



# HarlemCLX Insider: Updates, Opportunities, Moves, Moments & Momentum



Witnessing the **first-ever Broadway Ensemble Awards** on Monday, April 6th was truly meaningful, not only as a celebration of extraordinary talent, but as a powerful reminder of what **belonging, dedication, and community** look like in the theater world.

First and foremost, **huge congratulations to all of the nominees and winners**. Your talent, discipline, and artistry are the heartbeat of Broadway. The recognition of the ensemble, the often unseen but always essential force behind every production was long overdue and deeply deserved.

What made the evening so moving was the intentional spotlight on the **understudies, swings, and ensemble members**, the artists whose excellence and commitment make Broadway magic possible night after night. It was a beautiful reflection of the very spirit of **#AttendWithUs**: showing up, supporting the work, and affirming that we all have a place in the future of the arts.

It was especially powerful to witness the **Broadway Ensemble Legendary Award** presented to the original 1975 ensemble of *A Chorus Line*, accepted by **Baayork Lee**, whose legacy continues to shape generations of theater artists. And experiencing the brilliance of **Lillias White** a true Broadway force and living legend made the evening even more unforgettable.

A special acknowledgment as well to **Stepp Stewart**, whose vision, leadership, and commitment to honoring “the unsung heroes of Broadway” through **Stage Door Miracles Inc.** made this groundbreaking moment possible. His work is helping to ensure that the ensemble community receives the recognition it has long deserved.

The evening was more than an awards show; it was a statement about the **next step into the future of theater**, and who gets to be seen, celebrated, and remembered within it.



Video Courtesy of **BroadwayWorld.com**





# April is Jazz Appreciation Month





## The Pulse of Progress: Celebrating Jazz Appreciation Month

Jazz is more than a genre; it is a global language of resilience, innovation, and democratic expression. Born from the African American experience, it has traveled from the street corners of Harlem to the world's most prestigious stages, serving as a blueprint for creative problem-solving and spontaneous collaboration. It reminds us that even within a structured composition, there is always room for the individual voice to improvise and lead. In a world often defined by rigid boundaries, Jazz remains the ultimate bridge—a sonic architecture that celebrates our shared humanity and the relentless pursuit of freedom.

This April, **HarlemCLX & Harlem Fine Arts Show (HFAS18)** is honored to spotlight the transformative power of this art form by celebrating two extraordinary forces in the industry. We recognize the legendary **Antoinette Montague**, whose soulful "Jazz-Woman" spirit and commitment to community through the arts embody the very heart of the Harlem Renaissance. Alongside her, we celebrate the **Darrell Smith Quartet**, a group whose rhythmic precision and innovative sound represent the future of the genre. Together, these artists remind us that Jazz is not just our history—it is the energy that drives our future innovation.

*Photos Courtesy of Sekou Luke, with special appreciation to Lorna Harris for her unwavering support and advocacy in championing these exceptional jazz artists.*

## Three Decades In And Still Making History!



## A MEGA Honor: Celebrating 30 Years of the Journey

What an incredible night. This past Tuesday, April 14, 2026, I had the profound honor of being recognized at the **Joe Manns Black Wall Street Awards**.

Looking back, it is hard to believe it has been a **30-year journey** in this space. This recognition isn't just about the work I've done; it's about the community that has sustained it. A massive thank you to **Doni Glover**, the visionary founder and publisher of **BMORENews.com** and the host of the Emmy-nominated *Doni Glover Show*. Doni has spent 24 years covering Black Baltimore and 15 years honoring our excellence through these awards—his commitment to our stories is unmatched.

I also want to send a special thank you to **Tasemere Gathers**, Founder of **DM Firm, LLC**, for nominating me this year. Having peers who see your vision and advocate for your impact is what keeps the engine running.

