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House Seats: Women of Color on Broadway Concert Special in Honor of Tony Award-Winning Actresses Melba Moore and LaChanze

Premieres Wednesday, October 21 at 8 p.m. on ALL ARTS

Availability

- National streaming premiere: Wednesday, October 21 at 8 p.m.ET on the free ALL ARTS app and allarts.org
- New York metro area broadcast premiere: Wednesday, October 21 at 8 p.m. on ALL ARTS ([channel lineups](#))

Synopsis

With theater doors remaining closed for months to come, this new ***House Seats*** concert special features songs from popular Broadway musicals, including “Hamilton,” “The Wiz,” “The Band’s Visit,” “Once On This Island,” and many more, by Broadway women of color. Performers include **Kimberly Marable** (“Hadestown”), **Kayla Davion** (“The Tina Turner Musical”), **Aléna Watters** (“The CHER Show”), **Darlesia Cearcy** (“Once On This Island”), **Lianah Sta. Ana** (“Miss Saigon”), **Kuhoo Verma** (“Medusa the Musical”), **Genesis Collado** (“Over Here!”), **Barbara Douglas**, and **Vanisha Gould**.

Filmed February 10 at the **Great Hall at The Cooper Union**, this special one-night-only concert was presented by **Women of Color on Broadway**, a non-profit dedicated to supporting women of African, Latin, and Asian descent pursuing careers in musical theater. The evening honored Tony Award-winners **LaChanze** and **Melba Moore** and presented each of them with the organization’s Purple Crystal Honorary Award, which celebrates the heroines of African, Latin, and Asian descent who paved the way for the next generation of women of color in theater. Moore also performs “I Got Love” from the musical “Purlie.”

Performances

- “I’m Every Woman” – Performed by Alexia Sielo

- “Summertime” from the opera “Porgy and Bess” – Performed by Vanisha Gould and Kuhoo Verma
- Chita Rivera Medley– Performed by Aléna Watters:
 - “America” from the musical “West Side Story”
 - “Kiss of the Spider Woman” from the musical “Kiss of the Spider Woman”
 - “All That Jazz” from the musical “Chicago”
- “Home” from the musical “The Wiz” – Performed by Kayla Davion
- “I Got Love” from the musical “Purlie” – Performed by Melba Moore
- “I Am Changing” from the musical “Dreamgirls” – Performed by Barbara Douglas
- “It Don’t Mean A Thing (If It Ain’t Got That Swing)” – Performed by Vanisha Gould
- “Your Daddy’s Son” from the musical “Ragtime” – Performed by Darlesia Cearcy
- “The Movie in My Mind” from the musical “Miss Saigon” – Performed by Kayla Davion and Lianah Sta. Ana
- “Easy as Life” from the musical “Aida” – Performed by Kayla Davion and Lianah Sta. Ana
- “Waiting for Life” from the musical “Once On This Island” – Performed by Anastacia McCleskey
- “The Schuyler Sisters” from the musical “Hamilton” – Performed by Isaiah Alston, Lydia Warr, Kim Onah, and Lianah Sta. Ana
- “Our Lady of the Underground” from the musical “Hadestown” – Performed by Kimberly Marable
- “Omar Sharif” from the musical “The Band’s Visit” – Performed by Kuhoo Verma
- “When You Believe” from the film and musical “The Prince of Egypt” – Performed by Serrin Joy and Miisha Shimizu
- “What About Love” from the musical “The Color Purple” – Performed by Genesis Collado and Alexia Sielo
- “Hold It High” from the musical “Medusa” – Performed by Alexia Sielo

Series Overview

House Seats brings you front row center to the best in live theater with performances, exclusive backstage access and in-depth artist interviews. Episodes include a star-studded performance of “Antigone in Ferguson,” a powerful fusion of Sophocles’ tragedy, live music and community discussion, “Prinze,” a one-man show about the life of the late actor and comedian Freddie Prinze, new plays by Black playwrights from the Fire This Time Festival and more.

Short TV Listing

A concert featuring the stage’s most beloved songs performed by Broadway women of color.

Long TV Listing

Presented at the Great Hall at The Cooper Union, Women of Color on Broadway honors Tony Award winners Melba Moore and LaChanze with a special star-filled Broadway concert, featuring performances by Darlesia Cearcy, Kimberly Marable, Aléna Watters, and more. This special event brings Broadway to your living room.

