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Bardavon Presents
Global Pop Star Angelique Kidjo & her band
at UPAC in Kingston
Thursday, April 11th at 7:30pm

(Kingston, NY) The Bardavon is pleased to present **Angelique Kidjo plays TALKING HEADS' *Remain in Light* on Thursday, April 11 at 7:30pm at UPAC in Kingston.**

Global pop star and 3-time Grammy winner Angélique Kidjo has partnered with 2015 Grammy producer of the year Jeff Bhasker (Kanye West, The Rolling Stones, Beyonce) for a full circle re-imagining of Talking Heads' 1980 landmark album *Remain in Light* that was released June 8/Kravenworks Records. The original album, considered to be one of the greatest albums of that decade, was influenced by music from West Africa, notably Fela Kuti's afrobeat. This remarkable new collaboration is a radical statement and positions the Benin-born artist as she's never been heard before.

In 2017, Kidjo premiered this musical project at New York's Carnegie Hall and at Bonnaroo (David Byrne came out of the audience to sing with her during the Carnegie Hall show). The shows were met with raves and she is performing the album in concert throughout 2018-19.

Kidjo first crossed paths with the original album when she fled Benin and moved to Paris in 1983. She recognized it as African, but the rhythms were harder for her to place. It stayed with her, but she kept it to herself because some of her music teachers and fellow students at the time dismissed her opinions because she was a young African woman who wouldn't, in their opinion, know anything about rock and roll. But the album continued to inhabit her subconscious.

"I started working on *Remain in Light* and I would pick a song and it would match these Beninese traditional songs I heard," she recalls. "It was just so organic and normal that the whole thing fell into place. You have all these puzzle pieces — you see the picture appear and then you put the stuff in places."

"It was a challenge reinterpreting this iconic masterpiece," says Bhasker. "We didn't simply want to "cover" what the brilliant producer Brian Eno and revolutionary Talking Heads created, but rather put our own spin on it. Rip out its guts and turn it on its head. As they were inspired to take an African form and rock it, we took rock and brought it back to Africa. I think the result is a beautiful full circle experience that I hope enhances both worlds and brings culture closer together."

The delivery of David Byrne's lyrics is a classic study in contrasts while embracing the bigger ideas. Whereas the vocals were originally self-conscious, arty, ironic and sometimes alienated, Kidjo's voice and additional lyrics are a clarion call that sheds new light on the politics in "Born Under Punches," the empowerment of women on the "Great Curve" and tackling the African skin bleaching phenomenon on "Seen and Not Seen."

"When it comes to music, I don't have much fear," says Kidjo, who is also well known for her humanitarian efforts. "If you are inspired to do something, then there is truth in that. My music has been a weapon for constructing bridges. We have so much in common, yet we are so divided that we may not take a pause to think about what we may have in common. We think there is things to divide us, but not much divides us."

After rising to international success with the release of her chart-topping 1991 album, *Logozo*, Angélique Kidjo became a fixture of world music, pairing her unique multilingual fusion of Afrobeat, pop, jazz, reggae, and various African traditions with collaborators who span multiple genres of music, from Philip Glass and the Kronos Quartet to Peter Gabriel, Alicia Keys, Dr. John, and Branford Marsalis.

After leaving her native Benin for Paris, Kidjo recorded a string of critically acclaimed albums for Island Records in the '90s, followed by an ambitious trilogy that saw her exploring African music's influence in the Americas, from gospel to Brazilian and Latin. Her adventurous spirit and collaborative nature have been hallmarks of her career, while a deep-rooted sense of her Beninese and West African heritage has remained a through-line in all of her recordings, from 2007's star-studded *Djin Djin* to 2014's culturally rich *Eve*, both of which earned her Grammy Awards.

A veteran of stages around the world, from major festivals to concert halls and clubs, Kidjo has been hailed for her creative diversity and willingness to push the envelope. Fluent in Fon, French, Yorùbá, Gen, and English, as well as a personal language she developed, she is known to sing in multiple languages -- often within the same song. Also known for her advocacy, Kidjo has served as a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador, campaigned for OXFAM, and created the Batonga Foundation, which provides secondary school and higher education to girls in Benin and other West African nations.

Tickets: \$46 – \$66 based on location. Members get \$5 off

Purchase your tickets in person at the Bardavon Box Office, 35 Market Street, Poughkeepsie, 845.473.2072 or the UPAC Box Office, 601 Broadway Kingston, 845.339.6088. Online at [Ticketmaster](#) : 800.745.3000. Please note that Bardavon Member benefits and special discounts are not available through Ticketmaster. Ticketmaster fees will apply.