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**Michael Cerveris, Isaiah Johnson, Randy Newman, Laura Osnes,
Vonda Shepard, Brooklyn Shuck, Tony Vincent and
Broadway Inspirational Voices**

cast in

Randy Newman's

FAUST

The Concert

A One-Night-Only Encores! Off-Center production on July 1

Directed by Thomas Kail; Choreographed by Marcos Santana

New York, N.Y., June 9, 2014 – **Michael Cerveris, Isaiah Johnson, Randy Newman, Laura Osnes, Vonda Shepard, Brooklyn Shuck, Tony Vincent** and **Broadway Inspirational Voices** have been cast in *Randy Newman's Faust: The Concert*, which will be performed on July 1 as the second *Encores! Off-Center* presentation of the 2014 season. *Faust* will be directed by **Thomas Kail** and choreographed by **Marcos Santana**. **Jeanine Tesori** is the *Encores! Off-Center* artistic director; **Chris Fenwick** is its music director.

Randy Newman's FAUST: The Concert, with music and lyrics by **Randy Newman**, is, according to Newman, "like Goethe's *Faust Pt. 1*, but more complex psychologically; more like *Pt. 2* but not the product of an ordered mind. The Lord and the Devil are childhood friends who in adulthood¹ have a falling out. The Devil is expelled from Heaven, somewhat arbitrarily some might say, and though he reigns in Hell, he longs to return to his childhood home. He goes up to visit Heaven for the first time in a long while. He finds the Lord and tells him Man is bad, and should never have been created². The Lord says that He doesn't make mistakes. As they did in the 12th, 14th and 16th centuries³, they bet on it, pick a young Notre Dame freshman as a representative specimen and hilarity ensues." The musical opened in 1995 at the La Jolla Playhouse in San Diego and was revived at the Goodman Theatre in Chicago in 1996.

^[1] Goethe's word; ^[2] Goethe's word order; ^[3] Goethe's dangling modifier

THE ARTISTS

Michael Cerveris (Angel Rick) received the Tony Award for his portrayal of John Wilkes Booth in *Assassins*, and received Tony Award nominations for his roles in *Evita*, *LoveMusik*, *Sweeney Todd*, and *The Who's Tommy*. Other Broadway appearances include *In The Next Room (Or The Vibrator Play)*, *Hedda Gabler*, *Cymbeline*, and *Titanic*. Known for his versatility as an actor, Cerveris has also performed in Off-Broadway productions of *King Lear*, *Macbeth*, *Nikolai and the Others*, and *Sondheim's Road Show*, among others, and brought his performance as Hedwig to the West End in *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*. Most recently, Cerveris performed in the Public Theater's highly acclaimed production of *Fun Home*, receiving the Lucille Lortel Award. Cerveris has also appeared in many film and television productions, including roles on the "The Good Wife," "Treme," and "Fringe." As a singer, he has performed with the NY City Opera and the NY Philharmonic, and at venues including Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, and Lincoln Center. As a solo recording artist,

Cerveris has released two albums, *Dog Eared* and *Piety*. His country band Loose Cattle recently released their live debut record, *North of Houston*. <http://www.amazing-journey.com>

Randy Newman (Composer/Randy/Devil) has written songs that run the gamut from heartbreaking to satirical, as well as a host of unforgettable film scores, using his many talents to create musical masterpieces widely recognized by generations of audiences. After starting his songwriting career as a teenager, Randy launched into recording as a singer and pianist in 1968 with his self-titled album *Randy Newman*. Throughout the 1970s he released several other acclaimed albums such as: *12 Songs*, *Sail Away* and *Good Old Boys*. In addition to his solo recordings and regular international touring, Randy began composing and scoring for films in the 1980s. The list of movies he has worked on since then includes *The Natural*, *Awakenings*, *Ragtime*, all three *Toy Story* pictures, *Seabiscuit*, *James and the Giant Peach*, *A Bug's Life*, and more recently, Disney/Pixar's *Monsters University*, the prequel to *Monsters Inc.* (which he also scored). The highly praised 2008 *Harp and Angels* was Randy's first album of new material since 1999. It was followed in 2011 by *The Randy Newman Songbook Vol. 2*, which is the second in a series of new solo piano/vocal recordings of his songs spanning five decades, and a live CD and DVD recorded at London's intimate LSO St. Luke's with the BBC Concert Orchestra, conducted by Robert Ziegler. The 22-song set features some of his best-known songs like "Short People," "Louisiana 1927," and "I Think It's Going to Rain Today," as well as newer songs such as "A Few Words in Defense of Our Country" and "Laugh and Be Happy." Randy's many honors include six Grammys, three Emmys, and two Academy Awards, as well as a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. He was inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 2002 and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2013—the same year he was given an Ivor Novello PRS for Music Special International Award. Mostly recently, Randy was presented with a PEN New England Song Lyrics of Literary Excellence Award in June 2014. <http://randynewman.com>

Isaiah Johnson (Lord) appeared on Broadway in *Peter and the Starcatcher* and *The Merchant of Venice*, and Off-Broadway in *Othello*, *Far from Heaven* and *Richard III*. His credits also include *A Musical Inspired by the Brooklyn Hero Supply Company* at the Powerhouse Theater at Vassar.

