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## **New York City Center announces 2016-17 season**

**Tony-honored *Encores!* series to feature *Big River*, *The New Yorkers*, and *The Golden Apple***

**Dance highlights include:**

**13<sup>th</sup> annual *Fall for Dance* Festival featuring 20 companies in 5 programs and 2 world premiere commissions**

***Vail Dance Festival: ReMix NYC* featuring artistic collaborations and programming from the renowned Vail International Dance Festival, directed by Damian Woetzel**

**International ballet star Natalia Osipova and guest artists in a program of US premieres**

**May 11, 2016/New York, NY**—Arlene Shuler, President & CEO, today announced programming for New York City Center's 2016-17 season. Opening with the 13<sup>th</sup> edition of the *Fall for Dance* Festival featuring 20 companies in five unique programs and two world premiere commissions, the fall season will bring the unique collaborative sensibility of the Vail International Dance Festival to New York City for the first time in *Vail Dance Festival: ReMix NYC*. International ballet star Natalia Osipova and guest artists Sergei Polunin, James O'Hara, and Jason Kittleberger will also present a program of US premieres, commissioned by Osipova. MasterVoices (formerly The Collegiate Chorale) will open their 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary season at City Center with the New York premiere of Ricky Ian Gordon's *27*, and Nederlands Dans Theater returns with a repertory program of US premieres. City Center's Principal Dance Company, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, also returns in November for their 46<sup>th</sup> consecutive season at City Center.

New York City Center's Tony-honored *Encores!* series, led by Artistic Director Jack Viertel and Music Director Rob Berman, begins its 24<sup>th</sup> season with Roger Miller's 1985 retelling of Mark Twain's classic novel, *Big River: The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*; followed by Cole Porter's 1930 Prohibition romp *The New Yorkers*, and *The Golden Apple*, John Latouche and Jerome Moross' 1954 reinvention of the Greek epic poems *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey* into an all-American fable. The spring season will include Ballet Nacional de España, *Goddesses & Demonesses* from choreographer Blanca Li, the return of Dance Theatre of Harlem, and the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary North American tour of Eifman Ballet of St. Petersburg.

The acclaimed *Encores! Off-Center* series, which *The New York Times* has called a “summer theater highlight,” returns in July 2017 for its fifth season under the leadership of new Artistic Director Michael Friedman. Programming for *Off-Center* 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 dance and musical theater artists. New this season, the master class series *Front and Center: Learning from the Masters*, curated by Victoria Clark, will provide a unique opportunity for emerging artists to explore everything from composition and auditioning to vocal technique, while being mentored by musical theater luminaries. *Studio 5 at City Center* offers behind-the-scenes conversations and performances featuring today’s great dance artists, and the *Encores! Unscripted* series (created in partnership with The Greene Space at WNYC) returns this season to explore the glorious, complicated legacy of the Broadway musical.

Tickets can be purchased online at NYCityCenter.org, by calling CityTix at 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 2016-17 Season**

### **2016 Fall for Dance Festival**

**Sep 26—Oct 8, 2016**

Tickets: \$15

On sale Sep 10 at 11am

The 13th edition of the annual *Fall for Dance* Festival will feature 20 acclaimed international dance companies and artists in five unique programs and two world premiere commissions. In keeping with the Festival’s commitment to making dance accessible to everyone, all tickets are \$15. The two-week Festival will include performances by Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, American Ballet Theatre, Bangarra, Compagnie Accrorap, Dada Masilo, Grupo Corpo, Hong Kong Ballet, Richard Alston Dance Company with Montclair State University Vocal Accord, Shantala Shivalingappa, and more. Full program details will be announced at a later date.

New York City Center gratefully acknowledges *Fall for Dance* Festival Sustaining Sponsor, the Ford Foundation. City Center is also grateful to its Presenting Partners including Jody and John Arnhold, Perry and Marty Granoff, and Caroline Howard Hyman.

### **MasterVoices**

**27**

**Oct 20—21, 2016**

Tickets start at \$30

On sale Aug 1

MasterVoices (formerly The Collegiate Chorale) will open its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary season with the New York premiere of Ricky Ian Gordon’s *27*, an opera that explores the relationship between Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas, who hosted regular salon evenings at their Paris home at 27 Rue de Fleurus. Originally commissioned by Opera Theater of St. Louis, *27* received its world premiere in June 2014. For the New York premiere, Gordon has specially added new sections for the MasterVoices chorus.

