

THE SHED Press Release

25 Emerging Artists and Special Guests to Perform in Soundtrack of America, The Shed's Five-Night Concert Series Celebrating the Unrivaled Impact of African American Music on Contemporary Culture

West 30th Street between
10th and 11th Avenues
New York, NY

Conceived and Directed by Steve McQueen, the World Premiere
Commission Will Inaugurate the New Arts Center on April 5

For more information, please
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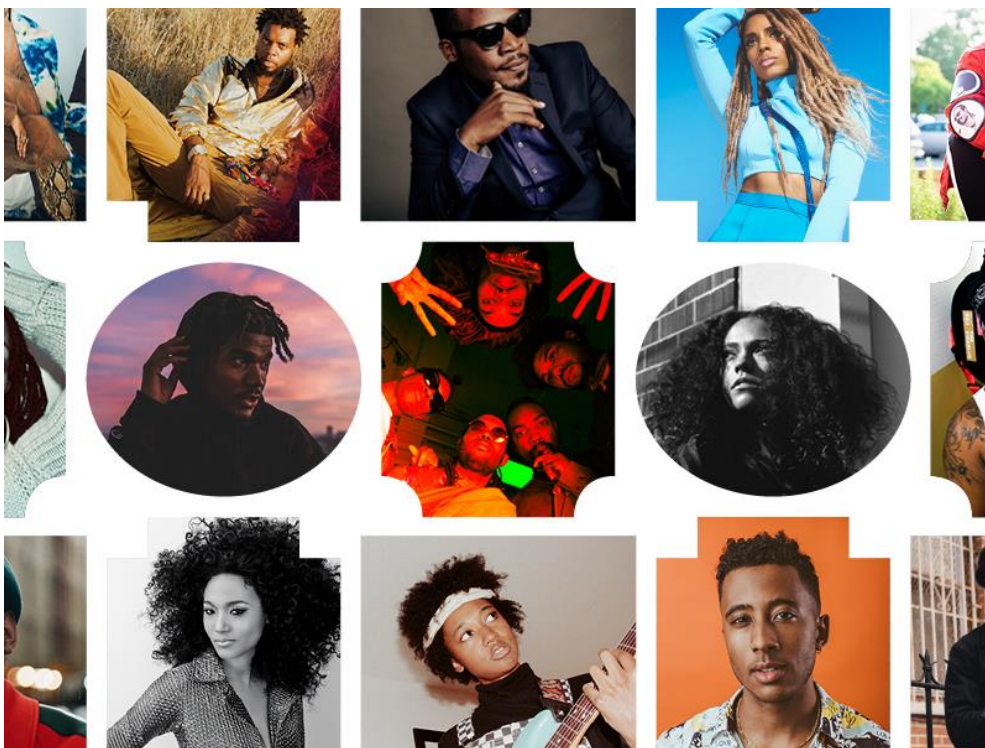
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Opens April 5
@theshedNY
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First row: serpentwithfeet, photo: Elijah Steen; Keyon Harrold, photo: Deneka Peniston; Jade Novah.
Second row: Smino; Phony Ppl, photo: Ryan Jay; Eryn Allen Kane, photo: Davy Greenberg.
Third row: Judith Hill; Melanie Faye, photo: Marcus Maddox; Braxton Cook, photo: Lauren Desberg.

January 24, 2019 -- The Shed, New York's new arts center opening this spring on Manhattan's west side, unveiled today the performance lineup for **Soundtrack of America**, which will inaugurate The Shed on April 5, 2019. Conceived and directed by Turner Prize-winning artist and Oscar-winning filmmaker **Steve McQueen** and developed with music visionaries and academic experts including **Quincy Jones, Maureen Mahon, Dion 'No I.D.' Wilson, Tunji Balogun, and Greg Pillinganes**, *Soundtrack of America* will showcase some of today's most exciting early-career musicians and performing artists over five nights in The McCourt, The Shed's largest space. The world premiere of *Soundtrack of America* is on Friday, April 5, and performances will continue on April 7, 9, 12, and 14.

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“*Soundtrack of America* was conceived for today’s most exciting young artists to shine during a major cultural moment,” said Steve McQueen. “Our amazing creative team developed this commission to honor history in a bold, life-giving way.”

“We are launching The Shed—a home for commissioning original works of art, across all disciplines, for all audiences—with a celebration of the most influential of art forms,” said **Alex Poots**, Artistic Director and CEO of The Shed.

Artists to perform in *Soundtrack of America* are: **Judith Hill, PJ Morton, Rapsody**, and **Victory**, with special guest **Jon Batiste** (April 5 at 8 pm); **Braxton Cook, Jade Novah, Kelsey Lu, Smino**, and **Tank and The Bangas** (April 7 at 8pm); **Emily King, Fantastic Negrito, ill Camille, Samm Henshaw, serpentwithfeet**, and **Sheléa** (April 9 at 8:30 pm); **Cory Henry, Melanie Faye, Oshun, Sy Smith**, and **Terrace Martin** (April 12 at 8:30 pm); **Eryn Allen Kane, Keyon Harrold, Moses Sumney, Phony Ppl**, and **Tamar-kali** (April 14 at 8 pm).

Additional artists and special guests to be confirmed. Tickets for *Soundtrack of America* start at \$25 and go on sale to the public on February 6, 2019, at theshed.org.

Adam Stockhausen, award-winning production designer (2015 Academy Award winner for Best Achievement in Production Design, *Grand Budapest Hotel*; 2014 Academy Award nominee for Best Achievement in Production Design, *12 Years a Slave*), and **David Rockwell**, collaborating architect of The Shed and acclaimed designer (2016 Tony Award for *She Loves Me*, AIANY President’s Award, Cooper Hewitt National Design Award) are the production designers for *Soundtrack of America*.

About *Soundtrack of America*

The Shed’s inaugural commission was developed and programmed in partnership with 27-time Grammy Award-winner **Quincy Jones**, New York University Associate Professor of Music **Maureen Mahon**, preeminent producer **Dion ‘No I.D.’ Wilson**, A&R executive **Tunji Balogun**, and legendary music director **Greg Phillinganes**. Advisors **Regina N. Bradley, Nelson George, Alisha Lola Jones, Hamza Walker**, and **Matthew D. Morrison** support the creative team.

Soundtrack of America is inspired by a “family tree” created by the commission’s lead academic advisor Maureen Mahon which traces the paths and connections between styles and genres of African American music from the 17th century to the present, bringing the rich and complex lineages, resonances, and connections of African American history and music to vivid life. *Soundtrack of America* highlights how this rich heritage—spirituals and blues, jazz and gospel, R&B, rock and roll, house, hip hop, and trap—shines through in the thrilling work of a new generation of artists under the musical direction of Greg Phillinganes.

Major support for *Soundtrack of America* is provided by the Ford Foundation.

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About The Shed

Opening on April 5, 2019, on Manhattan's west side where the High Line meets Hudson Yards, The Shed commissions original works of art, across all disciplines, for all audiences. From hip hop to classical music, painting and sculpture to literature, film to theater and dance, The Shed brings together leading and emerging artists and thinkers from all disciplines under one roof. The Shed's home, The Bloomberg Building, is a remarkable movable structure designed by Diller Scofidio + Renfro, Lead Architect, and Rockwell Group, Collaborating Architect, that physically transforms to support artists' most ambitious ideas. Committed to nurturing artistic invention and bringing creative experiences to the broadest possible audiences, The Shed is a 21st-century space of and for New York City.

More information about The Shed's 2019 opening season can be found at theshed.org.

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