**MEDIA ALERT**

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts

TALENT ANNOUNCED FOR:

TA-NEHISI COATES’S

*BETWEEN THE WORLD AND ME*

A WORLD PREMIERE THEATRICAL PERFORMANCE

Produced by the Apollo Theater in collaboration with the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts

Co-Commissioned by the Apollo Theater and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts

Cast Includes: Savion Glover, Marc Bamuthi Joseph, Joe Morton, Greg Reid, Tariq “Black Thought” Trotter, Paulettta Washington, Susan Kelechi Watson, Michelle Wilson, and Special Guests

Saturday, April 7, 2018 at 2 p.m. & 8 p.m.

Tickets Available Now

(WASHINGTON)—The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts presents *Between The World And Me*, a live-performance event of excerpts from Ta-Nehisi Coates’ award-winning book, read monologue-style by notable guest artists. The performance features newly composed music performed by Kennedy Center Artistic Director for Jazz and MacArthur Genius Grant recipient Jason Moran (*Selma* and Netflix’s *13th*), direction by Apollo Executive Producer Kamilah Forbes (Broadway’s *Stickfly*, NBC’s “The Wiz”), and interactive visual storytelling by projection media artists.
The April 7 event is produced by the Apollo Theater and features an all-star roster of guest artists including Savion Glover, Marc Bamuthi Joseph, Joe Morton, Greg Reid, Tariq “Black Thought” Trotter, Pauletta Washington, Susan Kelechi Watson, and Michelle Wilson.

Savion Glover is a famous tap dancer, choreographer, and actor who is the epitome of a living legend. Before he was a teenager, Savion made his mark starring in the lead role of the Broadway musical *The Tap Dance Kid*. He eventually went on to work with dance greats like Gregory Hines and Sammy Davis, Jr. His credits include starring roles in *Jelly's Last Jam*, a role for which he made history as the youngest ever recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts grant. In 1996, he not only starred in but choreographed the Broadway show *Bring in 'da Noise, Bring in 'da Funk*. This musical which chronicled events in African-American history brought Savion a Tony® Award for “Best Choreography”. As a choreographer, Glover's work has helped maintain tap dancing as an art form in the modern dance world. He even developed his own dancing style he dubs "free style hard core." Glover is now known to the younger generation with his recurring appearances on *Sesame Street*. He also was the live capture dance motion behind “Mumble the Penguin” in the Disney film *Happy Feet*, a film for which he also served as co-choreographer. Glover's quick steps and amazing rhythms continue to influence the lives of young people. His production company tours schools across the country, spreading enthusiasm for tap dancing and cementing his place in history.

Marc Bamuthi Joseph is the award-winning librettist of the recent Apollo and Opera Philadelphia opera, *We Shall Not be Moved*. His full-evening theater work, *red, black & GREEN: a blues* premiered at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in San Francisco and was nominated for a Bessie in 2013 for “Outstanding Production of a Work Stretching the Boundaries of a Traditional Form.” Joseph’s commissions include the libretto for *Home in 7* for the Atlanta Ballet (2011) and theater work for South Coast Repertory Theater’s *Crossroads Commissioning Project*. He is the Chief of Program
and Pedagogy at Yerba Buena Center and the founding Program Director of the nonprofit Youth Speaks and cofounder of Life is Living, a national series of one-day festivals designed to activate under-resourced parks through hip hop arts and focused environmental action. He is an inaugural recipient of the Guggenheim Social Practice initiative and the United States Artists Rockefeller Fellowship. He is also the winner of the 2011 Herb Alpert Award in Theatre and an inaugural recipient of the Doris Duke Performing Artist Award.

**Joe Morton** is an Emmy® Award-winning film, television, and stage veteran best known for his dynamic role as “Rowan Pope” in Shonda Rhimes’ groundbreaking series *Scandal* and for his iconic roles in the films *The Brother from Another Planet*, *Terminator 2: Judgment Day* and *Speed 2*, among many others. Morton made his Broadway debut in the Tony® Award-winning musical *Hair*, followed by his starring role in *Raisin* for which he garnered a Tony® nomination and Theatre World Award. In 2016, Morton returned to his theater roots portraying the groundbreaking comedian Dick Gregory in the one-man show *Turn Me Loose* off-Broadway and was honored with the NAACP Theatre Lifetime Achievement Award. He reprised his role in *Turn Me Loose* at The Wallis-Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts in fall 2017.