27

By Ricky Ian Gordon

Libretto by Royce Vavrek

Starring Stephanie Blythe, Heidi Stober, Theo Lebow, Tobias Greenhalgh, and Daniel Brevik  
Conducted by Ted Sperling  
Directed by James Robinson  
with Orchestra of St. Luke's

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New York City Center  
presents

***Vail Dance Festival: ReMix NYC***

Directed by Damian Woetzel

**Nov 3—6, 2016**

Tickets start at \$35

On sale Aug 1

In Damian Woetzel's tenth year as artistic director of the Vail International Dance Festival, City Center will present three programs and an UpClose event that spotlight the spirit of his acclaimed summer dance happening in the Rocky Mountains. *Vail Dance Festival: ReMix NYC* brings Vail's unique collaborative sensibility to New York City featuring dancers and musicians from different genres. Programs will include Vail International Dance Festival regulars Isabella Boylston, Lil Buck, Herman Cornejo, Michelle Dorrance, Robert Fairchild, Carla Körbes, Sara Mearns, Gabriel Misse, Tiler Peck, and Matthew Rushing among others, along with the Catalyst Quartet, members of the FLUX Quartet, and solo musicians including Sandeep Das, JP Jofre, Cristina Pato, and Wu Tong.

Leadership Sponsorship for *Vail Dance Festival: ReMix NYC* is provided by Jody and John Arnhold.

***Natalia Osipova & Artists***

**Nov 10—12, 2016**

Tickets start at \$35

On sale to Members May 12, General public May 23

Award-winning Russian ballerina Natalia Osipova has performed with the Bolshoi Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, the Mikhailovsky Ballet, and The Royal Ballet. For this latest production, Osipova is joined by dancers Sergei Polunin, James O'Hara, and Jason Kittleberger, in a program of contemporary US premieres, commissioned by Osipova from choreographers Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, Russell Maliphant, and Arthur Pita. The program will receive its world premiere at Sadler's Wells in June.

***Qutb*** (US premiere) Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui

US premiere piece by Russell Maliphant

***Run Mary Run*** (US premiere) Arthur Pita

New York City Center presents  
Natalia Osipova & Artists  
A Sadler's Wells London Production

**Nederlands Dans Theater**

**Nov 16—19, 2016**

Tickets start at \$35

On sale Aug 1

One of the world's leading contemporary dance companies, under the guidance of choreographer Paul Lightfoot, Nederlands Dans Theater (NDT 1) has built a rich repertory of over 600 works from master choreographers such as Jiří Kylián and Hans van Manen to high-profile guests such as Hofesh Shechter and Sharon Eyal & Gai Behar. The multi-national company will present a program of US premieres that showcases their versatility and astonishing technique.

***Safe as Houses*** (US Premiere) Sol León & Paul Lightfoot

***Woke Up Blind*** (US Premiere) Marco Goecke

***The Statement*** (US Premiere) Crystal Pite

***Stop-Motion*** (US Premiere) Sol León & Paul Lightfoot

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**Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater**

**Nov 30—Dec 31, 2016**

Tickets start at \$25

On sale Sep 6

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, New York City Center's Principal Dance Company and beloved as an American 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)

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For photos, visit [pressroom.alvinailey.org](http://pressroom.alvinailey.org)

***Encores! Big River***

**Feb 8—12, 2017**

Wed – Thu 7:30pm, Fri 8pm, Sat 2 & 8pm, Sun 2 & 7pm

Tickets start at \$35

Subscriptions on sale Jul 25; General public Sep 26

A thoroughly original retelling of Mark Twain's classic novel about friendship, freedom, and the untamed Mississippi, *Big River* was a musical underdog as scrappy and restless as Huckleberry Finn himself. The show was created in the age of British spectacles by a quintessentially American artist—the beloved country-western singer Roger Miller—and his Tony Award-winning score is a scintillating blend of bluegrass, gospel, and honky tonk. More than thirty years later, *Big River* remains an affecting journey through 1840s America in all its beauty and savagery.

