



BAM presents *Poetry 2017: Word. Sound. Power.*, the return of BAM's annual poetry program—Mar 31 & Apr 1

Featuring *Get Up, Stand Up*, the family-friendly concert for ages 8+

Poetry 2017: Word.Sound.Power.

Host/Director, Baba Israel

BAM Fisher (Fishman Space, 321 Ashland Pl)

Mar 31 & Apr 1 at 7:30pm

Price: \$20

Ages 13 and up

Get Up, Stand Up!

BAM Fisher (Fishman Space, 321 Ashland Pl)

Apr 1 at 2 pm

Price: \$10

Ages 8 and up

January 25, 2017 / Brooklyn, NY—BAM's annual celebration of spoken word and poetry returns with *Poetry 2017: Word. Sound. Power.* on Mar 31 and Apr 1, 2017. The program has expanded to include *Get Up, Stand Up!*—a daytime family-friendly concert celebrating poetry for a younger audience.

Celebrating the inherent radical nature of this oral tradition, *Poetry 2017: Word. Sound. Power.* continues to stretch the consciousness, and various creative aesthetics in and around hip-hop and spoken word. The dynamic Baba Israel returns as the host and director. The event will also feature the return of DJ Reborn and musician YAKO 440, with the dance performance of NUU Knynez. This year's poets include The Peace Poets, OSHUN, Lady Logic, and Frank Waln.

This year's poetry program also features the afternoon concert *Get Up, Stand Up!* Brooklyn-based group Soul Science Lab headlines this program, featuring their unique Afrofuturistic soul sound alongside DJs and student poets in a concert hosted and MCed by BAM's MIKAL AMIN, Education Program Manager of Brooklyn Reads and Arts & Justice. Similar to our poetry program, this concert explores the range and spectrum of spoken word and hip-hop as it speaks to and with a younger audience.

Poetry 2017: Word. Sound. Power. Line-up:

Host/Director:	Baba Israel
DJ:	DJ Reborn
Musician:	YAKO 440
Dancers:	NUU Knynez
Poets:	The Peace Poets OSHUN Lady Logic Frank Waln

Get Up, Stand Up! Line-up:

Performer:	Soul Science Lab
Host/MC:	MIKAL AMIN

About the Artists

Baba Israel was raised in New York and has toured across the US, Europe, South America, Australia, and Asia, performing with such artists as Outkast, the Roots, Ron Carter, and Afrika Bambaataa. He began his career as an arts educator in Australia and has gone on to be a leading educator and consultant working with organizations such as Urban Word, BAM, and the University of Madison. He worked as a cultural ambassador with the State Department and served as artistic director and CEO of Contact Theatre in Manchester from 2009—12. Israel is the co-founder and artistic director of Playback NYC Theatre Company, which brings theater to under-represented communities; he has served as a lead teaching artist for the Brooklyn Reads education program at BAM. His debut solo show *Boom Bap Meditations* was supported by the Ford Foundation and the Hip-Hop Theater Festival. He is currently creating a piece inspired by his late father Steve Ben Israel in collaboration with Leo Kay and Yako 440. He is a core member of hip-hop/soul project Soul Inscribed. He has an MFA in Interdisciplinary Arts from Goddard College.

DJ Reborn is a Brooklyn-based DJ who has been moving audiences for more than a decade with her mellifluous blend of soul, hip-hop, reggae, house, Latin, electronic, and Afrobeat. She has spun at shows by artists including the Roots, Common, Talib Kweli, John Legend, and India.Arie, and at museums including the Whitney, Cooper-Hewitt Design Museum, and Brooklyn Museum. DJ Reborn has also spun exclusive events for Maxwell, Metallica, and Lauryn Hill, as well as for visual artists Kara Walker and Wangechi Mutu. She has appeared on BET's *Rap City* and served as the 2004—05 international tour DJ for Russell Simmons' *Def Poetry Jam*. She was musical director and DJ for actor/playwright Will Power's off-Broadway hit *Flow*. As a youth mentor and arts educator with Urban Word NYC, DJ Reborn created a workshop for teenage girls that explores deejaying, creative writing, and critical analysis of women's images in media culture.

YAKO 440 is a musician, beat maker, graffiti writer, and graphic designer. He attended Berklee College of Music, and his musical skill set includes human beatbox, bass, guitar, keys, turntables, and drums. YAKO 440 has toured and created original music for Baba Israel's shows *Boombap Meditations* and *The Spinning Wheel Keeps Turning*, performed and composed a beatbox score for the play *How To Break* by Aaron Jafferis, and is well traveled with the improvisational hip-hop theater troupe Playback NYC. Baba Israel and YAKO 440 have released several albums *Force of Life* (2003), *Beatbox Dub Poetics* (2006), and *Highest Degree EP* (2012), and have also produced for many artists in NYC's music scene. He is also a scholar and teaching artist with an MFA in Interdisciplinary Arts from Goddard College and experience leading music and visual art workshops with all age groups throughout NYC and cities all over the world.

NUU Knynez are a New York based dance trio—Tyrell "Rocka" James, Brian "HallowDreamz" Henry, and David "TwiceLight" Adelaja—formed in 2012. With experience in hip-hop, Krump, contemporary, modern, ballet, freestyle, and physical movement, this trio paints pictures, breathes music, and embodies all emotions in both spontaneous and choreographed performances with lyrical content and musicality. Accomplishments include competitions at the Apollo, collaboration in Fashion Week presentations, music videos by artists including Madonna, Wyclef Jean, Mikky Ekko, Mr. Vegas, Fatman Scoop, Sean Paul, and ASAP Ferg, plus working along side University Settlement and the state of New York to advocate for arts funding in NYC. The NUU Knynez made their contemporary dance debut in *Dapline*, a piece by André Zachery and Lamont Hamilton and included in the *New York Times* list of best dance of 2015.