Laura Osnes (Margaret) most recently starred in the Off-Broadway revival of *The Threepenny Opera* directed by Martha Clarke. Her Broadway credits include the title role in *Rogers + Hammerstein's Cinderella* (Drama Desk Award), Bonnie in *Bonnie and Clyde*, Hope Harcourt in the Tony-winning revival of *Anything Goes*, Nellie Forbush in Lincoln Center's *South Pacific*, and Sandy in the most recent revival of *Grease*. Other New York credits include the *Encores!* production of *Pipe Dream* and a one-night-only concert of *The Sound of Music* at Carnegie Hall. Laura made her cabaret debut at the Café Carlyle in 2012, resulting in her first solo CD, *Dream A Little Dream: Live at The Carlyle*. She followed that appearance with an evening of Maury Yeston's music at 54 Below, which led to her second solo CD, *If I Tell You: The Songs Of Maury Yeston*. <http://www.laura-osnes.com>

Vonda Shepard (Martha) starred as the voice of Ally McBeal in the hit television series for five years. Throughout the show's five year run, Vonda performed on each episode and produced the show's music, recording nearly 500 songs featuring artists including Gladys Knight, Sting, Barry Manilow, Al Green, Chubby Checker and Jon Bon Jovi. She has over 12 million album sales to her name, two Golden Globes, two Emmy Awards, two Screen Actor's Guild Awards, and the Billboard prize for selling the most television soundtrack records in history. She has worked with Rickie Lee Jones, Al Jarreau, Jackson Browne, the Indigo Girls, The Funk Brothers, Sting, The Eurythmics and Santana. www.vondashepard.com

Brooklyn Shuck (Angel Child) is a singer, actress and dancer from Lexington, Kentucky. She was recently seen on Broadway in the revival of *Annie*. Brooklyn has appeared as Baby Kangaroo in *Seussical, Jr.*, was a featured soloist in the University of Kentucky Opera Theatre's 20th Annual Broadway Review, and was the youngest cabaret singer for the Music of Change performance at the Freedom Center in Cincinnati, Ohio. <http://brooklynshuck.com>

Tony Vincent (Henry Faust) has appeared on Broadway as Judas in *Jesus Christ Superstar*, in *Rent*, and as St. Jimmy in Green Day's *American Idiot*. He originated the role of Galileo Figaro in Queen's *We Will Rock You* (London's West End, Las Vegas), and has fronted the rock band Queen on multiple occasions, including Queen Elizabeth's Golden Jubilee and Party in the Park. In 2002 he was chosen as one of the first artists to bring the music of Andrew Lloyd Webber to Asia in *Andrew Lloyd Webber: Masterpiece, (Live From Beijing)* and was one of the most talked-about vocalists during season 2 of NBC's *The Voice*. www.tonyvincent.com

Broadway Inspirational Voices (BIV), a gospel ensemble comprised of actors performing on and off Broadway, is directed by Choirmaster **Michael McElroy**, who founded it in December of 1999. Some of the shows currently represented are *After Midnight*, *Violet*, *Holla If You Hear Me*, *Disney's Aladdin*, *Book of Mormon*, *Kinky Boots*, *The Lion King*, *Phantom of the Opera*, *Motown the Musical*, *Pippin* and *Wicked*. BIV uses the power of music in rousing live concerts and benefits, along with a dynamic outreach programs for children and teens to inspire creativity and promote a message of tolerance, understanding and respect for cultural diversity through the arts. www.broadwayinspirationalvoices.org

Thomas Kail (Director, *Faust*) received a Tony nomination for his direction of *In the Heights*. His additional Broadway credits include the plays *Lombardi* and *Magic/Bird*. Other credits include *In the Heights* (Off-Broadway - Callaway Award, Drama Desk and Outer Critics nomination); *Broke-ology* and the world premiere of *When I Come to Die* at Lincoln Center Theater; *The Wiz* at New York City Center; the world premiere of *The Tutors* at Second Stage Uptown; the world premiere of *Broke-ology* at Williamstown Theater Festival; the world premiere of A.R. Gurney's *Family Furniture* at The Flea; the national tour of *In the Heights*; and *Once on this Island* at the Paper Mill Playhouse. He is the co-creator and director of the hip-hop improv group *Freestyle Love Supreme*, which played the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, U.S. Comedy Arts Festival, Montreal Comedy Festival, and Melbourne Comedy Festival.

