

***Jamaica Center for Arts & Learning
Presents
Riddim Section***

***Free, monthly music performed live, streamed from JCAL:
Afrobeat, Calypso, Chutney, Kompa, Reggae, R&B and more***



December 3, 2020 (New York) -- Jamaica Center for Arts & Learning is excited to announce **Riddim Section**, a free, monthly music series being live-streamed, with social distancing, directly from its 99-seat black box theater to its YouTube platform. Created by Interim Artistic Director Courtney Ffrench, **Riddim Section** draws life directly from the cultures across Queens, with bands covering such genres as Afrobeat, Calypso, Chutney, Kompa, reggae, R&B and more.

Riddim Section will be curated by Jamaican-born actor, singer and producer **Andrew Clarke**. Clarke is the founder and artistic director of Braata Productions, a nonprofit company. A graduate of The Edna Manley College School of Drama in Kingston, Jamaica, and Brooklyn



For Immediate Release

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College in New York City, Clarke is an award-winning thespian and vocalist and a past recipient of the Prime Minister of Jamaica's Youth Award for Excellence in Arts and Culture.

The first performance will take place virtually via JCAL's Youtube on February 24th at 7pm. RSVPs are required [via this link](#) . The performance will feature acclaimed R&B musician and flutist Lea Anderson.

Riddim Section, along with such initiatives as Building Equity, ARTWorks, Jamaica Flux, 2nd Thursday Night Jazz, JCAL Education at Home and the NEA-funded Making Moves Dance Festival, embodies JCAL's commitment to a "community first, digital first" season of arts, culture and education opportunities.

The five **Riddim Section** concerts are at 7pm on JCAL's YouTube. Dates: **Wednesday, February 24; Wednesday, March 24; Wednesday, April 21; Tuesday, May 25; and Wednesday, June 23.**

"This has been such a treat," said Andrew Clarke, Curator of **Riddim Section**. "I'm bringing the musical influences of my life and training to a series that is rich, textured and showcasing a potpourri of sounds, styles and rhythmic patterns from different corners of the world. I'm excited to give the mainstage to music genres that don't always receive great attention."

Clarke added: "Now, more than ever, people of color need to see themselves on stage in ways that are fulfilling and uplifting. So in this series there will be something for everyone, from Afrobeat, Calypso and Chutney to Kompa, Reggae and more. Patrons will have their music palette satisfied -- and possibly get a taste of something new."

Said Courtney Ffrench, Interim Artistic Director of JCAL, "With **Riddim Section**, JCAL is proud to extend our tradition of offering live music, performed by diverse, multicultural musicians, to the public. We wish we could invite everyone into our 99-seat theater -- Riddim Section has to be live-streamed for now, with social distance -- but if you check out our YouTube, everyone can be a part of these concerts."

Added Leonard Jacobs, Interim Executive Director of JCAL: "Courtney's idea for **Riddim Section** has inspired and excited our whole staff since the moment he suggested it. And bringing on the gifted Andrew Clarke is a huge plus! We literally can't wait to get these concerts going!"

About JCAL

Jamaica Center for Arts & Learning (JCAL), founded in 1972, is a multidisciplinary arts center based in the diverse community of Southeast Queens. Our mission is devoted to offering quality visual, performing,



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and literary arts, and to providing accessible education programs to encourage participation in the arts. JCAL's offices and arts spaces are open in strict accordance with state and local COVID-19 guidelines. Operating hours by appointment: Monday to Friday, 10am to 6pm, and galleries on Saturdays; closed major holidays. For additional information, call JCAL at 718-658-7400 or visit www.JCAL.org.

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