Production Credits

House Seats: Women of Color on Broadway is an WLIW LLC production for WNET. Directed by Ann Benjamin. Anna Campbell is Producer. Jake King and Elizabeth Svokos are Field Producers. Darren Peister is Editor. For ALL ARTS, Kristy Geslain is Senior Producer. Joe Harrell is Senior Director. Diane Masciale and Neal Shapiro are Executives in Charge.

Live event co-produced by The Cooper Union's Tim Marback and Kim Newman and Women of Color on Broadway co-founders Alexia Sielo and Victoria Velazquez. Victor Velazquez is Writer & Stage Manager. Larisa Jaio is Assistant Stage Manager. Victoria Velazquez is Host.

Underwriters

Leadership support for ALL ARTS is generously provided by Jody and John Arnhold, Sue and Edgar Wachenheim III, the Kate W. Cassidy Foundation, The Jerome L. Greene Foundation, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Anderson Family Fund and Seton J. Melvin.

About Women of Color on Broadway

Women of Color on Broadway Inc. was founded in June 2018 by sisters Victoria Velazquez and Alexia Sielo, in response to the lack of quantity and quality theatrical roles for women of color both on and off stage. Our mission is to uplift women African, Latin, and Asian descent who are pursuing a career in musical theater by presenting network and career opportunities to female students of color in the metropolitan area.

Women of Color on Broadway, Inc. envisions a community that centralizes both well-established, and upcoming female writers, producers, engineers, directors, musicians, and performers to create access to long-term mentorship, and job opportunities in theatre + musical theater. To help achieve this vision, we produce musical events to employ women of color, as well as develop educational programs to expose students to various career fields in the theater industry.

We will organize campaigns, fundraisers, and unique partnerships with themes of cultural awareness and gender equality, to ultimately make the theater industry a healthier work environment for the future generations of women of color.

About The Cooper Union

The Great Hall of The Cooper Union has stood for more than 160 years as a bastion of free speech and a witness to the flow of American history and ideas. When the hall opened in 1858, more than a year in advance of the completion of the college, it was the largest public gathering space in New York City and quickly became the destination for all interested in serious discussion and debate of the vital issues of the day.

The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art is dedicated to Peter Cooper's radical commitment to diversity and his founding vision that fair access to an inspiring free education and forums for courageous public discourse foster a just and thriving world.

Our mission is to sustain The Cooper Union as a free center of learning and civic discourse that inspires inventive, creative, and influential voices in architecture, art, and engineering to address the critical challenges and opportunities of our time.

About ALL ARTS

ALL ARTS is breaking new ground as the premier destination for inspiration, creativity and art of all forms. This New York Emmy-winning arts and culture hub is created by WNET, the parent company of New York's PBS stations. With the aim of being accessible to viewers everywhere, ALL ARTS' Webby-nominated programming – from digital shorts to feature films – is available online nationwide through allarts.org, the free ALL ARTS app on all major streaming platforms, and @AllArtsTV on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com), [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com), [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com), and [Twitter](https://twitter.com). New York area TV viewers can also watch the 24/7 broadcast channel. For all the ways to watch, visit allarts.org/everywhere.

About WNET

WNET is America's flagship PBS station: parent company of New York's [THIRTEEN](https://www.thirteen.org) and [WLIW21](https://www.wliw.com) and operator of [NJTV](https://www.njtv.org), the statewide public media network in New Jersey. Through its new [ALL ARTS](http://allarts.org) multi-platform initiative, its broadcast channels, three cable services (THIRTEEN PBSKids, Create, and World), and online streaming sites, WNET brings quality arts, education, and public affairs programming to more than five million viewers each month. WNET produces and presents a wide range of acclaimed PBS series, including *Nature*, *Great Performances*, *American Masters*, *PBS NewsHour Weekend*, and the nightly interview program *Amanpour and Company*. In addition, WNET produces numerous documentaries, children's programs, and local news and cultural offerings, as well as multi-platform initiatives addressing poverty and climate. Through THIRTEEN Passport and WLIW Passport, station members can stream new and archival THIRTEEN, WLIW, and PBS programming anytime, anywhere.

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