



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## THE LINCOLN THEATRE PRESENTS LEELA JAMES

*Makes Lincoln debut Thursday, April 6, 2023*

The Lincoln Theatre Association is proud to present the Lincoln debut of R&B soul diva Leela James on Thursday, April 6 at 8 pm.

The gritty-voiced contemporary soul singer has topped the Adult R&B chart multiple times for over a decade after making her assured 2006 album debut, *A Change Is Gonna Come*. Nicknamed “Baby Etta” as a little girl, James paid homage to her idol in 2012 by recording *Loving You More...In the Spirit of Etta James*. Her latest single “Reach for It” features a classic house sound and comes on the heels of her 2021 album *See Me*, which produced two #1 hits, “Complicated” and “You’re the One.” Leela has earned much acclaim from critics for her performance and songwriting skills and is currently working on her eighth studio album.

“From the legends of Etta James and James Brown to the contemporary stars of Maysa and Leela James, the lights of the Lincoln have shined on the authentic grandeur of this historical site for more than 90 years,” shared Executive Director Suzan Bradford. “Leela at the Lincoln is our effort to illuminate this Columbus treasure nationally.”

The Lincoln Theatre presents Leela James on Thursday, April 6, at 8 pm. Tickets are \$55 and can be purchased in-person at the CBUSArts Ticket Center (39 E. State St.), online at [www.LincolnTheatreColumbus.com](http://www.LincolnTheatreColumbus.com), or by phone at (614) 469-0939.

### About Leela James

R&B powerhouse singer/songwriter Leela James first burst onto the scene with her 2006 debut album *A Change Is Gonna Come*, introducing audiences to her soaring, sultry vocal dexterity. She quickly garnered nominations for Outstanding New Artist at the NAACP Image Awards and Best R&B/Soul or Rap New Artist of 2008 at the Soul Train Music Awards. James has gone on to record six subsequent albums including *My Soul* (2010), which reached #7 on the Billboard Hot R&B/Hip Hop Albums Chart, and *Did It for Love* (2017), featuring the song “Don’t Want You Back” which rose to #1 on the Billboard Adult R&B chart. Her latest single “Reach for It” comes on the heels of her 2021 album *See Me*, which produced two #1 hits, “Complicated” and “You’re the One,” as well as viral TikTok hit “Put It on Me” and “Break My Soul,” featuring Mumu Fresh.

[www.LincolnTheatreColumbus.com](http://www.LincolnTheatreColumbus.com)

## **CALENDAR LISTING**

**The Lincoln Theatre presents LEELA JAMES**

**Thursday, April 6, 8 pm**

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Support for the Lincoln Theatre’s 2022-23 season is provided in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Greater Columbus Arts Council, the L Brands Foundation, AEP Foundation, Nationwide Foundation, Huntington Bank, the Columbus Foundation’s Fred Sands Family Fund with the assistance of the Ingram-White Castle Foundation, and the Ohio Arts Council to encourage economic growth, educational excellence, and cultural enrichment for all Ohioans.

### **About the Lincoln Theatre**

First opened in 1928, the Lincoln Theatre is a landmark in African American and jazz history. After undergoing a \$13.5 million renovation funded by a partnership of public and private support, the Lincoln reopened in May 2009 as a multi-use, state-of-the-art performing arts and education center serving the diversity of the central Ohio community. The Lincoln is a bustling hub of activity 365 days a year hosting performances, rehearsals, and classes in the performing arts, as well as a wide variety of community events such as film festivals, meetings, and receptions.

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