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## **Harlem Stage Appoints Internationally Acclaimed Artists Divinity Roxx and Calvin Royal III as Associate Artistic Directors**

### **Visionary Musician and Renowned Principal Dancer Join CEO & Artistic Director, Indira Etwaroo to Expand Bold New Era for Harlem Stage**

(NEW YORK, NY - May 19, 2026) - Harlem Stage, the iconic institution dedicated to championing visionary artists of the Global Majority, proudly announces the appointments of internationally celebrated musician, composer, and visionary **Divinity Roxx** and acclaimed ballet star and cultural innovator **Calvin Royal III** as its new **Associate Artistic Directors**. In close collaboration with **Indira Etwaroo, CEO & Artistic Director**, Roxx and Royal will support a bold new era for Harlem Stage that began under Etwaroo's tenure in 2024, expanding its commitment to groundbreaking artistic innovation, interdisciplinary global collaborations, and transformative cultural programming.

These landmark appointments underscore Harlem Stage's bold investment in the future of contemporary artistic expression and creative experimentation.

"This is a defining and deeply meaningful moment for Harlem Stage," said **Dr. Indira Etwaroo**. "Divinity and Calvin are extraordinary artists and visionary cultural leaders whose brilliance, innovation, and commitment to artistic transformation align profoundly with our mission. I believe the era of monolithic artistic leadership needs to give way to a more expansive and intersectional cultural future and Harlem Stage is proud to embrace a model of leadership that reflects the multiplicity of identities, disciplines, and perspectives shaping contemporary performance and civic life."

A Grammy-nominated bassist, composer, recording artist, and educator, **Divinity Roxx** is internationally recognized for her genre-defying artistry, magnetic stage presence, and commitment to empowering the next generation through music. Having performed with global icons, including Beyoncé and Victor Wooten and serving on the Board of Trustees for the Recording Academy that produces the Grammy Awards™, Roxx has built a career rooted in artistic excellence, storytelling, and cultural impact. At Harlem Stage, she will expand music programming, cultivate emerging musical voices, commission innovative new works, and deepen collaborations across genres and disciplines.

Meanwhile, **Calvin Royal III**, one of the most celebrated dancers of his generation, joins Harlem Stage while continuing his landmark tenure as a Principal Dancer with American Ballet Theatre. Known for

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his emotional depth, technical brilliance, and commanding artistry, Royal has captivated audiences worldwide and emerged as a transformative force in contemporary dance. At Harlem Stage, he will expand dance initiatives, supporting visionary choreographers, commissioning new works, and expanding opportunities for artists redefining the future of movement and performance.

“Harlem Stage has long been a home for fearless artistic expression and cultural innovation,” said **Divinity Roxx**. “I’m deeply honored to join Indira and this extraordinary institution to help create transformative musical experiences that inspire audiences of all ages, uplift artists, and celebrate the power of a creative community.”

“Harlem Stage represents the kind of artistic home where imagination, excellence, and purpose intersect,” added **Calvin Royal III**. “I am beyond thrilled to work alongside Indira and Divinity to help reimagine the possibilities of dance and interdisciplinary performance that challenge the way we consider the field.”

These appointments arrive during a period of extraordinary momentum and growth for Harlem Stage under Etwaroo’s new leadership, marked by expanded artistic programming, a first-ever national tour this past fall 2025, cross-disciplinary commissions, and national conversations centered on equity, culture, and innovation. This signals a bold new chapter for Harlem Stage and its enduring commitment to artistic excellence at the highest level.

