For Immediate Release
Media Contact: Leah Frelinghuysen
Leah@MonarchyPR.com, +1.917.280.5170

APAP Announces Complete Programming Highlights for
61st Annual Global Performing Arts Gathering
January 12-16 in New York

APAP|NYC 2018 will feature a town hall in addition to offering a dynamic slate of arts and culture leaders; APAP Awards recipients announced

Oskar Eustis, Jason Moran, Christina Hugenschmidt and Christina Soules, Bassem Youssef, and other arts and culture leaders of our generation

December 11, 2017 – The Association of Performing Arts Professionals (APAP) today announced complete programming highlights for APAP|NYC 2018, the world’s leading global performing arts gathering, marketplace and membership conference, taking place from January 12-16 at the New York Hilton Midtown and Sheraton New York Times Square. Pre-conference begins January 11.

Programming highlights include:
January 11 & 12, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. (Thursday) and 9 a.m.-3 p.m. (Friday), Hilton APAP|NYC 2018 Pre-Conference, with many professional development sessions free and open to the public, including a critical discussion on event preparedness and two first-time forums, one focusing on circus arts and one for transgender arts professionals and allies.

Friday, January 12, 5-6:30 p.m., Hilton Grand Ballroom
The opening plenary will focus on the role and responsibility of the performing arts in our world today with keynote speaker Roberta Uno, director of Arts is Changing America; and speakers Oskar Eustis, artistic director of The Public Theater; choreographer and dancer Kyle Abraham; Kaumakaiwa Kanaka’ole, hula vocalist; and moderator Douglas McClennan, founder and editor of ArtsJournal.

Saturday, January 13, 12-1:30 p.m., Hilton Grand Ballroom
This plenary session will focus on exploring the impact of transdisciplinary thinking and partnerships that are breaking new ground in both the arts and the world beyond with Ahmed “Knowmadic” Ali, poet and artistic director of
Breath in Poetry Collective; **Dania Nur**, youth and social justice advocate; **Ben Ashworth**, designer, visual artist, builder, skateboarder; playwright **Will Power**; **Garth Ross**, VP, community engagement at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts; **Jason Moran**, jazz pianist, composer, and Artistic Director for Jazz at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts; **Christina Tsoules Soriano**, associate professor and director of the dance program at Wake Forest University and **Christina Hugenschmidt**, assistant professor of gerontology and geriatric medicine at Wake Forest University. Playwright and performer **Will Power** will moderate.

**Sunday, January 14, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Hilton Grand Ballroom**
APAP presents its first-ever town hall focusing on the **artist as activist** featuring visionaries who have embraced the activist role and advocated on issues important to the arts community. Typical for a town hall setting, this special plenary will facilitate two-way exchanges with the audience and guest speakers including **Ping Chong**, writer and director of Socially Engaged Theater; **Tanya Selvaratnam**, co-founder of The Federation; **Lauren Ruffin**, VP of external relations at Fractured Atlas; **Sean Dorsey**, artistic director of Sean Dorsey Dance and the nation’s first acclaimed transgender contemporary dance choreographer; and moderator **Keryl McCord**, CEO of Equity Quotient.

**Monday, January 15, 12-1:45 p.m., Hilton Grand Ballroom**
The APAP Annual Awards Ceremony will honor **Arthur Mitchell**, artistic director, choreographer, educator, and co-founder of Dance Theatre of Harlem; **globalFEST**, world music service organization and festival; and **Carlton Turner**, artist, advocate, and executive director of Alternate ROOTS. The “Distinguished Service Award” recipient will be announced at the ceremony.

The awards program will open with a “creative moment” by Canada’s celebrated poet, writer, actor and youth advocate, Ahmed “Knowmadic” Ali, in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Creative moments will open each plenary and feature artists **Kyle Abraham**, the **Brooklyn United Marching Band**, and choreographer **Ann Carlson** who will conduct APAP members in “The Symphonic Body”.

