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## New York City Center announces 2017—18 season

**14<sup>th</sup> annual *Fall for Dance* Festival to feature 20 companies in five programs, with world premiere commissions from Kyle Abraham, Michelle Dorrance, and Troy Schumacher**

**25<sup>th</sup> anniversary season of Tony-honored *Encores!* series to feature *Hey, Look Me Over!*, *Grand Hotel*, and *Me and My Girl***

**Matthew Bourne's *New Adventures* returns with Olivier Award-winning production of *The Red Shoes* on sale June 9 (June 5 for Friends of City Center)**

***iCuba Hoy!* festival of music and dance to feature US debut of Acosta Danza and Arturo O'Farrill and the Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra**

**May 19, 2017/New York, NY—Arlene Shuler**, President & CEO, today announced programming for New York City Center's 2017-18 season. The season will open with the annual ***Fall for Dance Festival***, featuring 20 companies in five unique programs. The ten-day festival will feature three world premiere commissions: Kyle Abraham (2015 City Center Choreography Fellow) will create a work for his company Abraham.In.Motion; Troy Schumacher will create a work for Miami City Ballet; and Michelle Dorrance (2016-17 City Center Choreography Fellow) will create an extended, full-length version of her acclaimed 2015 *FFD* Festival Commission, *Myelination*. In October, Matthew Bourne's *New Adventures* will return to City Center with the double Olivier Award-winning production of ***The Red Shoes***. For this special City Center engagement, *New Adventures* star Ashley Shaw, who originated the role, and NYCB principal dancer Sara Mearns, making her debut as a guest star with the company, will alternate in the role of Victoria Page. City Center's Principal Dance Company, **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater**, will return in November for their 47<sup>th</sup> consecutive season at City Center.

The previously announced engagement of ***Brigadoon*** begins on November 15 with the **New York City Center Annual Gala** honoring City Center Co-Chair Stacey Mindich. Directed and choreographed by Christopher Wheeldon, *Brigadoon* will reunite musical theater stars Kelli O'Hara and Steven Pasquale and will feature Wheeldon's leading man from *An American in Paris*, Robert Fairchild. In response to popular demand, a seventh performance has been added on Sunday, November 19, at 7pm. Funds raised at all performances will allow City Center to make the performing arts accessible to the widest possible audience by subsidizing affordable tickets throughout the year.

This spring, New York City Center's Tony-honored *Encores!* series, led by artistic director Jack Viertel and music director Rob Berman, will celebrate its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary season, beginning with an original *Encores!* production ***Hey, Look Me Over!***, a showcase of songs and scenes from beloved musicals that *Encores!* hasn't gotten to—yet. ***Grand Hotel, The Musical***, which follows the comings and goings of the colorful patrons of post-war Berlin's most prestigious hotel, will follow in March. The season will close with ***Me and My Girl***, the first *Encores!* show to have originated on London's West End rather than Broadway. A music-hall comedy that became the toast of England in 1937, it enjoyed a hugely successful revival on both sides of the Atlantic in the 1980s.

Other highlights of the spring season include **Flamenco Festival 2018**—with performances by Ballet Nacional de España, Eva Yerbabuena, and Jesús Carmona—and the ***¡Cuba Hoy!*** festival of music and dance which will include the US debut of international ballet superstar Carlos Acosta's new Havana-based company **Acosta Danza**, an evening of Afro-Cuban music curated by and including Grammy Award-winner **Arturo O'Farrill** and the **Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra**, and a series of talks and a masterclass with today's most vibrant Cuban artists and luminaries. Two companies that have long called City Center home, **Dance Theatre of Harlem** and **Martha Graham Dance Company**, will also return this spring.

The acclaimed ***Encores! Off-Center*** series will return in summer 2018 under the leadership of artistic director Michael Friedman. Programming for the 2018 *Off-Center* season will be announced at a later date.

City Center continues to bring the backstage center stage with artist talks, livestreamed events, and master classes that offer audiences an intimate exchange with today's leading artists. New last season, the master class series ***Front and Center: Learning from the Masters*** will return, offering a unique opportunity for emerging musical theater artists to explore everything from composition and auditioning to vocal technique with Broadway luminaries. ***Studio 5 at City Center*** will continue to offer behind-the-scenes conversations and performances featuring today's great dance artists.

