DETROIT NATIVE SUN

Lil Kim to present “Hard core symphony”

PRNewswire/ -- GRAMMY Award-winning, multi-platinum hip-hop icon Lil' Kim will return to the stage for Hard Core Symphony, an extraordinary one-night-only concert experience to celebrate the legacy of her groundbreaking double-platinum debut album, Hard Core. The Queen of Rap will bring the iconic album to life in a reimagined way, joined by Thee Phantom & The Illharmonic Orchestra for a live orchestral performance at the legendary Kings Theatre in her hometown of Brooklyn, New York on November 19.



The landmark album, originally released in 1996 marked her solo introduction into the industry, crystallizing her as a fearless artist and cultural icon. Executive produced by The Notorious B.I.G, the groundbreaking multi-platinum album known for its raw lyrics, bold themes, and boundary pushing style is what cemented Lil' Kim's place in history earning her the title of The Queen of Rap.

For one unforgettable night, Lil' Kim will bring her iconic flow and legendary presence to a powerful sophisticated live orchestra. Thee Phantom & The Illharmonic Orchestra is an all-Black orchestral ensemble renowned for its blend of hip-hop and R&B coupled with their sophisticated live instrumentations. This unique performance will bridge hip-hop and R&B music, transforming some of Lil' Kim's most celebrated songs for a symphonic experience.

Fans can expect an evening of orchestral renditions of some of the album's most iconic anthems including "Not Tonight (Ladies Night Remix)," "Big Momma Thang," "Crush On You," and "No Time" alongside her signature stage presence, captivating energy and her fearless fashion.

Guests are encouraged to embrace the elegance of the historic evening in formal black-tie attire to celebrate hip-hip royalty.

Produced by GPK Entertainment, Hard Core Symphony will be an elevated immersive experience celebrating one of hip-hop's defining albums and the female pioneer who helped change the culture.

SoundExchange honors MC Lyte

PRNewswire/ -- SoundExchange, the largest neighboring rights collective in the world, announced MC Lyte (www.MCLyte.com) has received the SoundExchange Music Fairness Award. The honor recognizes the pioneering hip-hop artist's legacy of advocacy, including her efforts to raise awareness, engage members of Congress, and urge passage of the American Music Fairness Act.



"MC Lyte has spent her career breaking barriers, elevating artists, and using her voice to drive meaningful change," said Michael Huppe, President and CEO of SoundExchange. "We are proud to honor her with the SoundExchange Music Fairness Award in recognition of her enduring leadership and advocacy for the creators whose work powers our culture."

In 2024, MC Lyte joined DMC (RUN-DMC's Darryl McDaniels) and Melle Mel to visit Capitol Hill to meet with key lawmakers about the American Music Fairness Act and urge its passage to compel corporate terrestrial radio broadcasters to pay performance royalties. She reengaged with legislators again this summer, visiting members of Congress to continue to press for passage of AMFA.

"I am deeply grateful to SoundExchange for this recognition and for its unwavering commitment to standing up for artists," said MC Lyte. "Advocacy has always been part of my purpose, and I believe that creators deserve to be respected, protected, and fairly compensated for the music and culture they bring to the world. I'm proud to stand with SoundExchange in the fight for music fairness and for a future where every artist's work is valued."

MC Lyte is among the nearly 600,000 members who entrust SoundExchange to collect worldwide neighboring rights royalties on their behalf through more than 100 agreements with international organizations, covering 93% of the available global market.

Inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 2026 in the organization's Early Influence category, MC Lyte has a long history of advocacy, beginning with the Stop the Violence movement in 1989, less than a year after dropping her debut album, Lyte as a Rock. Along with KRS-One, Kool Moe Dee, Public Enemy's Chuck D and Flavor Flav, and others, she contributed to the project's lead single, "Self Destruction," which debuted on top of the then new Billboard Hot Rap Singles chart.

John Legend partners with Bilt to help students with rent

(Black PR Wire) NEW YORK, NY — Bilt, the membership that connects where you live with the places you love, today announced that John Legend, an EGOT-winning, multi-platinum artist and producer who has garnered 13 Grammy Awards, an Academy Award, a Golden Globe Award, a Tony Award and four Emmy Awards, among others, will join as October's Rent Day collaborator. On October 23, he’ll release his new studio album, Muse, produced in full and co-written by Pharrell Williams. Advance tracks “Fireflies”, out today, and lead single “Daylight” offer a window into an album that finds Legend exploring new territory more than two decades into his recording career.



The month's Rent Day® programming spans four moments built around the album's release: a chance to win free rent through Rent Free™ (the better Legend does answering questions, the more Bilt Members win free rent), a member-exclusive vinyl of Muse with a custom cover only for Bilt Members, the chance to attend a private John Legend show on October 21 in San Francisco, and the ability to donate Bilt Points to Scholarship America, a cause dear to Legend. The Bilt-exclusive limited edition vinyl of Muse is available for pre-order starting today, while supplies last, and ships alongside the album's broader October 23 release.

"John's music has been the soundtrack to the pivotal moments of so many people’s lives: falling in love, moving in together and exploring a neighborhood, getting married, and coming home,” said Ankur Jain, Founder and CEO of Bilt. “It feels right to build this Rent Day around him and around Muse. And it feels even more right that in the same month members can win rent and pre-order the album, they can also turn their Bilt Points into scholarships for students who wouldn't otherwise be able to afford college.”

In partnership with Legend, Bilt will help cover rent for 50 students across four universities Legend personally selected: three historically Black colleges and universities, Morehouse College, Central State University, and Wilberforce University, the nation’s oldest private HBCU, as well as Legend’s alma mater, the University of Pennsylvania.

Beginning on Rent Day, members also will be able to donate Bilt Points to Scholarship America, an organization that connects students with the scholarships they need to attend and complete college - specifically those living off-campus and who are at risk of eviction. Six in 10 students can't afford college without financial help, and 100% of Bilt Points donated will go to Scholarship America. This cause also reflects work Legend has championed alongside his music for the better part of his career.

“Education has always been such an important thing for me. I know what it meant for me to be able to go to college and get a great education; it set me up for life,” said John Legend. “So, we’re partnering with Scholarship America to launch a Rent Assistance Program for students at several schools. [Many of] these students are at risk of eviction and they need our help. Together with Bilt, we’re going to help cover off-campus housing costs.”

When asked about his living situation during college, Legend continued, “I lived on the quad [at Penn] my freshman year, and then I lived off-campus the remaining three years. So, I was paying my own rent, had a work-study job, and I had a job at a church. I was hustling and I was doing it so I could pay my rent, so I know what it feels like to be in that position where you’ve got to figure out how to do it yourself. I’m sure a lot of kids in school right now are in that same position.”

For more information, visit https://www.bilt.com/p/john-legend.



