



BAM presents Word. Sound. Power. 2022 Live and In Person, April 7—9

Emcees and poets take the BAM stage for three nights of electrifying performances focusing on the power of ASÉ—manifesting words into reality

Word. Sound. Power. 2022

Apr 7—9 at 7:30pm

Fishman Space (BAM Fisher, 321 Ashland Pl, Brooklyn, NY)

Tickets: \$25

Ages 14+

Featuring Dizzy SenZe, Freakquensee, Drew Drake, AMYRA, Jade Charon, DJ Reborn, and Baba Israel

BAMkids: Get Up, Stand Up! Jazz Raptastic

Sat, Apr 2 at 2pm

The Adam Space (Peter Jay Sharp Building, 30 Lafayette Avenue, Brooklyn, NY)

Tickets: Pay-what-you-wish starting at \$8

Ages 8+

March 3, 2022/Brooklyn, NY—BAM presents **Word. Sound. Power. 2022**, its annual celebration of spoken word and hip-hop. Acclaimed hip-hop artist **Baba Israel** hosts and directs a stunning roster of poets, musicians, and dancers who demonstrate hip-hop's vitality. Featured performers include emcees **Dizzy SenZe** and **Freakquensee**, poet **Drew Drake**, musician **AMYRA**, music by **DJ Reborn**, and choreography by **Jade Charon**. The highly anticipated showcase takes place April 7—9 at the BAM Fisher.

"We are thrilled to welcome back our Word. Sound. Power. celebration and continue showcasing inspiring and refreshing voices and styles in hip-hop and spoken word," said **Mikal Amin Lee**, BAM Education Manager, Word. Sound. Power. "In line with the zeitgeist of hip-hop, our theme "ASE" is about taking what you have and finding new ways to express something present and now. It's about the power to create, dream, imagine, and do. This show is the spark to ignite the beauty and power in all of us."

The Yoruba philosophy **Asé** (AH-SHAY), meaning "the power to be, and the power to create," weaves together the year's production of BAM's powerful annual showcase of hip-hop and spoken word. The essence of Asé denotes power, command, and authority—the ability to manifest words into reality and produce change. This year's showcase will take on the form of an interactive 70-minute hip-hop showcase featuring music, spoken word, and dance performances as the artists perform around the essence of Asé. Using new and existing work, they will share stories of agency, creativity, resilience, and cultural celebration using the transformative power of hip-hop and spoken word poetry.

Joining the artists will be student poets from Brooklyn public schools. The students all participate in BAM's Word Sound Power in the Classroom in-school residency program,

designed to build students' literacy through creative writing, poetry analysis, and individual performance. The show finishes with a 20-minute Q&A with the artists.

At one time, a counter-culture, to some, and now the world's most powerful musical genres and cultural influences, hip-hop retains its radical roots and is closely attuned to social and political discourses. Word. Sound. Power. artists use beats and lyrics to offer exhilarating messages for the moment. With ferocity and compassion, the performers address issues of our time with intensity unique to the hip-hop and spoken-word style.

Also, BAMkids will present its annual daytime, family-friendly concert series that explores the range and spectrum of spoken word and hip-hop as it speaks to and with a younger audience. **Get Up, Stand Up! Jazz Raptastic** (Sat, Apr 2) features **Ms. Mariella** and her band as they flip famous jazz standards into their hip-hop babies. Jazz Baby Music offers an interactive, joyful, and spontaneous environment for kids to dive into one of the musical roots of rap. Families are invited to join the group as they glide and groove through familiar tunes, magically transforming them into hip-hop classics.

Tickets for Word. Sound. Power. 2022 go on sale Tuesday, March 15 for the general public (March 8 for members). Tickets for Get Up, Stand Up! Jazz Raptastic are on sale now. For ticket information, visit BAM.org.

High-Res Press Images [Here](#)

For press information, contact Cynthia Tate at ctate@bam.org or 718.724.8022.

About the Artists

AMYRA is a musician, author, director, and Harlem native, seamlessly transcending genre and medium. A creative force with an unmatched range and ever poetic lyricism, her power behind the mic is undeniable. Her often autobiographical work tends to generational trauma, Black liberation, and communal healing. In honoring the intricate terror and wonder of her history, she invites us to reckon with our own. Dive into the work at amyraleon.com & [@amyraleon](https://www.instagram.com/amyraleon) on all platforms.

Hailing from New York City, **Baba Israel** is a multitalented emcee whose parents were core members of the Living Theatre. He's shared stages with musical heavyweights, including Outkast, The Roots, Ron Carter, and Arturo O'Farrill, and is a core member of the Hip-Hop/Soul project Soul Inscribed. He has toured as an emcee, beatboxer, and theatre artist across North and South America, Europe, Africa, Australia, and Asia. Baba Israel has served as the host of Word. Sound. Power for more than ten years.