Tickets can be purchased online at NYCityCenter.org, by calling 212.581.1212, or in person at the City Center Box Office. New York City Center is located at 131 West 55th Street between 6th and 7th Avenues.

## **New York City Center 2017—18 Season**

### **2017 Fall for Dance Festival October 2—14, 2017**

All tickets: \$15

On sale: September 10

The 14<sup>th</sup> annual *Fall for Dance* Festival will feature 20 acclaimed international dance companies and artists in five unique programs, including world premiere commissions from Kyle Abraham, Michelle Dorrance, and Troy Schumacher. In keeping with the Festival's commitment to making dance accessible to everyone, all tickets are \$15. The international ten-day Festival will include performances by Abraham.In.Motion, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, American Ballet Theatre, Art Move Concept (France), Danza Contemporanea de Cuba (Cuba), Dorrance Dance, Gauthier Dance//Dance Company Theaterhaus Stuttgart (Germany), Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, IceCraft- Sanjukta Sinha (India), Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo, Miami City Ballet, Pennsylvania Ballet, Stephen Petronio Company, Tango Fire (Argentina), and more. Full program details will be announced in August.

New York City Center gratefully acknowledges *Fall for Dance* Festival Lead Sponsor Bloomberg Philanthropies. City Center is also grateful to its Presenting Partners including Jody and John Arnhold, Barbara and David Zalaznick, Perry and Marty Granoff, and Caroline Howard Hyman.

Matthew Bourne's production of

***The Red Shoes***

Based on the film by Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger

and the Hans Christian Andersen fairytale

Music by Bernard Herrmann

**October 26—November 5, 2017**

Tickets start at \$35

On sale: June 5 for Members; June 9 for General Public

A beloved fairy tale and Academy Award-winning movie, *The Red Shoes* has seduced audiences and inspired generations of dancers with its tale of obsession, possession, and one girl's dream to be the greatest dancer in the world. Victoria Page lives to dance, but her ambitions become a battleground between the two men who inspire her passion. For the production's New York premiere at City Center, New Adventures star Ashley Shaw, who originated the role, and NYCB principal dancer Sara Mearns, making her debut as a guest artist with the company, will alternate in the role of Victoria Page. New Adventures rising star Cordelia Braithwaite will perform the role at the matinee performance on November 4.

Matthew Bourne's (*Swan Lake*, *The Sleeping Beauty*) Olivier Award-winning adaptation of the classic Powell and Pressburger film is set to a new score arranged by Terry Davies using the mesmerizing music of golden-age Hollywood composer Bernard Herrmann (most famous for his collaborations with Alfred Hitchcock and Orson Welles). *The Red Shoes* is Matthew Bourne's first new production in four years and had its world premiere at Sadler's Wells, London, in December 2016, where it opened to rave reviews and a sold-out eight-week season.

Support for Matthew Bourne's production of *The Red Shoes* is provided by Douglas S. Cramer and Hugh Bush.

Lerner & Loewe's

***Brigadoon***

Book and Lyrics by Alan Jay Lerner

Music by Frederick Loewe

Original dances created by Agnes DeMille

Starring Heidi Blickenstaff, Sara Esty, Robert Fairchild, Ross Lekites, Kelli O'Hara, and Steven Pasquale

Featuring The *Encores!* Orchestra

Artistic Advisor Jack Viertel

Music Director Rob Berman

Directed and Choreographed by Christopher Wheeldon

**November 15—19, 2017**

Tickets start at \$35

Tickets on sale now.\*

\*The added performance on November 19 will go on sale June 5 for Members and June 9 for the General Public.

Before *My Fair Lady* and *Camelot* there was *Brigadoon*, Lerner & Loewe's transcendent romantic fantasy about the past, the present, and what it means to (almost) be in love. The classic 1947 musical, celebrating its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary, follows Tommy Albright (Steven Pasquale), a jaded New Yorker who stumbles into an idyllic Scottish town that only appears for one day every century. Tommy quickly becomes smitten with the headstrong Fiona MacLaren (Kelli O'Hara) and makes an enemy of the rebellious Harry Beaton (Robert Fairchild), bringing about a chain of events that could spell doom for the entire town. Directed and choreographed by Tony Award-winner Christopher Wheeldon (*An American in Paris*), the performance on

November 15 will be City Center's Annual Gala, honoring City Center Board co-chair and Broadway producer Stacey Mindich.

