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Face to Face Reveals Season Five Lineup Featuring Earvin “Magic” Johnson, Mitt Romney, Lt. Gen. H. R. McMaster and Cynthia Erivo

WINSTON-SALEM, NC (APRIL 9, 2025)—Wake Forest University’s Face to Face Speaker Forum concluded its fourth season on April 8 with music icon John Legend moderated by Segun Oduolowu at the LJVM Coliseum—marking the fourth sold-out keynote event this season. At last evening’s event, Face to Face announced its speaker lineup for Season Five, which includes Earvin “Magic” Johnson, Mitt Romney, Lt. Gen. H. R. McMaster and Cynthia Erivo.

Face to Face will welcome Johnson on September 16 at LJVM Coliseum. With his unique positioning as a businessman spanning multiple industries and generations, Johnson aims to help companies expand and foster a positive impact domestically and globally. Still a commanding presence in the sports world, he made history in 2023 when he became co-owner of the Washington Commanders, a National Football League franchise that was purchased for \$6.05 billion dollars. He also co-owns the Los Angeles Dodgers of Major League Baseball, the Los Angeles Sparks of the WNBA, Major League Soccer’s Los Angeles Football Club and eSports franchise Team Liquid.

On November 6, Face to Face will present Romney at Wake Forest’s Wait Chapel. A statesman, businessman and former Republican presidential nominee, Romney offers insights into leadership, policy and America’s most pressing challenges. As Governor of Massachusetts, he pioneered landmark healthcare law. Romney also led the 2002 Salt Lake Organizing Committee for the Winter Olympics, turning the struggling games into a success story. As a U.S. Senator, Romney was a leading voice for fiscal discipline, climate action and America’s role in the world. He played a key role in historic bipartisan legislation on improving the nation’s physical infrastructure, emergency COVID relief, marriage equality with religious liberty protections and gun safety.

In early 2026, on February 26, Face to Face will present McMaster, who was national security advisor from 2017 to 2018. He served as a commissioned officer in the United States Army for 34 years before retiring as a lieutenant general in June 2018. McMaster is the Fouad and Michelle Ajami Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution, Distinguished University Fellow at Arizona State University and lecturer at the Graduate School of Business at Stanford University. He has authored three New York Times bestselling books and has published scores of essays, articles and book reviews on leadership, history and the future of warfare in many publications.

Face to Face will conclude Season Five at LJVM Coliseum on April 15, 2026, with Erivo, a three-time Academy Award nominee and star of the movie "Wicked." She captivates audiences while serving as a fearless voice for women and people of color and setting new standards for the arts. Erivo has an uncanny ability to shape and drive narratives across entertainment while continuously evolving her body of work with poignant breakthrough characters that hit emotional cores and transcend race, gender and cultural boundaries. In "Wicked," she stars as Elphaba opposite Ariana Grande's Glinda. The film "Wicked: Part Two" will debut in November 2025.

"I thank the Winston-Salem community and entire region from the bottom of my heart for the overwhelming and enthusiastic support of Face to Face as we entire our milestone season five," Face to Face Executive Director Sue Henderson said. "Our keynote events during the past two seasons all sold out. The best way to ensure access to our spectacular lineup for next season is to purchase a season subscription as soon as possible before individual go on sale. It's also a good way to save money instead of buying tickets to individual events."

Season subscriptions will be available for purchase at noon on Wednesday, April 9 online at facetoface.wfu.edu. Individual tickets to all of Face to Face's Season Four events will go on sale August 1.

About Face to Face

Since 2020, the Face to Face Speaker Forum has shaped minds, explored frontiers of knowledge and nurtured intellectual entrepreneurship. Regarded as one of the country's finest platforms for distinguished and engaging discussions, the Face to Face Speaker Forum provides unique opportunities for student interaction, faculty discourse and community debate with world changers.

For more information and to purchase subscriptions, please visit facetoface.wfu.edu.

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