The Peace Poets are a collective of artists that celebrate, examine, and advocate for life through music and poetry. Their art ranges from the Boogie Down to Berlin, from the border to the bodega, with style emphasizing lyricism, rhythm, and authenticity. The Peace Poets all hail from the Bronx and have been collaborating since 2005.

OSHUN is a musical duo comprised of DC natives Niambi Sala and Thandiwe, who describe their sound as Iya-Sol, a refreshing mixture of the most revitalizing kinds of music: Neo-Soul, Hip-Hop, and Spiritual. The name OSHUN pays homage to the Yoruba river deity (Oṣun) and her sisters (Iyemoja and Oya) who all represent elements of femininity and womanhood. Since their debut EP *AFAHYE* in March of 2014, OSHUN has appeared in various publications and news outlets, including *Complex*, *Huffington Post*, *NPR*, *Okayplayer*, *Vogue*, *Afropunk*, and *Mass Appeal*. OSHUN has toured throughout the world—including performances at Red Bull's 30 Days in L.A., AFROPUNK in Brooklyn, and Mela Festival in Oslo, Norway. Their debut full length mixtape *ASASE YAA* was released to celebrate Earth Day 2015.

Lady Logic is a 19 year-old hip-hop and blues poet emcee from Brooklyn. She has performed at various venues, including the American Airlines Theatre, Apollo, SVA Theatre, Poetic Theater, and Nuyorican Poets Café. She is currently working on *Black Venus*, a campaign for supporting homeless mothers in shelters by selling quality clothing with various black girl magic logos.

Frank Waln is an award-winning Sicangu Lakota storyteller and Hip Hop artist and music producer from the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota. He travels the world telling his story through performance and doing workshops focusing on self-empowerment and expression of truth. A recipient of the Gates Millennium Scholarship, Waln attended Columbia College Chicago where he received a BA in audio arts and acoustics. His awards include three Native American Music Awards, the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development 2014 Native American 40 Under 40, the 2014 Chicago Mayor's Award for Civic Engagement, and the 2015 3Arts Grant for Chicago Artists. He has been featured on *Buzzfeed's 12 Native Americans Who Are Making a Difference*, *The Fader*, *Vibe*, *NPR*, *ESPN*, and *MTV's Rebel Music Native America*. Waln has written for various publications including *Decolonization: Indigeneity, Education, and Society* and *The Guardian*.

Soul Science Lab is a Brooklyn-based music and multimedia duo of Chen Lo and Asante' Amin. After their previous appearance at BAM to celebrate their debut album, *Plan for Paradise*, they return to bring their "innovative Afro futuristic griot" sound.. With collective credits including work with Erykah Badu and K'naan, Soul Science Lab is a smooth-grooving, multifaceted vision of the Afro future. Co-founder Chen Lo is a seasoned artist, educator, and creative director. He has toured the globe, performing and leading master classes with a number of cultural arts institutions, including Jazz at Lincoln Center on the Rhythym Road, the August Wilson Center, 651 ARTS and others. Co-founder Asante' Amin is a gifted multi-instrumentalist, composer, and producer. He is a recipient of the Young Lion Jazz award given by the Central Brooklyn Jazz Consortium and the MetLife Meet the Composer award.

Tickets are \$20 for *Poetry 2017: Word. Sound. Power.*, \$10 for *Get Up, Stand Up!*, and go on sale Feb 6 (Jan 30 for Members). For more information call 718.636.4100 or visit BAM.org/literary/2017/poetry.

For press information on *Poetry 2017: Word. Sound. Power.* and *Get Up, Stand Up!*, please contact press@bam.org.

Credits

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General Information

BAM Howard Gilman Opera House, BAM Rose Cinemas, and BAMcafé are located in the Peter Jay Sharp building at 30 Lafayette Avenue (between St Felix Street and Ashland Place) in the Fort Greene neighborhood of Brooklyn. BAM Harvey Theater is located two blocks from the main building at 651 Fulton Street (between Ashland and Rockwell Places). Both locations house Greenlight Bookstore at BAM kiosks. BAM Fisher, located at 321 Ashland Place, is the newest addition to the BAM campus and houses the Judith and Alan Fishman Space and Rita K. Hillman Studio. BAM Rose Cinemas is Brooklyn's only movie house dedicated to first-run independent and foreign film and repertory programming. BAMcafé, operated by Great Performances, offers a bar menu and dinner entrées prior to BAM Howard Gilman Opera House evening performances. BAMcafé also

features an eclectic mix of live music for BAMcafé Live on Friday and Saturday nights with a bar menu available starting at 6pm.

Subway: 2, 3, 4, 5, Q, B to Atlantic Avenue – Barclays Center (2, 3, 4, 5 to Nevins St for Harvey Theater)
D, N, R to Pacific Street; G to Fulton Street; C to Lafayette Avenue

Train: Long Island Railroad to Atlantic Terminal – Barclays Center

Bus: B25, B26, B41, B45, B52, B63, B67 all stop within three blocks of BAM

Car: Commercial parking lots are located adjacent to BAM

For ticket information, call BAM Ticket Services at 718.636.4100, or visit BAM.org.

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