Funds raised at all seven performances of *Brigadoon* will allow City Center to make the performing arts accessible to the widest possible audience by subsidizing affordable tickets throughout the year. Gala tickets are available at \$2,500, \$5,000, and \$10,000. Tables of ten are available at \$25,000, \$50,000, \$100,000, and \$150,000. To RSVP or for further information, please contact [sstrebel@nycitycenter.org](mailto:sstrebel@nycitycenter.org) or call 212.763.1205.

New York City Center thanks The Frederick Loewe Foundation for its lead sponsorship in support of this special production of *Brigadoon*.

**Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater**  
**November 29—December 31, 2017**

Tickets start at \$25

On sale: September 5

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, New York City Center's Principal Dance Company and America's beloved cultural ambassador to the world, returns with exciting performances that have become a joyous holiday tradition. With his expansive vision for the Company, Artistic Director Robert Battle continues to build upon the pioneering legacy of Alvin Ailey, a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom—the nation's highest civilian honor. Ailey's acclaimed dancers will perform a diverse repertory by a wide range of choreographers, including premieres, new productions, repertory favorites, and the must-see American masterpiece *Revelations* (with live music on select programs). Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater inspires all in a universal celebration of the human spirit using the African-American cultural experience and the American modern dance tradition. [www.alvinailey.org](http://www.alvinailey.org)

Press contact: Christopher Zunner, [czunner@alvinailey.org](mailto:czunner@alvinailey.org) or 212.405.9028  
For photos, visit [pressroom.alvinailey.org](http://pressroom.alvinailey.org)

*Encores!*

***Hey, Look Me Over!***

**February 7—11, 2018**

Conceived by Jack Viertel

Featuring The *Encores!* Orchestra

Music Director Rob Berman

Tickets start at \$35

On sale (Single Tickets): September 25 for Members;  
October 2 for General Public

For 25 years, City Center's *Encores!* series has been bringing classic American musicals back to life. This is where *Chicago*, *Wonderful Town*, and *Finian's Rainbow* were reborn—but we're just getting started. Catch a glimpse at the future of *Encores!* in this original production *Hey, Look Me Over!*, a cavalcade of overtures, opening numbers, grand finales, and other excerpts from beloved shows that *Encores!* hasn't gotten to—yet. Look for the likes of *Mack & Mabel*, *Greenwillow*, *Wildcat*, and others of their ilk. It's a lot of numbers that add up to one exciting celebration: *Encores!* at 25.

## **Flamenco Festival**

**March 2—11, 2018**

Tickets start at \$35

On sale: August 28 for Members; September 5 for General Public

Spain's finest dancers and singers return to New York City Center for a celebration of flamenco that is stirringly authentic while challenging the conventions of the form. The 2018 line-up includes with performances by Ballet Nacional de España, Eva Yerbabuena, and Jesús Carmona.

### **Ballet Nacional de España**

Director Antonio Najarro

*Suite Sevilla* (NY Premiere)

**March 2—4**

Ballet Nacional de España returns to New York with a new work choreographed by Director Antonio Najarro. *Suite Sevilla* melds classic Spanish dance with avant-garde techniques in an exploration of Andalusian longing. Rafael Riqueni's score, performed by live singers and guitarists, creates an unforgettable aural picture of southern Spain.

### **Eva Yerbabuena Company**

Choreographed by Eva Yerbabuena

**March 9—10**

Flamenco superstar Eva Yerbabuena makes a welcome return to New York accompanied by four dancers and her ensemble of musicians. "[She] is a visionary, magisterial dancer, whose effects go far beyond technique" (*The Guardian*, UK). Program details to be announced.

### **Ballet Flamenco Jesús Carmona**

*Impetus* (NY Premiere) Choreographed by Jesús Carmona

**March 11**

The Barcelona-born showstopper Jesús Carmona draws on the *zapateado* (percussive footwork) of traditional flamenco for *Impetus*, a work about the boundless energy that drives artists to realize their dreams. Performed by eleven dancers, musicians, and singers, *Impetus* is set to the music of Spain's most beloved composers. Carmona presented an excerpt from this evening-length work at the 2015 *Fall for Dance* Festival.