### On the Power of Us

*"In this creative economy, we have to stop viewing ourselves as islands and start seeing ourselves as an ecosystem. Innovation doesn't happen in a vacuum; it happens at the intersection of our shared resources, our combined networks, and our mutual respect. When we lead with community engagement and a 'Next, Next' mindset, we don't just build successful businesses—we build a Cultural Corridor that can sustain our people for another 400 years. Collaboration isn't just a strategy; it's our greatest form of currency."*

— *Richard E. Pelzer II*

**The marathon continues.**

**THANK YOU!!!**

#BlackWallStreet #BMORENews #HarlemCLX #HFAS #CreativeEconomy #BlackExcellence  
#LegacyBuilding #CommunityFirst





Video & Editing by Kyrus Newman

## Meet Up at the Whitney Soon...

### **PULL UP. WE'LL BE THERE.**

This past weekend was more than just a visit—it was a moment. We celebrated **Jazz Appreciation Month** at the Whitney for **Free Second Sunday**, and the vibes were unmatched.

From the live jazz lounge sets curated by @jazzdotorg to the multi-generational energy flowing through the galleries, we proved that art is at its best when it's shared. We're shifting the narrative from "institution" to "our space."

Whether you're coming from Harlem or the Hudson, there's a seat for you here. This is where we gather. This is where we belong.

### **Missed this one?**

**Don't worry, the movement continues: Free Friday Nights:** Every week! **Free Second Sundays:** Monthly community celebration.

**Bring your people. Pull up. Meet us at the Whitney.**

**Captured by:** Kyrus Newman for WICG and HarlemCLX

## Upcoming April Free Friday Nights:

April 17

April 24

Admission is free, but tickets are required and capacity is limited. Advance reservations are strongly recommended (available up to three weeks in advance):

<https://whitney.org/visit/free-friday-nights>

Let's make it a ritual.

Let's stay connected.

Let's show up for art — and for each other.

#AttendWithUs





**#AttendWithUs**

# SNUG HARBOR




## **Jazz Is Staten Island: An Evening of Jazz Fusion featuring the Jazztronauts and the DLG3 Trio**

April 18, 7 PM | The Carpenter's Shop at Snug Harbor

<https://snug-harbor.org/event/...>

As we celebrate Jazz Appreciation Month, we are excited to treat Staten Island audiences to the rhythmic and groove driven genre of Jazz Fusion – an idiom of jazz that utilizes many electric instruments. Featuring the performances of two stylistically different groups under the umbrella of fusion: the Jazztronauts and the DLG3 trio.



# MOVIES TV


# MAYHEM

A Dark Comedy


Written by  
**DEAN TAUCHER**

Directed by  
**RICHARD CALIBAN**


Cast



**JASON DONOVAN HALL\***



**ONEIKA PHILLIPS\***



**GRANT NEALE\***

Produced by Equilateral Theatre Company at Theatre Row

## APRIL 23 - MAY 9

## MOVIES TV MAYHEM

April 23 - May 9, 2026

Theatre Row

410 W 42nd St,  
New York, NY 10036

**MOVIES TV MAYHEM**, features three versatile actors— Jason Donovan Hall\*, Grant Neale\*, and Oneika Phillips\* —who deftly switch between multiple outrageous roles. These characters are all based on Dean's keen observations of his colorful co-workers and the peculiar situations that arise on set.

Expect to meet homicidal teamsters, a clueless starlet, harassment seminars that are more foul than informative, and cash-obsessed writers and producers whose ethics range from questionable to criminal.

An absurd, messy, unaccountably wrong, and gut wrenchingly funny play.

# BELONGO



## NEXT WEEK

### Arturo O'Farrill & Akua Dixon's Quartette Indigo at National Sawdust

Dear Friends,

Join us April 16–18 for a one-of-a-kind show with [Arturo O'Farrill & Akua Dixon's Quartette Indigo](#) at National Sawdust. Enjoy a night of new works and reimagined compositions that reflect shared histories and evolving musical forms.

Cellist-Composer-Conductor-Educator, [Akua Dixon](#) has been at the forefront of improvising string players since 1973 and is the first cellist to win the Downbeat Critics Poll. A multi laureate of the National Endowment for the Arts in composition and performance, Akua is considered “amongst the treasures of contemporary jazz” (New Jersey Star Ledger).

For More Information



HarlemCLX

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#HarlemCLX, #Power2TheArts

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