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## **New York City Center partners with The Greene Space at WNYC to present *City Center Encores! Unscripted*, a new live-streamed series of conversations and performances**

**Performers and guests include Jason Robert Brown, Sheldon Harnick, Leslie Odom, Jr., Jeanine Tesori, and more**

**New York, NY, November 17, 2015**—Arlene Shuler, New York City Center President & CEO, today announced that City Center will partner with The Jerome L. Greene Performance Space at WNYC to expand the reach of the Tony-honored *Encores!* series with a new live-streamed series of conversations and performances about the glorious, complicated legacy of the Broadway musical. *City Center Encores! Unscripted* at The Greene Space at WNYC will go beyond the “talkback”—and beyond nostalgia—for a smart, unsentimental look at how musicals have reflected and shaped American life.

Hosted by *Encores!* Artistic Director **Jack Viertel**, the series kicks off on December 14, 2015 with *Sexism. Racism. Show Tunes. Discuss.*, in which **Sheldon Harnick, Ruben Santiago-Hudson, and Jeanine Tesori** examine the troublingly sexist and racist attitudes embedded in classic musicals. The second *Encores! Unscripted* event, *Keeping Score*, digs into the art of orchestration and score restoration with **Rob Berman, Jason Robert Brown, and Jonathan Tunick**, on February 1, 2016. The series concludes with *Who Tells Their Stories?: Historical Narratives on Broadway*, featuring **Michael Friedman and Leslie Odom, Jr.**, on March 14, 2016.

“At *Encores!*, we’re always asking questions about the American musical: where it’s been, where it’s going, what we can learn from the songwriters of Broadway’s Golden Age, and about the attitudes of any given era, which might be very different from our own,” said *Encores!* Artistic Director Jack Viertel. “This series opens up that conversation to everyone. There’s no one else who does what we do at *Encores!* in terms of restoring and presenting great musicals as they were originally intended. Our hope is that *Encores! Unscripted* will explore the connections between the shows we do here—from *Cabin in the Sky* to *1776*—and the shows currently playing on Broadway.”

“City Center is delighted to join forces with The Greene Space at WNYC for this new series, which allows us

to share the *Encores!* tradition of passionately researched and performed musical theater with a much wider audience,” said City Center President & CEO Arlene Shuler. “This is not the first time that these two landmark institutions have worked together. After Mayor Fiorello La Guardia dedicated City Center in 1943, I’m told that he liked to plug our musicals and ballets during his weekly radio chats on WNYC.”

“The Greene Space and *Encores!* know that our audiences not only delight in the electricity of a live performance, they want to dig deeply into the stories and ideas that propel their favorite shows,” said Jennifer Sendrow, Executive Producer at WNYC. “We’re convening some of the brightest minds on Broadway to make a must-listen oral history of a fiercely creative time in American theater that will inspire and challenge future generations of artists and fans alike.”

All tickets will cost \$15. Shows will be webcast live and available as archived videos and podcasts. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit [www.thegreenspace.org](http://www.thegreenspace.org).

### ***Sexism. Racism. Show Tunes. Discuss.***

**December 14, 2015 at 7pm**

The phrase “golden age of Broadway” conjures up visions of romantic innocence, but the original scripts of many classic American musicals, from *Babes in Arms* to *Annie Get Your Gun*, are full of troublingly sexist and racist attitudes. How can we make sense of an art form that has produced so many beautiful songs and perpetuated so many ugly stereotypes? *Encores! Unscripted* will explore that question with the help of Tony Award winners **Sheldon Harnick** (*Fiddler on the Roof*), **Ruben Santiago-Hudson** (*Jelly’s Last Jam*), **Jeanine Tesori** (*Fun Home*), and other guests and performances to be announced.

### ***Keeping Score***

**February 1, 2016 at 7pm**

In the beginning, the American musical was a throwaway art. Musicians doodled on their sheet music and used it to swat mosquitoes; scores were often trashed after a show closed. City Center’s *Encores!* series was founded in 1994 with a commitment to uncovering these orchestrations—and in some cases, painstakingly restoring them to their original glory. Discover how great orchestrations are created and how they can transform a musical in this *Encores! Unscripted* event, featuring legendary orchestrator **Jonathan Tunick** (*Follies, A Chorus Line*); *Encores!* Music Director **Rob Berman**; and Tony Award-winning composer **Jason Robert Brown** (*Parade, The Last Five Years*), who began his career by writing vocal arrangements for other composers’ shows.

### ***Who Tells Their Stories?: Historical Narratives on Broadway***

**March 14, 2016 at 7pm**

From the Gershwins’ madcap *Of Thee I Sing* to Lin-Manuel Miranda’s hip-hop masterpiece *Hamilton*, Broadway composers have long been drawn to stories about towering political figures, the women they will never satisfy, and the complicated legacies they leave behind. Dig into the process of bringing American icons to life with *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson* composer **Michael Friedman**; *Hamilton* star **Leslie Odom, Jr.**; cast members from the *Encores!* production of *1776*; and other guests and performances to be announced.

Artists and programs subject to change.

### **ABOUT NEW YORK CITY CENTER**

New York City Center (Arlene Shuler, President & CEO) 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 series that features 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 brings dance and musical theater to over 9,000 New York City students each year through its robust education program, and other learning opportunities are offered to seniors, families, and the general public. City Center is expanding its programming beyond the proscenium and activating its alternative spaces with pre-show talks, master classes, exhibitions of visual art, and intimate performances that give an up-close look at the work of the great theater and dance artists of our time. In October 2011, City Center completed an extensive renovation project to revitalize and modernize its historic theater. For more information, visit [www.nycitycenter.org](http://www.nycitycenter.org)

### **ABOUT THE GREENE SPACE**

The Jerome L. Greene Performance Space is a street-level broadcast studio and performance venue that produces specials of WNYC programs, WQXR concerts and festivals, as well as a full season of original programming, including theater events, arts and culture conversation series, political debates and audio theater. It serves as a place for experimentation, cultural discovery and dialogue. For more information, visit [www.thegreenspace.org](http://www.thegreenspace.org)

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