



Media Contact:

Casey Blake

480-644-6620

casey.blake@mesaartscenter.com

**Ali Jackson Trio Performing Live at Mesa Arts Center
Saturday, Oct. 18**

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Mesa, AZ – World renowned jazz drummer and member of the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, Ali Jackson, and two other talented jazz musicians, forming the Ali Jackson Trio, will be performing at Mesa Arts Center's Piper Repertory Theater on Oct. 18 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available at mesaartscenter.com or by calling 480-644-6500.

Ali Jackson is a world renowned modernist jazz drummer.

He takes the principle of drumming and creates an irresistible beat. Jackson's skill and concentration is unmatched, creating distinct rhythms and using abstract methods in a classic style. Currently, he is the principle drummer in the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis and is in his 7th season.

Growing up in New York City and Detroit in an open music environment, Jackson took in all that he could from music. By the age of 8, he was playing on the streets of Detroit with his father, famed bassist Ali Jackson Sr. and getting insight on his talents from Donald Byrd, Betty Carter and Aretha Franklin. As a strong advocate for arts education, he has given numerous lectures at schools, such as New York University, Stanford University, Eastman College of Music, Columbia University, and West Virginia University, just to name a few. Jackson's passion for musical outreach is incredible, touring continents and teaching others about the power of music. Jackson is currently touring with Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra in Western Europe.

The Ali Jackson Trio performance is the first of three engagements in the *Jazz from A to Z* series, curated by guest artistic director Jazz at Lincoln Center. The Victor Goines Quartet will perform Tuesday, February 17, and the Vincent Gardner Quartet will close the series with a special Jazz Under the Stars event on Tuesday, April 7. In addition to the performances in the series, each artist will lead hands-on workshops for teachers and students to enrich cultural knowledge and enhance critical thinking skills. Participants will discuss the role music plays as a cultural mirror and as an agent for social change. Those interested in attending classes and workshops are encouraged to contact Mesa Arts Center at outreach@mesaartscenter.com.

Mesa Arts Center is located at One East Main Street in downtown Mesa.

Editor's Note: Images are available for download via Mesa Arts Center's online Press Room at <http://www.mesaartscenter.com/index.php/misc/about/press-room/login>. Password is macmedia.

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ABOUT MESA ARTS CENTER

The Mesa Arts Center mission is to inspire people through engaging arts experiences that are diverse, accessible, and relevant. Owned and operated by the City of Mesa, Arizona's largest arts center is recognized as an international award-winning venue. The unique and architecturally stunning facility is home to four theaters, five art galleries, and 14 art studios. For more information, visit [mesaartscenter.com](http://www.mesaartscenter.com).