



New York City Center Presents

Brian Stokes Mitchell

in

THE BAND WAGON

Book by Douglas Carter Beane

From the screenplay by Betty Comden and Adolph Green

Music by Arthur Schwartz

Lyrics by Howard Dietz

Based on the classic MGM film

An Encores! Special Event

Directed and Choreographed by Kathleen Marshall

Music Direction by Todd Ellison

November 6 – 16 at City Center

New York, N.Y., July 30, 2014 – Tony Award winner **Brian Stokes Mitchell** will star in ***The Band Wagon***, an *Encores!* Special Event based on the classic MGM movie of the same title, from November 6 – 16, 2014 at City Center. The show has a book by **Douglas Carter Beane** adapted from the screenplay by **Betty Comden** and **Adolph Green**, with music by **Arthur Schwartz** and lyrics by **Howard Dietz**. *The Band Wagon* will be directed and choreographed by Tony Award winner **Kathleen Marshall** with music direction by **Todd Ellison**. *The Band Wagon* will run for 12 performances, by special arrangement with Warner Bros. Theatre Ventures.

The Band Wagon is a classic backstage musical: A washed-up Hollywood star trying to make a comeback by doing a Broadway show, a British director who is a genius but has no business directing a musical, a leading lady who's never done a show before, and a composer and a lyricist who are at each other's throats. All the things that could *never* happen in the New York theater today.

Written by Broadway's ultimate insiders, **Betty Comden** and **Adolph Green**, the 1953 film used Arthur Schwartz and Howard Dietz's wonderful songs to tell their story and took its title from the famed 1931 Broadway revue written by Schwartz, Dietz, and George S. Kaufman.

Editor Note: 2014 is the centenary of Adolph Green's birth.

Now five-time Tony nominee **Douglas Carter Beane** will use the original Comden and Green screenplay (including scenes never filmed) as a basis for this *Encores!* Special Event, with a wonderful score that includes "Dancing in the Dark," "By Myself," "I Guess I'll Have to Change My Plan," "A Shine on My Shoes," and that great anthem for all of show business, "That's Entertainment."

Brian Stokes Mitchell's many theater credits include the Broadway productions of *Man of La Mancha* (Tony nomination and Helen Hayes Award); *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown* (Drama Desk nomination); *Kiss Me, Kate* (Tony, Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle Awards); *Ragtime* (Tony nomination); August Wilson's *King Hedley II* (Tony nomination); *Kiss of the Spider Woman*; *Jelly's Last Jam*; David Merrick's *Oh, Kay!*; and *Mail*, which earned him a Theatre World Award for Outstanding Broadway Debut. He headlined the Carnegie Hall concert presentation of Rodgers and Hammerstein's *South Pacific* with Reba McEntire, which aired on PBS in the spring of 2006. This summer he was seen as Don Pedro in the Public Theater's *Much Ado about Nothing* at The Delacorte Theater in Central Park. His *Encores!* credits include *Do Re Mi*, *Carnival*, and *Kismet*. His album "Simply Broadway" was named one of USA Today's Best CD's of 2013. brianstokes.com

Douglas Carter Beane (Book)'s credits on Broadway include *Rodgers + Hammerstein's Cinderella* (Tony Award nomination), *The Nance* (nominated for five Tony Awards and two Drama Desk Awards), *Lysistrata Jones* (Tony Award nomination), *Sister Act* (Tony Award nomination), the stage adaptation of the film *Xanadu* (Outer Critics Circle & HX Awards for Best Musical, Drama Desk Award for Best Book, and four Tony nominations including Best Musical), and *The Little Dog Laughed* (Tony Award; Olivier Award nomination). His other plays include *As Bees in Honey Drown* (Outer Critics Circle John Gassner Award), *Mr. and Mrs. Fitch*, *Music From a Sparkling Planet*, *The Country Club*, *Advice From a Caterpillar*, *The Cartells*, and *Mondo Drama*. He has written the libretto for the Metropolitan Opera's *Die Fledermaus*, and his ballet *Artists and Models, 1929* is a part of the dance show *In Your Arms*. He wrote the film adaptation of his play *Advice From a Caterpillar* as well as the screenplay of *To Wong Foo, Thanks For Everything, Julie Newmar*. Douglas is currently writing a movie for Fox Searchlight and creating a series for HBO. His next play, *Shows For Days*, will be produced this spring by Lincoln Center Theater, and he is developing a play in verse, *Fairycakes*, which he will both write and direct.

