



## Media Release

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## THE HARLEM WIZARDS

**The Harlem Wizards, founded in 1962**, are one of the greatest basketball show-team organizations to ever "lace it up and let 'em fly." Each event that the Harlem Wizards perform offers a rare combination of individual athleticism, teamwork, entertainment and community involvement. It is pure enjoyment for every fan in attendance.

**The Harlem Wizards' Mission is to create an awe-inspiring basketball experience for all, while producing wildly successful events and fundraisers.**

Wizards President Todd Davis said, "While awe-inspiring is subjective, it is absolutely tangible as an experience. Our goal every night is to create that magical feeling and bond between the players and the fans. We truly want the fans to walk out inspired, happy and proud of their community."

Featuring some of the top basketball talent in the world, **the Harlem Wizards' exciting brand of "Tricks, Hoops & Alley-Oops"** is so engaging that after almost five decades they are still packing gymnasiums all across the globe with fans eager to laugh and be amazed.

Whether it's an event at Madison Square Garden or Madison High School, the Wizards players and organization brings professionalism, enthusiasm and love to all of the fans. The tradition and the glue of the Harlem Wizards' special experience is their bond with the fans. These are athletes with super personalities, who love what they do, and show it! Worldwide, our clients and fans can't get enough of the Harlem Wizards! **Since 1962**, the Harlem Wizards have played over 6,000 games in both the United States and abroad, thrilling millions of fans along the way. The Harlem Wizards' current winning streak extends since 1989 and exceeds 3,000 games, and miles of smiles.

Theatrics, tricks, and alley-oops are part of the show and every game is filled with surprises. Every night the opponent is different, and so is the crowd, so spontaneity takes center state. A college opponent and crowd might want to see a true epic battle and an elementary school crowd gets more of a kick out of their teachers being involved in a comedy skit.

While the Wizards are great, wholesome family entertainment, the Wizards "not just for kids" approach calls for the players and the organization to innovate and produce events with surprising twists and challenges that keep the players on their toes, and the fans coming back year after year. The Wizards are committed to taking show basketball to new heights. The Wizards goal is to be so spectacular that the eight year old still loves the Wizards when he or she turns 18.



## **THE WIZARDS MAGIC FORMULA: A BLEND OF COMPETITION AND FUN**

A good opponent brings out the competitive fire in the Wizards players, but that is not a problem! The Wizards magic and skill is being able to shift the mood from hilarious to serious and back, in the blink of an eye.

The Harlem Wizards perform their events on many different courts and stages. Around the world, Harlem Wizards games are usually held in arenas, where they play celebrities, freestyle ballers and professional teams. In the USA, the Harlem Wizards perform for schools, charities, colleges, corporations, communities and private events. Millions of dollars have been raised for nonprofit community organizations and charities, while providing amazing basketball entertainment.

## **A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE WIZARDS 47 YEARS AND STILL SLAMMIN'**

The Wizards have toured worldwide, to five continents and 22 countries.

They have also hooped in many high profile charity events, with stars like Kobe Bryant, John Havlichek, John Starks, Russell Simmons, TV stars Malcolm Jamal Warner and Luke Perry, sports commentator/writer Peter Vescey and radio personality Chris "Mad Dog" Russo.

The Wizards have been the playground for some of the NBA's greatest legends. NBA Top 50 All-Time selections Connie Hawkins and Nate "Tiny" Archibald have both played with the Wizards. Hawthorne Wingo, a Knick favorite, developed his pro game for four years with the Wizards. Over 20 NBA players have played with the Wizards. College greats and playground legends have also dotted the Wizards roster. Over 30 former and current Wizards were listed in *Slam Magazine's* top street baller historical retrospective.

Third generation Wizard fans remember names like Lawrence "Magic Man" Gable, "Puggy" Bell, "Showboat" Dumpson, "Pickles" Murphy, Larry "Butterfly Man" Cheatham and Bobby "Zorro" Hunter.

In 1992 Howie Davis, the Wizards founder passed away. Todd Davis stepped onto the court to continue the legacy his father had created. The new millennium has seen a Harlem Wizards team stronger then ever with a healthy combination of old crowd favorites and new, young rising sensations.

The Harlem Globetrotters look to the Wizards as a great source of high-caliber, world-class, show basketball talent. Three former Wizards are currently on the Globetrotter roster, and three former Globetrotters are currently on the Wizards roster.

The current Wizard players who are also former Globetrotters are Eric "Broadway" Jones who started as a Wizard, then became a Globetrotter, and came back as the Wizards player-coach, the zany "Swoop" Simpson aka The Big Kid was also a Globetrotter showman last year. Add Arnold "A-Train" Bernard a 7-year Globetrotter icon and NYC street ball legend, as well as a featured performer in the groundbreaking NIKE Freestyle series of commercials.

Go to [www.harlemwizards.com](http://www.harlemwizards.com) for the full roster.

The Harlem Wizards are an experience that you don't want to miss.