

Nicole fernandez
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Prof. Yolande Brener

Harlem's Cultural Gem

Hidden in the northern part of Manhattan, New York City, is the neighborhood of Harlem, a place of artistic, cultural, and historical expression. This neighborhood is well-known for being the core of the Harlem Renaissance and African American history which has an impact on American culture. As you travel the bustling streets of 125th Street and beyond, you'll discover a neighborhood that has been a support for artistic innovation, a hub for social and



political movements, and a vivid piece of work where today combines with the past to create a unique urban experience. The Apollo Theater is a prime example located on 125th Street, which holds a significant place in American cultural history, making it a destination that people should care about.

The Apollo, located in the heart of Harlem, founded in 1934 represents the pinnacle of the Harlem Renaissance, a period of rich cross-disciplinary artistic and cultural activity among African

Americans between the end of World War I (1917), Great Depression, and the lead of World War II (1930s). Artists associated with the movement expressed pride in black identity, a growing awareness of injustice, discrimination, and curiosity. Apollo Theater rapidly became a hub for creative expression and experimentation. Black American performers were given a platform during this period of racial discrimination and segregation, which challenged stereotypes and prejudices.

The Apollo Theater has been a cultural icon, greatly influencing American music, dance, and comedic styles as well as the growth of African American entertainment. It represented a development in jazz, blues, soul, and hip-hop music. African American musicians have risen to the top of the music industry thanks to the Apollo Theater, which hosted everything from the creative beats of James Brown to the vocals of Aretha Franklin and the electric performances of jazz artists like Duke Ellington and Ella Fitzgerald. Apart from its musical achievements, it has

also served as a focus for comedic talent, helping to launch the careers of comedians such as Eddie Murphy, Chris Rock, and Richard Pryor.

The Apollo Theater also has an architectural significance that reflects the beauty of early 20th-century theaters. Created by George Keister, it opened as Hurtig & Seamon's New Burlesque Theater in 1914, and underwent major modifications in the 1930s while being owned by Sidney Cohen and Morris Sussman. After these modifications, the theater became the famous location it is today, its unique Art Deco exterior and banner becoming icons of



Harlem's architectural identity. The Art Deco style of the theater reflects the refinement and glamor of the Jazz Age through its geometric designs, strong writing, and fine craftsmanship. Its magnificent entryway, with its illuminated signs and elaborate decorations, creates a feeling of power and drama, luring audiences into the immersive world of a live show.

Given its historical significance, The Apollo is still an active institution that hosts a wide range of events, programs, and educational projects. It maintains its historical importance while continuing to adapt to the changing social environment. It is crucial that we educate ourselves about this theater because it is precisely the kind of building that has increased the significance and vulnerability of African American culture. It has a powerful demonstration of the everlasting value of artistic expression. Experiencing the Apollo is accepting the roots of American music, feeling the energy of Harlem, and being present for the lasting legacy of a place that has altered the course of entertainment history. The Apollo Theater should not be missed by anyone with an interest in American culture history and a passion for the arts. It is worth taking the time to visit this location in order to fully appreciate its beauty. I've visited this theater a few times, and each time has been such an incredible experience learning about various cultures through entertainment.

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