## **FUNDER**

Thanks to the dedication and generosity of our Harlem Stage supporters, we are able *to set untold stories free* from across the globe and share them with communities around the corner and around the world. We especially want to thank:

### **The Supporters of Harlem Stage’s 2025–2026 Season, including:**

The Diana King Memorial Fund presented by the Charles and Lucille King Family; Ford Foundation; Howard Gilman Foundation; The Pierre and Tana Matisse Foundation; The Thompson Family Foundation; Altman Foundation; Rockefeller Brothers Fund; Ruth Foundation for the Arts; The Leonard & Robert Weintraub Family Foundation; The Fan Fox & Leslie R. Samuels Foundation; The Jerome Foundation; Hearst Foundations; National Arts Relief Fund; West Harlem Development Corporation; The Scherman Foundation; Mertz Gilmore Foundation; Davis/Dauray Family Fund; Joseph and Joan Cullman Foundation for the Arts; MacMillan Family Foundation; Shubert Foundation; Miranda Family Fund; Mosaic Fund; Columbia Community Service; Lucille Lortel Foundation; Theatre Development Fund; Harkness Foundation for Dance; and Metzger-Price Fund, Inc.

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Harlem Stage established the Frances Davis Arts Education Endowment in 1999 with a leadership gift from the visionary family foundation, The Leonard and Sophie Davis Fund and its ML Dauray Arts Initiative. The endowment continues to serve as a critical support for Harlem Stage, providing the financial support to sustain and grow the Frances Davis Arts Education Program, *Educating Endlessly* at Harlem Stage, which has reached over a hundred thousand students and lifelong learners over Harlem Stage's 43-year history.

Davis/Dauray Family Fund supports, in part, The Frances Davis/Harlem Stage Arts Education Program, *Educating Endlessly*

## **ABOUT HARLEM STAGE**

For more than 43 years, Harlem Stage has played a critical role as a preeminent global performing arts institution in New York City's cultural arts scene and has consistently defied expectations, delivering groundbreaking artistic programming and cultural leadership despite the enduring shadows of historic disinvestment and systemic inequities in the arts, culture, and humanities fields. When Harlem Stage was founded in 1983, Harlem, long revered as a cradle of Black intellectual and artistic brilliance, was reeling from decades of systemic disinvestment, urban neglect, and cultural erasure. This historic epicenter of the Harlem Renaissance, once pulsing with art and revolution, had become a symbol of what the broader society had chosen to abandon. Yet amid that decline, Harlem Stage emerged as a radical act of vision and resistance. The Global STAGE to set untold stories free.

## **BOARD AND STAFF OVERVIEW**

Harlem Stage is led by Dr. Indira Etwaroo, CEO & Artistic Director, award-winning arts and culture executive, scholar, and producer, Dr. Etwaroo brings a record of transformative leadership across the cultural sector. Previously, she served as the Inaugural Director of the Steve Jobs Theater at Apple; Executive Artistic Director of The Billie Holiday Theatre, where she led the institution to receive the Presidential Medal of the Arts under President Biden; and Founding Executive Producer of The Greene Space and NPR Presents, expanding public media's connection to diverse, global audiences. She also led the launch of The Black Seed, securing and investing \$10.5M into the field to support the first National Strategic Plan for Black Theaters in the country.

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The Harlem Stage Board of Directors is composed of extraordinary leaders, artists, and changemakers from various fields. Led by Board President Courtney Lee-Mitchell, Vice President Mark Thomas, Treasurer Larry McRae, and Secretary Michael Young, the Board includes Ronald K. Alexander, Angela Glover Blackwell, Jamila Ponton Bragg, Hugh Dancy, Claire Danes, Dr. Indira Etwaroo, Channing Martin, Tamara Tunie, Heather Wagoner, Blair Washington, Alisha Johnson Wilder, and Todd Wilder. Together, they are united by a shared mission and commitment to bringing powerful, transformative stories to the world.

## **The Historic Landmark**

Harlem Stage, neighbor to The City College of New York at the corner of Convent Avenue and 135th Street, welcomes audiences from all walks of life to its home, the historic site in West Harlem that was once a part of the Croton Aqueduct system - a great engineering feat of the 19th century - which supplied much needed fresh drinking water to New York City, beginning in 1890, twenty-seven years following the Emancipation Proclamation. The Romanesque Revival style accounts for much of the building's grandeur and monumental beauty.

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