72. An affirmative
- 73. Button on electrical outlet

DOWN

- 1. Mountain peak
- 2. Pineapple producer
- 3. Gray-haired
- 4. As a rule
- 5. The Clash: “Rock the \_\_\_\_”
- 6. Answer to “Shall we?”
- 7. Female gametes
- 8. Lost, in Marseille
- 9. Opposite of sun-kissed
- 10. Deodorant’s target
- 11. Native Egyptian, in Roman times
- 12. \*How many sunsets in a year on either pole?
- 15. Close again, as in envelope
- 20. Yards and miles, e.g.
- 22. “Slippery” tree
- 24. Quick and clever reply
- 25. \*North Pole “base”
- 26. Fraction, e.g.
- 27. Beastly person
- 29. Front of the head
- 31. Not top-shelf
- 32. Part of archipelago
- 33. Sound like Secretariat
- 34. Clear the whiteboard

- 36. Ancient Briton
- 38. Dog command
- 42. Supercharger
- 45. Glen Powell’s 2023 role, pl. (2 words)
- 49. Cuban dance step
- 51. Half-shell delicacy
- 54. English homework
- 56. Chopin’s composition
- 57. Ad jingle, e.g.
- 58. Shakira’s don’t lie
- 59. Milo’s adventurous canine friend
- 60. Giant kettles
- 61. Change for a five
- 62. Glacier’s deposit
- 63. \*Midnight \_\_\_\_, opposite of polar night
- 65. Old-fashioned “before”
- 67. Aptitude test, acr.

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# "How I know White People are Crazy and Other Stories" by Dr. Jonathan Mathias Lassiter

REVIEW by Terri Schlichenmeyer, Harlem News contributor

It's enough to make you lose your mind.

You see your goal, but there's a barrier in front of it, a barrier that makes no sense. Other people don't have to jump through hoops or over walls to succeed, feel safe, or get help so why do you? In "How I Know White People are Crazy and Other Stories" by Dr. Jonathan Mathias Lassiter, you'll see that an old nemesis has a new name.

He says he is not angry.

Dr. Lassiter is just really, frustrated and for good reason: throughout most of his life, his father's life and his grandfather's, through his college years and his career, Dr. Lassiter says that "whiteness mindset" – defined

as a condition that causes people of any race (but most often white people) to assume that their lives are more important than others, which allows them to justify oppressing those who are different - has never been far away.

Sadly, Lassiter says, anyone can be on the receiving end of whiteness mindset, but it happens most often to the majority-minority including Black people, Asians, woman, and to gay people like him.

He says that his grandfather lived under racism and it showed: he loved his children, but didn't feel that he could demonstrate it. Lassiter's father parented similarly because that's all he knew. Living low-income also

affected Lassiter's mental health, as did the barriers he was forced to overcome in college due to racism and the oppression he felt because of his sexuality. Seeing what could be, if there were no such things as racism and oppression, didn't help.

Through his work as a licensed clinical psychologist and the patients he's treated, he knows his experiences are not unique. He also knows that whiteness mindset is not limited to higher education or the workplace and to combat it, we first have to admit that whiteness is not the concern. The mindset itself and what it does to mental health are bigger issues, and becoming educated is a great way to combat them.

Don't be surprised if you're a little confused at the outset of "How I Know White People are Crazy and Other Stories." It is confusing; Dr. Jonathan Mathias Lassiter writes quickly with a whirlwind of ideas that circle back to one another like ripples in a pond on a windy day. It might make you want to just back away.

Instead, stick around and trust that the meat of the book is coming through stories of real-life counseling and of Lassiter's own life, experiences, and family history. These tales eventually settle the chaos down, offering the clarity missing in the opening pages and allowing readers to see "whiteness mindset" in action and to understand the conflicts within it. You'll be

able to cleanly see where Lassiter's frustration lies, and what can be done about it.

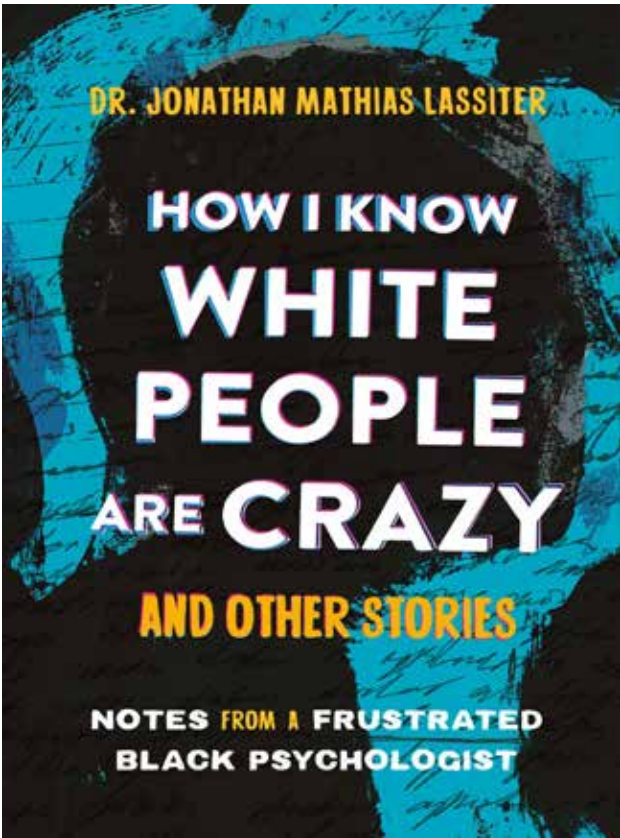
Just know that to get there will take some doing and patience with "How I Know White People Are Crazy and Other Stories." Try it, though. Persevere, and you might not mind.

"I Know White People are Crazy and Other Stories" by Dr. Jonathan Mathias Lassiter

c.2025, Legacy Lit

\$30.00

320 pages





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# HARLEM HOLIDAY LIGHTS 2025

CULTURE~COMMUNITY~CONNECTIONS



NOVEMBER 18, 2025 AT 6PM

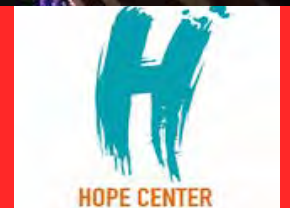
RAIN DATE: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2025

[HARLEMLIGHTITUP.ORG](http://HARLEMLIGHTITUP.ORG)

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