**Monday, January 15, 6-8 p.m., Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall**
As part of APAP|NYC 2018, five exceptional young classical music artists and ensembles will be showcased at a free concert at Carnegie Hall as part of APAP’s 2018 **Young Performers Career Advancement Program (YPCA)**. Violinist **Annelle K. Gregory**, the **Argus Quartet**, the **Delphi Trio**, pianist **Fei-Fei Dong** and violinist **Tessa Lark** will also receive business training in the performing arts industry and guidance for navigating the next steps of their careers. Free tickets for the concert can be reserved [here](#).

**Tuesday, January 16, 10-11 a.m., Hilton Trianon Ballroom**
APAP|NYC 2018 closes with brilliant comedian and social commentator **Bassem Youssef**. A former heart surgeon turned political satirist and comedian, famously
known as the “Jon Stewart of Egypt,” Youssef is the author of "Revolution for Dummies: Laughing through the Arab Spring" which is the premise for his captivating documentary called "Tickling Giants."

In its 61st year, this annual industry gathering will host more than 3,600 performing arts professionals as they experience 1,000 performance showcases, with a robust 370-booth EXPO Hall, and thought-provoking plenary sessions.

Programming highlights for this year’s conference demonstrate APAP’s commitment to embracing the performing arts industry’s role in engaging in the constant and dynamic societal transformation of which we artist and arts makers are all a part. This year’s conference theme, trans.ACT, focuses on the multiplicity and the fluidity of the word “trans” and all its iterations—transformation, transcendence, transdisciplinary, transition, and the importance of transgender artists in our field and communities and by the word “ACT” and its various iterations—action, activism, activate, actualize.

APAP|NYC 2018 offers more than 50 professional development sessions focused on eight subject-matter tracks in addition to daily plenary sessions bolstered by artrepreneurs, artists, activists and innovators who are shaping the future in powerful ways. These tracks explore a range of current topics facing both the artist and industry both in the U.S. and abroad: arts and activism; engaging new audiences and communities; presenting international artists; ways to achieve greater inclusion, diversity and equity across the field; artrepreneurial strategies and best practices, innovation in the arts and the art of curation and programming. APAP|NYC’s daily plenary sessions, as well as the Awards Ceremony, will also be streamed via Facebook Live.

“APAP|NYC 2018 will be the first conference under APAP’s new name, the Association of Performing Arts Professionals," notes Mario Garcia Durham, President and CEO of APAP. “While for many years the organization and our flagship event have been growing more inclusive and forward-looking, with the name change, APAP is embracing more than ever our role in the evolution of the performing arts industry and the broad definition of the professionals within it.”

See more about the conference at APAPNYC.org, @APAP365, #APAPNYC and facebook.com/APAPNYC. APAP membership information can be found at APAP365.org. APAP|NYC is also founding partner of JanArtsNYC, the most comprehensive annual celebration of the performing arts around the globe and annual convergence of 11 major performing arts industry forums and public festivals. 2018 event dates and descriptions of all 11 partnering events available at JanArtsNYC.org.

About APAP, the Association of Performing Arts Professionals
APAP, the Association of Performing Arts Professionals, based in Washington, D.C., is the national service, advocacy and membership organization dedicated
to developing and supporting a robust, performing arts presenting field and the professionals who work within it. Our 1,600 national and international members represent leading performing arts centers, municipal and university performance facilities, nonprofit performing arts centers, culturally specific organizations, foreign governments, as well as artist agencies, managers, touring companies, and national consulting practices that serve the field, and a growing roster of self-presenting artists. As a leader in the field, APAP works to effect change through advocacy, professional development, resource sharing and civic engagement. APAP is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization governed by a volunteer board of directors and led by President & CEO Mario Garcia Durham. In addition to presenting the annual APAP|NYC conference - the world's leading forum and marketplace for the performing arts (Jan. 12-16, 2018) - APAP continues to be the industry's leading resource, knowledge and networking destination for the advancement of performing arts presenting.

###