## *Encores!*

### ***Grand Hotel, The Musical***

**March 21—25, 2018**

Book by Luther Davis

Music and Lyrics by Robert Wright and George Forrest

Based on Vicki Baum's *Grand Hotel*

By arrangement with Turner Broadcasting Co. owner of the motion picture "Grand Hotel"

Additional Music and Lyrics by Maury Yeston

Featuring The *Encores!* Orchestra

Music Director Rob Berman

Tickets start at \$35

On sale (Single Tickets): September 25 for Members;

October 2 for General Public

Inspired by Vicki Baum's 1929 novel, *Grand Hotel* follows the post-war comings and goings of the artists, businessmen, jewel thieves, and ambitious young secretaries whose lives intersect in the opulent lobby of Berlin's most prestigious hotel. First produced under the title *At the Grand* (1958), with a score by Robert

Wright & George Forrest and book by Luther Davis, the original production was revitalized in 1989 by director-choreographer Tommy Tune with additional music and lyrics by Maury Yeston for a Tony Award-winning run on Broadway.

### **Dance Theatre of Harlem**

**April 4—7, 2018**

Tickets start at \$25

On sale: August 28 for Members; September 5 for General Public

Dance Theatre of Harlem is a company of diverse artists who perform an eclectic, demanding repertoire ranging from treasured classics and neo-classical works by George Balanchine and resident choreographer Robert Garland to cutting-edge contemporary pieces and works that use the language of ballet to celebrate African-American culture. Full program details to be announced.

Press contact: Billy Zavelson, [billy@kornbergpr.com](mailto:billy@kornbergpr.com) or 212.944.9444

### **Martha Graham Dance Company**

*Sacred/Profane*

**April 11—14, 2018**

Tickets start at \$35

On sale: August 28 for Members; September 5 for General Public

The renowned Martha Graham Dance Company brings *Sacred/Profane* back to New York after its acclaimed international tour. Rediscover Graham's genius through her visceral masterwork *The Rite of Spring* (1984), her powerful anti-war statement *Chronicle* (1936), and her sly melodrama *Embattled Garden* (1958). Be among the first to experience the powerhouse Graham dancers in a world premiere to be announced and the recent commission *Mosaic*, choreographed by Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui.

Press contact: Janet Stapleton, [stapleton.janet@gmail.com](mailto:stapleton.janet@gmail.com) or 212.633.0016

### ***jCuba Hoy!***

**April 25—28, 2018**

On sale: August 28 for Members; September 5 for General Public

At a time when Cuba is opening up to the world, the ***jCuba Hoy!*** festival of music and dance will feature performances, talks, and a masterclass with some of today's most celebrated Cuban artists and luminaries. The festival will include an evening of Afro-Cuban music curated by and featuring five-time Grammy Award-winner **Arturo O'Farrill** and the **Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra** (April 28), with a cavalcade of special guests to be announced, who will illuminate the best of Cuban musical tradition and present-day innovation. The festival opens with the US debut of international ballet superstar Carlos Acosta's new Havana-based company **Acosta Danza** (April 25—27). Under his artistic directorship, the company aims to shine a light on the vibrancy and richness of Cuban culture. Acosta Danza will make their US debut at City Center with a program including works by Marianela Boán, Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, and Goyo Montero.

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*Encores!*

***Me and My Girl***

**May 9—13, 2018**

Book and Lyrics by L. Arthur Rose and Douglas Furber

With contributions by Mike Ockrent

Music by Noel Gay

Book revised by Stephen Fry

Featuring The *Encores!* Orchestra

Music Director Rob Berman

Tickets start at \$35

On sale (Single Tickets): September 25 for Members;  
October 2 for General Public

The toast of 1930s London, *Me and My Girl* is a delightfully old-fashioned musical about a Cockney everyman who wreaks havoc on high society after being unexpectedly elevated to the lofty position of Earl of Hereford. Part music hall frolic, part class-warfare comedy, Noel Gay's infectious score includes "The Lambeth Walk," a dance routine that swept the continent in 1937. In the 1980s, *Me and My Girl* was revived and became a completely unexpected smash all over again. Now, for the first time in nearly 30 years, it's back in New York.