Howard Dietz and Arthur Schwartz, one of the greatest American songwriting teams, wrote some of Broadway and Hollywood's biggest hits of the 1930s, '40s, and '50s, including "Dancing in the Dark," "That's Entertainment," "You and the Night and the Music," "I Guess I'll Have To Change My Plan," "I See Your Face Before Me," "Alone Together," and "Love Is a Dancing Thing." Dietz and Schwartz collaborated on 11 Broadway shows over the course of 34 years; their many credits include *The Little Show* (1929), *Three's a Crowd* (1930), *The Band Wagon* (1931), *Flying Colors* (1932), *At Home Abroad* (1935), *Between the Devil* (1937), *The Gay Life* (1961), and *Jenny* (1963).

Todd Ellison (Music Director)'s many Broadway credits include the recent revival of *Annie*, *Monty Python's Spamalot*, *La Cage Aux Folles*, *42nd Street*, Elton John's *Lestat*, Michel Legrand's *Amour*, *The Wild Party*, *On the Town*, *Once Upon a Mattress* (starring Sarah Jessica Parker), *How To Succeed...* (starring Matthew Broderick), *She Loves Me*, *Taller Than a Dwarf*, and *A Class Act*. He was the music director of the *Radio City Christmas Spectacular* for several seasons. As Marvin Hamlisch's music director, he worked on *The Nutty Professor* (directed by Jerry Lewis) and *Ballroom*. As a Pops conductor he has conducted The Pittsburgh Symphony, as well as Long Beach, New Haven, and York Symphonies. Todd conducted the *Encores!* production of *On the Town* and was a guest pianist for *No, No, Nanette*. toddelisonmusic.com

Kathleen Marshall (Director/Choreographer) returns to City Center, where she has directed and choreographed the *Encores!* Off-Center production of *Getting My Act Together...* and the *Encores!* productions of *Bells Are Ringing*, *Applause*, *Carnival*, and *Hair*, among others, and served as artistic director for four seasons. Her Broadway credits include *Nice Work If You Can Get It*, *Anything Goes*, *The Pajama Game*, *Wonderful Town*, *Grease*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Follies*, and *Kiss Me, Kate*. She recently directed Joe DiPietro's *Living on Love* at the Williamstown Theatre Festival starring Renée Fleming. She

has received three Tony Awards (out of nine nominations), three Drama Desk Awards, and three Outer Critics Circle Awards.

New York City Center (Arlene Shuler, President & CEO), now in its 70th year, has played a defining role in the cultural life of the city since 1943. It was Manhattan's first performing arts center, dedicated by Mayor Fiorello La Guardia with a mission to make the best in music, theater and dance accessible to all audiences. Today, City Center is home to many distinguished companies, including Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, City Center's Principal Dance Company, as well as Manhattan Theatre Club; a roster of renowned national and international visiting artists; and its own critically acclaimed and popular programs. The Tony-honored *Encores!* musical theater series has been hailed as "one of the very best reasons to be alive in New York." In summer 2013, City Center launched *Encores! Off-Center*, a new series featuring landmark Off Broadway musicals filtered through the lens of today's most innovative artists. Dance has been integral to the theater's mission from the start — and dance programs, including the annual *Fall for Dance* Festival, remain central to City Center's identity. Vital partnerships with arts organizations including Jazz at Lincoln Center and London's Sadler's Wells Theatre enhance City Center's programmatic offerings. City Center is dedicated to providing educational opportunities to New York City students and teachers through programs such as *Encores! In Schools* and the Young People's Dance Series. Special workshops cater to families, seniors, and other groups, while events such as the *Fall for Dance* DanceTalk series offer learning opportunities to the general public. In October 2011, City Center completed an extensive renovation project to revitalize and modernize its historic theater.

The Band Wagon will run for 12 performances, November 6 – 16 (see full schedule below) Tickets go on sale on September 2 at the New York City Center Box Office (West 55th Street between 6th and 7th Avenues), through CityTix® at 212-581-1212, and online at www.NYCityCenter.org. Further information is available at www.NYCityCenter.org.

For press inquiries, contact:
Helene Davis at helene@helenedavispr.com
Helene Davis Public Relations

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***The Band Wagon* Running Schedule:**

Thursday, November 6 at 7:30 pm
Friday, November 7 at 8 pm
Saturday, November 8 at 8 pm
Sunday, November 9 at 2 pm
Tuesday, November 11 at 7:30 pm
Wednesday, November 12 at 7:30 pm
Thursday, November 13 at 7:30 pm
Friday, November 14 at 8 pm
Saturday, November 15 at 2 & 8 pm
Sunday, November 16 at 2 & 7 pm