**Greg Alvarez Reid** is an Actor/Arts Collaborator. Most recently, he appeared in *Radical #Love Hustle* (Hi-Arts). Off- Broadway credits include *The Fabulous Miss Marie* (New Federal Theatre/Castillo Theatre). Regional credits include *All My Sons* (People's Light Theatre), *Fences* directed by Phylicia Rashad (McCarter Theatre Center, Long Wharf Theatre), *Broke-ology* (Theatre Alliance), *Gem of The Ocean* (Hangar Theatre), *Locomotion* (The Kennedy Center), *A Lesson Before Dying* (African Continuum Theatre Company), *Seven Guitars* (Studio Theatre). Film credits include *Mary/Mary* (Joseph Biancangiello dir.), *Out of Season* (Jeanette Buck dir.). He is a graduate of Howard University (BFA) and the British American Dramatic Academy at Oxford University.
**Tariq “Black Thought” Trotter** is an American rap artist and MC for the Philadelphia-based hip-hop group, The Roots. Trotter, who co-founded The Roots with drummer Questlove, is widely lauded for his complex and politically aware lyrical content and his sharply live performances. The 4-time Grammy Award® winning artist – along with his band The Roots – are a staple in late-night television, starring as the house band for NBC’s Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon. As an influencer and innovator in the music industry for more than two decades, the rap lyricist has collaborated with numerous industry-leading artists. Tariq also served as a co-producer on the Grammy Award®-winning Original Broadway Cast Recording of *Hamilton*. Additionally, Trotter’s fluidity as a performer can also be seen in his on-screen roles, most recently he co-starred in HBO’s *The Deuce*. The Roots have also announced they are developing an animated children’s series in partnership with Amazon.

**Pauletta Pearson Washington** has appeared on Broadway in *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Sophisticated Ladies*, *Shakespeare’s Cabaret*, *The All Night Strut!*, and as an understudy to Lynne Thigpen in *Tintypes*. Her off-Broadway credits include Nora and Delia Ephron’s *Love, Loss, and What I Wore* and *Desperate Writers* (Union Square Theater). She has appeared in Debbie Allen’s *Soul Possessed* (The Kennedy Center), co-starred with BeBe Winans in Otis Sallid’s *Spiritual*, was featured with Natalie Cole in *A Christmas Show* (Lincoln Center Theater), and was part of the original cast and touring company of *Jerry’s Girls*. Washington’s film credits include *Wilma*, starring Cicely Tyson and Denzel Washington, *Purlie* starring Melba Moore, Sherman Hemsley and Robert Guillaume, and *Beloved* with Oprah Winfrey and Danny Glover. Recently, Pauletta appeared in Lifetime’s *The Real MVP: The Wanda Durant Story* as well as the short film *Steps*. She has also been busy on the stage—playing “Risa” in August Wilson’s *Two Trains Running* (Kenny Leon’s True Colors Theater Company) and “Elizabeth Borny” in *The Old Settler* (Billie Holiday Theater). Additionally, Washington has created and performed her own one-woman show for both domestic and international audiences.
Susan Kelechi Watson currently stars as “Beth Pearson” on NBC’s critically acclaimed series *This Is Us*, for which she earned an individual nomination at the 49th Annual NAACP Image Awards. Watson has appeared in numerous television series including FX’s *Louie*, NBC’s *The Blacklist* and *Third Watch*, HBO’s *Divorce*, CBS’s *NCIS*, and FOX’s *The Following*. Her film credits include the period drama *Peter and John*, starring Jacqueline Bisset, and the indie *Small, Beautifully Moving Parts*. Watson serves on the board of Drama Club, an organization started in 2013, whose mission is to provide theater and positive mentor relationships to incarcerated youths in New York City throughout each step of their journey through the criminal justice system. Watson is also a proud Epic NEXT youth development mentor with the Epic Theatre Ensemble, a professional theater company with a mission to promote vital civic discourse and social change through drama. She co-created and continues to lead Epic NEXT’s Annual New Play Festival that showcases original plays about social justice issues as written, directed, and performed by Epic NEXT students. She received her BFA from Howard University and MFA from NYU.

Michelle Wilson is best known for her Tony® nominated performance in the Pulitzer Prize-winning play *Sweat*. Wilson played long-time factory worker Cynthia, a role she originated off-Broadway at the Public Theatre before the show transitioned to Broadway with incredible reviews. In 2017, *Sweat* received three Tony Award® nominations including Best Play and Best Performance by an Actress in a Featured Role for Wilson. Wilson’s other notable theater credits include *A Raisin in the Sun*, *Detroit ’67*, *Follow Me to Nellie’s*, *Fahrenheit 451*, *Two Trains Running*, *The People Before the Park*, and more. Wilson also had memorable turns on the small screen in *The Good Fight*, *Blue Bloods*, and *E.R.*, as well as in indie films *Nehemiah*, and *Sink and The Bicycle*. Wilson can be seen next in the indie film *The True Adventures of Wolfboy* alongside Jaeden Lieberher and John Turturro.

**TICKET INFORMATION**
Tickets are available through the Kennedy Center box office, by calling Instant Charge at (202) 467-4600, or through the Kennedy Center website at [www.kennedy-center.org](http://www.kennedy-center.org).
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