Cherry Orchard Festival Presents

Theater of Nations

***IVANOV***

**June 11—17, 2018**

Tickets start at \$45

Following their critically-acclaimed run of *Shukshin's Stories* (2016), Russia's Theatre of Nations returns to City Center with a dramatic retelling of Anton Chekhov's *IVANOV*, directed by the controversial opera and theater master Timofey Kulyabin, best known for his rebellious take on Wagner's *Tannhäuser*. Evgeny Mironov, Chulpan Khamatova, Elizaveta Boyarskaya, and Victor Verzhbitskiy, lead the cast in this production of the classic play which centers on the question: Is Ivanov as much of a scoundrel as those around him contend? Theatre of Nations brings to life Chekhov's keen observation, a comedic eye for social detail, and instinct for the drama of human contradiction.

***Encores! Off-Center***

**Summer 2018**

Programming for Artistic Director Michael Friedman's second season of *Encores! Off-Center* will be announced at a later date.

***Studio 5 at City Center***

Barbara and David Zalaznick Studio (130 W 56<sup>th</sup> Street)

All tickets \$30

On sale: September 5

This studio series takes audiences beyond the proscenium for an exclusive behind-the-scenes experience with the great dance artists of our time. Dancers reveal the artistic choices behind the magic they bring to the stage; choreographers share the myriad considerations that go into making a dance; artistic directors and coaches discuss and demonstrate the making of a professional performer—all accompanied by live performance elements within the intimate setting of the studio. This season's events will include artists

from American Ballet Theatre, New York City Ballet, and more. Dates and full program details to be announced at a later date.

### ***Front and Center: Learning from the Masters***

Tickets: \$30

On sale: September 5

City Center's master class series provides a unique opportunity for distinguished musical theater artists, emerging professionals, and audiences to explore themes relevant to the development and growth of artists in the field. The events focus on different topics, from composition to auditioning to vocal technique. Renowned musical theater experts will offer personalized adjustments and guidance to selected performers while the audience receives an insider's look into this intimate, process-driven experience. This Monday evening series will return on November 6 with a master class led by Tony Award-winning actress (and City Center Board member) Kelli O'Hara. Additional *Front and Center* events will be announced at a later date.

### **Sponsors**

The 2018 *Encores!* season is made possible by Stacey and Eric Mindich, Nathalie and Pablo Salame, The Shubert Foundation, and the Stephanie and Fred Shuman Fund for *Encores!*.

Support for *Encores! Off-Center* includes Founding Sponsors, Stacey and Eric Mindich and Stacy Bash-Polley; Leadership Sponsor, Nathalie and Pablo Salame; Series Sponsors, American Express, Luigi Caiola and Sean McGill, Elizabeth and Dean Kehler, Andrew Martin-Weber, the Stephanie and Fred Shuman Fund for *Encores!* and Barbara and David Zalaznick; with additional support provided by The Frederick Loewe Foundation and Paula and Ira Resnick.

Major support for the 2017-2018 season is provided by Elaine and Alan Weiler, Barbara and David Zalaznick, the Henry and Lucy Moses Fund, Inc., and The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation.

Support for new dance commissions for the 2017-2018 season is provided by The Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation.

Leadership support for Dance at City Center is provided by the Howard Gilman Foundation and The Harkness Foundation for Dance.

New York City Center thanks Lisa and Richard Witten for their generous support of the Artistic Innovation Fund. Support for the Arts Access Fund is generously provided by The Jerome L. Greene Foundation and the Stavros Niarchos Foundation.

New York City Center and its 2017-2018 season is generously supported with public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the New York City Council; the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature; and the National Endowment for the Arts.

**New York City Center** (Arlene Shuler, President & CEO) has played a defining role in the cultural life of the city since 1943. For 25 years, City Center's Tony-honored *Encores!* series has been "an essential New York institution" (*The New York Times*). In 2013, City Center launched the *Encores! Off-Center* series, which features seminal Off-Broadway musicals filtered through the lens of today's innovative artists. Dance has also been integral to the theater's mission from the start and programs like the annual *Fall for Dance* Festival remain central to City Center's identity. Home to a roster of renowned national and international companies including Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater (City Center's Principal Dance Company) and Manhattan Theatre Club, New York City Center was Manhattan's first performing arts center, founded with the mission of making the best in music, theater, and dance accessible to all audiences. That mission continues today through robust education and community engagement programs which bring the performing arts to over 9,000 New York City students each year and the expansion of the theatrical experience to include pre-show talks, master classes, and art exhibitions that offer an up-close look at the



work of the great theater and dance artists of our time. [www.NYCityCenter.org](http://www.NYCityCenter.org)

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