Desiree "**Dizzy SenZe**" Williams is a teaching artist, audio engineer, emcee, and photographer. She has taught music production and raptivism (an artistic tool to connect hip-hop to social justice issues and positive self-development) via inner-city programs such as the Hip Hop Re: Education Project, Urban Art Beat, and Urban Word. Being a native of the South Bronx, Dizzy is no stranger to the constant space needed for expressing yourself and stresses the importance of remaining true to yourself. She believes that human connection is strengthened through art and human development by new ways to connect. Interpreting happiness, vulnerability, and growing pains for all ages through the use of artistic tools (such as songwriting, production, engineering, and photography) is just the tip of the iceberg for Dizzy. Sizzy has engineered for Nickelodeon, YouTube, Aftermath Records, and more. She's done photography for top-tier artists and companies, including Dave Ea\$t, KRS-One, Sesame Street, and shared stages with legendary artists like Kendrick Lamar, Talib Kweli, Pharoahe Monch (to name a few). Constantly progressing within her craft, Dizzy is not aiming only to ingrain her sound into the airwaves but to imprint a change in the world.

Drew Drake is an Actor, Poet, and Educator from Huntsville Alabama but currently residing in NYC; focused on creating art that facilitates healthy dialogue for people of color. His biggest inspirations are

Zora Neale Hurston and Fannie Lou Hamer. Drew was last seen in the New York Times Critics Pick "TJ Loves Sally Forever" at Jack Theatre in February and the independent film "Privilege" in May 2020. Drew is currently the Poet-In-Residence and teaching artist with Urban Word NYC, Rehabilitation through the Arts (Arts Empowerment organization Prisons in NY State) teaching at Taconic Women's Correctional Facility. Drew's also a Professor at New York University, teaching Voice and Speech at Tisch School of the Arts and MLK Scholars Seminar. His teaching focuses on eliminating the elitism of eurocentric and white-centered art and creating more accessibility to different mediums of art for POCs by using Hip Hop and Black Culture as a tool of exploration of English Language Arts, Theatre, and Creative Writing. Drew also released a Hip Hop EP "Golden" in January. Learn more at www.thedrewdrake.com

DJ Reborn is a trailblazing, international DJ, sound collage artist, hip-hop theater musical director, and arts educator. She has a myriad of impressive accomplishments, including her time as a DJ/creative writing mentor for teen girls at Urban Word NYC, DJ instructor and curriculum designer for music school Dubspot, and as a mentor at The Lower Eastside Girls Club. Since 2018 Reborn has been the opening DJ for the legendary icon Ms. Lauryn Hill's world tour.

Her dynamic resume and ability to rock diverse crowds set her apart from many in her field. She has opened shows for The Roots, John Legend, and Erykah Badu and spun for celebrated visual artists Kara Walker, Wangheci Mutu, Tim Okumura, Carrie Mae Weems, and Sanford Biggers. Reborn has rocked the decks on BET, the NAACP Image Awards, and MSNBC's One Nation Rally and graced the stages of many festivals — Camp Flognaw, Glastonbury, the Kennedy Center, the Apollo Theater, and the Sydney Opera House. In the theater world, she has provided live soundscapes for activists Eve Ensler's V-Day project and Howard Zinn's Voices of a People and was the musical director and DJ for Will Power's FLOW, the tour DJ for the Tony Award-winning Def Poetry Jam, and the sound conductor for Nsangou Ngikam's Syncing Ink. DJ Reborn recently conceived, created, and performed in a theater piece featuring all women DJs.

In late 2020 she founded DJs For Justice, a coalition of DJs using their platforms to support racial, social, and economic justice. DJ Reborn has served as house DJ for Word. Sound. Power. for ten years.

Freakquencee, described as the personification of wisdom and power, is a hip-hop/funk/soul artist from Newark, New Jersey, who has garnered attention from Vice/Noisey, MILK, Pick-up Music, Sofar Sounds, AfroPunk, and more. She began writing and rapping at age 13, but it wasn't until 2017 that Freakquencee started to achieve success in her career as a full-time artist. In 2019 Freakquencee was approached on social media by musician and producer Liam Bornovski, also known by his producer name "LimaBeats," to collaborate on an instrumental he and friend Jake Stampen produced titled "Smile Again." The duo then met with Freakquencee to record her vocals in their Queens, New York apartment. "Smile Again" is Freakquencee's debut single.

Jade Charon is a groundbreaking Interdisciplinary artist, choreographer, and filmmaker whose work explores how dance can be used as a ministry to uplift people of color and heal all people. Charon's spirited and soulful movement style earned her the coveted Chuck Davis Emerging Choreographer Fellowship at BAM. She's an Assistant Professor at Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn, New York. Her dance film, Recharge, speaking directly to the racial dialogue happening in Black America, received critical acclaim when it premiered online in 2020.

Mariella is the founder of Jazz Baby Music, where she blends her love of jazz with multi-sensory play for children. Jazz Baby classes can be found throughout New York City and Westchester and online. Mariella also leads Spanish/Bilingual Storytime and Ready, Set, Kindergarten! programs for Brooklyn Public Library. She is currently writing a children's album.

Credits

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