

Mary J. Blige, Jazmine Sullivan & Robert Glasper Among Lineup For The Roots Picnic 2022

The Roots' Picnic returns in-person after in June with Mary J. Blige headlining the two-day event in Philadelphia. Jazmine Sullivan, Robert Glasper, Wizkid, Summer Walker and SWV are also scheduled to perform on the stage at the Mann Center in West Fairmount Park. Blige is still glowing after her performing at the Super Bowl halftime show with Dr. Dre, Snoop Dogg, Eminem, 50 Cent and Kendrick Lamar. Her upcoming show with The Roots is being advertised as a once-in-a-lifetime set. There will be DJ sets from DJ Aktive and DJ Diamond Kuts. Jemele Hill and Questlove are among those who will take part in the podcast stage. The event will stream live on The Roots' Youtube channel. [Tickets](#) are on sale now.

ROOTS PICNIC is BAAAACK!!!!

TWO days in Philly- June 4-5

*What do y'all think of the lineup? [#RootsPicnic](#)
pic.twitter.com/VxNKWmQj0Z*

– Alex Holley (@AlexHolleyFOX29) [February 15, 2022](#)

Questlove's Summer Of Soul In Theaters & Hulu On July 2nd

Questlove's award-winning documentary *Summer Of Soul* will be in theaters and on Hulu July 2nd. The film examines The 1969 Harlem Cultural Festival that was held at Marcus Garvey Park but was known as Mount Morris Park. It lasted six weeks and there were performances from The 5th Dimension, Stevie Wonder, Sly and the Family Stone and Gladys Knight & The Pips and more. The festival was never truly publicized and footage from it languished in a basement for 50 years. Questlove directed the movie that incorporates some of the vintage material into the visual narrative of the film. *Summer Of Soul* took home the Grand Jury Prize and Audience Award in the US Documentary Competition at the Sundance Film Festival after its premiere there in January 2021. The feature will be distributed internationally via Disney+ before the end of 2021.Â

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Questlove & Black Thought Connect With Disney Junior For Rise Up, Sing Out Animated Series Focused On

Racism & Social Justice

Disney Junior announces a new animated series for their preschool-aged audience designed to address current issues of racism and social justice. Rise Up, Sing Out will consist of music shorts that celebrate differences in people and opens up conversations around the topics. Ahmir “Questlove” Thompson and Tariq “Black Thought” Trotter of The Roots are providing the music for the shorts and executive producing through their Two One Five Entertainment Production company alongside Latoya Raveneau (Disney + The Proud Family: Louder & Prouder) who also is an executive producer. The Conscious Kid, an organization dedicated to promoting healthy racial identities for youth, is consulting on the series and creating a viewing companion guide for parents.

Questlove and Black Thought released a joint statement about Rise Up, Sing Out:

“It is an honor to work with the Disney Junior team to help create a series of shorts that will empower and uplift the future generations in the way we know best, through music. We hope these shorts will encourage the young audience to recognize and celebrate our differences as human beings while learning the tools to navigate real-world issues of racial injustice.”

Rise Up, Sing Out will premiere later this year across all Disney Junior platforms.

R.I.P. Malik B.



Malik B., an early member of The Roots, has died at age 47 of undisclosed causes. Black Thought and Questlove released a statement about Malik's passing and contribution to hip-hop. Malik Abdul Basit met Ahmir "Questlove" Thompson and Tariq "Black Thought" Trotter in the early '90s. He joined The Roots and stayed with the band on their journey from *Organix* in 1993 and he stayed until *Things Fall Apart*. He would return and make guest appearances on the albums *Game Theory* and *Rising Down*. As a solo artist, he released two albums and an EP. Black Thought made reference to Malik B. leaving the group on the song "Water (The First Movement)" and revealing that his drug use and lack of touring was the cause.Â



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A post shared by Black Thought (@blackthought)