



## PRESS RELEASE

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### ART AND HEALING IN A TIME OF NATIONAL CRISIS

*Can You Bring It: Bill T. Jones and D-Man in the Waters* opens Season 15 of *AfroPoP* documentary series, Monday, April 3

NEW YORK (March 15, 2023) — *Can You Bring It: Bill T. Jones and D-Man in the Waters* kicks off season 15 of the popular documentary series *AfroPoP: The Ultimate Cultural Exchange* with a look into one of the seminal works from trailblazing choreographer-director Bill T. Jones. The film, by Rosalynde LeBlanc and Tom Hurwitz, is the season opener for the public media series about culture and life across the African diaspora. *Can You Bring It: Bill T. Jones and D-Man in the Waters* will stream on [WORLDChannel.org](https://www.worldchannel.org), [WORLD Channel's YouTube channel](https://www.youtube.com/worldchannel) and [Black Public Media's YouTube channel](https://www.youtube.com/blackpublicmedia) starting at midnight ET on Monday, April 3, and broadcast at 8:00 p.m. ET on WORLD Channel later that day. *AfroPoP* is coproduced by [Black Public Media](https://www.blackpublicmedia.org) (BPM) and [WORLD Channel](https://www.worldchannel.org), and distributed and copresented by [American Public Television](https://www.amptv.org) (APT).

*Can You Bring It: Bill T. Jones and D-Man in the Waters* draws viewers into two time periods at once. It is a film that lives in the present, in LeBlanc's dance studio at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles where students grapple with learning Bill T. Jones' tour de force ballet "D-Man in the Waters," one of the most important works of art to come out of the age of AIDS. It also transports the audience back to 1989, when the dance was created by Jones, one of America's most renowned choreographers, as members of the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company were themselves besieged by the AIDS pandemic. Through the reminiscences of those who were there, the film explores the company's loss of their beloved members, including co-founder Zane and star dancer Demian Acquavella, whose nickname was "D-Man." The current-day students work to connect with the history of the company and the AIDS crisis they weren't alive for, as they struggle to master the intense physicality of the piece as they learn the healing power of art. Soon, they also face the formidable Jones himself as he drops in to observe rehearsals and offer feedback.

The documentary received unanimous critical acclaim when it was released in theaters throughout the U.S. Kimber Myers of the Los Angeles Times said, "*Can You Bring It* is full of vitality and energy, a testament to the power of art in the face of

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“We are excited and honored to have our film begin this important series that features the essential contribution of Black art. We wouldn't be America without it,” said LeBlanc and Hurwitz.

In advance of the premiere of *Can You Bring It: Bill T. Jones and D-Man in the Waters*, Jones and LeBlanc will sit for an *AfroPoP Artist Chat*. Their conversation on the power of dance and all art will stream on Tuesday, March 28, at midnight on Black Public Media's YouTube Channel (@BlackPublicMedia).

“We are honored to present *Can You Bring It* to audiences as the season premiere of our fifteenth season,” said Denise A. Greene, *AfroPoP* series producer/director. “As the world is still working to mend itself after the most recent global pandemic, this documentary offers a unique look at a time when artists and everyday people formed communities to combat the brutality of a pandemic that many sought to ignore. We hope audiences will join us for the film as well as the Artist Chat to get behind-the-scenes insight into why the film will resonate with viewers today.”

The rest of season 15 will be released at midnight on April 3 for streaming on [WORLDChannel.org](http://WORLDChannel.org); [WORLD Channel's YouTube channel](#); [Black Public Media's YouTube channel](#); all station-branded PBS platforms, including PBS.org and the PBS app; iOS; Android; Roku streaming devices; Apple TV; Android TV; Amazon Fire TV; Samsung Smart TV; Chromecast and VIZIO. The remaining films include:

- [Queen Kidjo](#), Claire Duguet's enlightening exploration of the career and global impact of the international superstar and activist Angélique Kidjo (broadcasting on WORLD Channel at 8 p.m. ET on April 10);
- [Bill Traylor: Chasing Ghosts](#), Jeffrey Wolf's illuminating portrait of the life of a Bill Traylor, an octogenarian artist with a remarkable and unlikely biography (broadcasting on WORLD Channel at 8 p.m. ET on April 17);
- [The Sound of Masks](#), Sara CF de Gouveia's intimate study of Mapiko, a traditional masked dance done exclusively by male members of the Makonde community of northern Mozambique — and the prize-winning dancer working to keep the custom alive (broadcasting on WORLD Channel at 8 p.m. ET on April 24); and
- [Rewind & Play](#), Alain Gomis's eye-opening, and often infuriating, exposé of the profound disrespect experienced by the iconic jazz pianist Thelonious Monk during a 1969 appearance on French state television (broadcasting on WORLD Channel at 8 p.m. ET on May 1).

APT will release the season to public television stations across the country on Monday, May 1. For viewing information, check local listings.

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To find out more about *AfroPoP*, visit <https://worldchannel.org/show/afropop/> or <https://blackpublicmedia.org/afropop/>.

## ABOUT THE PRESENTERS

### ABOUT BLACK PUBLIC MEDIA:

Black Public Media (BPM) supports the development of visionary content creators and distributes stories about the global Black experience to inspire a more equitable and inclusive future. For more than 40 years, BPM has addressed the needs of unserved and underserved audiences. BPM continues to address historical, contemporary, and systemic challenges that traditionally impede the development and distribution of Black stories. For more information, visit [blackpublicmedia.org](http://blackpublicmedia.org) and follow BPM on Instagram and Facebook and @BLKPublicMedia on Twitter.

### ABOUT WORLD CHANNEL:

WORLD shares the best of public media in news, documentaries and programming. WORLD's original series examine the issues and amplify the voices of those often ignored by mainstream media. The multicast 24/7 channel helps audiences understand conflicts, movements and cultures from around the globe. Its original work has won a Peabody Award, an Alfred I. duPont-Columbia Award, an International Documentary Association Award, a National News and Documentary Emmy Award, two Webby Awards and many others honoring diversity of content and makers. WORLD is carried by 193 member stations in markets representing 75% of US TV households. Funding for WORLD Channel is provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Wyncote Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts and Artworks. WORLD is produced by GBH in partnership with WNET and is distributed by American Public Television (APT). Find out more at [WORLDChannel.org](http://WORLDChannel.org).

### ABOUT AMERICAN PUBLIC TELEVISION:

American Public Television (APT) is the leading syndicator of high-quality, top-rated programming to the nation's public television stations. Founded in 1961, APT distributes 250 new program titles per year and more than one-third of the top 100 highest-rated public television titles in the U.S. APT's diverse catalog includes prominent documentaries, performance, dramas, how-to programs, classic movies, children's series, and news and current affairs programs. *Midsomer Murders*, *America's Test Kitchen*, *AfroPoP*, *Rick Steves' Europe*, *Pacific Heartbeat*, *Christopher Kimball's Milk Street Television*, *The Indian Doctor*, *Legacy List with Matt Paxton*, *Lidia's Kitchen*, *Kevin Belton's New Orleans Kitchen*, *Simply Ming*, *The Best of the Joy of Painting with Bob Ross*, *Front & Center*, *James Patterson's Kid Stew* and *NHK Newsline* are a sampling of APT's programs, considered some of the

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most popular on public television. APT also licenses programs internationally through its APT Worldwide service and distributes Create®TV — featuring the best of public television's lifestyle programming — and WORLD™, public television's premier news, science and documentary channel.

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