Chris Fenwick (Music Director) is currently music director of the Broadway production of *Rocky* and recently music directed *Fun Home* at The Public Theater. He was music director of the original productions of Michael John LaChiusa's *Giant*, *Los Otros*, *Queen of the Mist* and *See What I Wanna See*. Broadway credits include *Grease*, *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, *The Pajama Game*, *Wonderful Town*, and *Elaine Stritch at Liberty*. Other credits include the Off-Broadway productions of *Hello Again*, *Here Lies Jenny*, *Road Show*, *Happiness*, and *Mother Courage* and concerts with Patti LuPone at Carnegie Hall, Ravinia Festival, and many more. Chris was music director of the *Encores! Off-Center* productions of *The Cradle Will Rock* and *I'm Getting My Act Together*.

Marcos Santana (Choreographer) is associate choreographer of the Broadway production of *Rocky*. He choreographed the U.S. tour of *Rock of Ages* and was associate choreographer of the show's West End Production. His acting credits include the Broadway productions of *Guys and Dolls* and *In the Heights*.

Jeanine Tesori (Artistic Director) has written four Tony-nominated scores for Broadway: *Twelfth Night* at Lincoln Center; *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (lyrics, Dick Scanlan); *Caroline, or Change* (lyrics, Tony Kushner); and *Shrek the Musical* (lyrics, David Lindsay-Abaire). The production of *Caroline, or Change* at the National Theatre in London received the Olivier Award for Best New Musical. Her 1997 Off-Broadway musical, *Violet*, opened on Broadway this spring, starring Sutton Foster, and has garnered four Tony Nominations including Best Musical Revival. Her most recent musical, *Fun Home* (lyrics, Lisa Kron) made its premiere at the Public Theater this fall to critical acclaim (winner of Lortel, Outer Critics, NY Drama Critics, and Obie Awards). Jeanine's opera credits include *A Blizzard on Marblehead Neck*, (libretto, Tony Kushner; Glimmerglass) and *The Lion, The Unicorn, and Me* (libretto, J. D. McClatchy; Kennedy Center). She has written music for the plays *Mother Courage* (dir. George C. Wolfe, with Meryl Streep and Kevin Kline), John Guare's *A Free Man of Color* (Lincoln Center Theater, dir. George C. Wolfe, *Romeo and Juliet* (Delacorte Gala).

City Center's *Encores! Off-Center* series presents musicals that pushed creative boundaries when they were first produced. Filtered through the lens of today's artists, these shows are presented not as historical documents but as living, vital works that continue to resonate with audiences. In the *Encores!* tradition, *Off-Center* places a great emphasis on the scores, with the orchestra performing onstage. The series reflects City Center's ongoing outreach to new and younger audiences. In keeping with this mission, the majority of tickets are \$25.

New York City Center gratefully acknowledges the *Encores! Off-Center* Founding Sponsors, Stacey and Eric Mindich and Stacy Bash-Polley; Series Sponsor, American Express; with additional support provided by the Frederick Loewe Foundation, Inc.; Paula and Ira Resnick and Alec Stais and Elissa Burke.

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 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 with 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.

Randy Newman’s Faust: The Concert will play on Wednesday, July 1 at 7:30 pm. Tickets start at \$25 and can be purchased at the New York City Center Box Office (West 55th Street between 6th and 7th Avenues), through CityTix® at 212-581-1212, or online at www.NYCityCenter.org.

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2014 Encores! Off-Center Season

Jeanine Tesori, Artistic Director

tick, tick... BOOM!

June 25 – 28

Book, Music and Lyrics by Jonathan Larson

Directed by Oliver Butler

Music Direction by Chris Fenwick

Choreographed by Camille A. Brown

Cast: Lin-Manuel Miranda, Leslie Odom Jr., Karen Olivo

Randy Newman’s

FAUST: The Concert

July 1 only

Music and Lyrics by Randy Newman

Directed by Thomas Kail

Choreographed by Marcos Santana

Music Direction by Chris Fenwick

Cast: Michael Cerveris, Isaiah Johnson, Randy Newman, Laura Osnes, Vonda Shepard, Brooklyn Shuck, Tony Vincent and Broadway Inspirational Voices

PUMP BOYS and DINETTES

July 16 – July 19

Book, Music and Lyrics by John Foley, Mark Hardwick, Debra Monk, Cass Morgan, John Schimmel and Jim Wann

Directed by Lear deBessonet

Choreographed by Danny Mefford

Music Direction by Chris Fenwick

Cast: Jordan Dean, Hunter Foster, Mamie Parris, Randy Redd, Katie Thompson, Lorenzo Wolff

Program and Artists subject to change.