*Big River*

*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

Music and Lyrics by Roger Miller

Book by William Hauptman  
Adapted from the novel by Mark Twain  
Featuring The *Encores!* Orchestra

Presented by New York City Center and Flamenco Festival

**Ballet Nacional de España**

**Mar 2—5, 2017**

Tickets start at \$35

On sale Sep 6

Under the direction of accomplished dancer and choreographer Antonio Najarro, Ballet Nacional de España is dedication to preserving all styles of Spanish dance while undergoing a period of creative growth, combining tradition with modernity. An ambassador of Spanish culture, the company regularly performs works in varied styles ranging from *escuela bolero* and flamenco to folkloric and regional Spanish dances. Program details to be announced at a later date.

***Encores! The New Yorkers***

**Mar 22—26, 2017**

Wed – Thu 7:30pm, Fri 8pm, Sat 2 & 8pm, Sun 2 & 7pm

Tickets start at \$35

Subscriptions on sale Jul 25; General public Sep 26

Bullets fly and bathtub gin flows in Cole Porter's 1930 Prohibition jape *The New Yorkers*, a gleefully amoral celebration of speakeasies, gangsters, society dames, and the great city they love. The musical centers on featherbrained socialite Alice Miller, whose bootlegger beau leads her on a madcap romp from Park Avenue to Sing Sing and back again. *The New Yorkers* produced a number of standards—"I Happen to Like New York," "Love for Sale"—but much of the original material has been lost, making this *Encores!*'s most ambitious musical reconstruction ever.

*The New Yorkers*

*A Sociological Musical Satire*

Music and Lyrics by Cole Porter

Book by Herbert Fields

Based on a Story by E. Ray Goetz and Peter Arno

Featuring The *Encores!* Orchestra

Support for *The New Yorkers* is generously provided by the Joseph S. and Diane H. Steinberg Charitable Trust. The score restoration for *The New Yorkers* is made possible by The Joseph S. and Diane H. Steinberg Broadway Musical Restoration Fund.

**Blanca Li**

***Goddesses & Demonesses* (US premiere)**

**Mar 30—Apr 1, 2017**

Ticket start at \$20

On sale Sep 6

Contemporary dancer and choreographer Blanca Li and Bolshoi Ballet principal dancer Maria Alexandrova deliver a singular performance inspired by mythological themes. Despite their different artistic paths, these two astonishing women embody Greek-like goddesses, continually transforming into their opposites until good and evil, kindness and cruelty are one. "They share a beguiling androgynous quality, Alexandrova is a force of nature, even by Moscow's standards of bravura, a ballerina who takes charge on stage.... Li

meanwhile, is angular and commanding in an oversized red skirt that is at once toga, flamenco prop, and a throwback to Loie Fuller's serpentine dance." *Financial Times* (UK)

**Dance Theatre of Harlem**

**Apr 19—22, 2017**

Tickets start at \$35

On sale Sept 6

Dance Theatre of Harlem returns to City Center this season with the New York premieres of works by Resident Choreographer Robert Garland and company alum Francesca Harper. The season will open with an Opening Night Celebration and Vision Gala on Wednesday, April 19. Full program details to be announced.

Press contact: Keyana Patterson, [kpatterson@dancetheatreofharlem.org](mailto:kpatterson@dancetheatreofharlem.org) or 212.690.2800

***Encores! The Golden Apple***

**May 10—14, 2017**

Wed – Thu 7:30pm, Fri 8pm, Sat 2 & 8pm, Sun 2 & 7pm

Tickets start at \$35

Subscriptions on sale Jul 25; General public Sep 26

Helen of Troy as a bored housewife? Ulysses as a dashing hero of the Spanish-American War? The whimsical and toweringly ambitious 1954 musical *The Golden Apple* does all that and more, reshaping the myths of *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey* into an all-American fable that conjures up the days when pie-baking contests were cutthroat and lovers eloped in hot air balloons. Despite its brief run, John Latouche and Jerome Moross' "opera for Broadway" was hailed by critics and introduced the classic torch song "Lazy Afternoon."

*The Golden Apple*

Music Composed by Jerome Moross

Written by John Latouche

Featuring The *Encores!* Orchestra

City Center dedicates this production of *The Golden Apple* to the memory of Lex Kaplen, a devoted supporter of *Encores!*.

**Eifman Ballet of St. Petersburg**

**Jun 2—11, 2017**

Tickets start at \$60

Currently on sale

Eifman Ballet of St. Petersburg returns to City Center with two full-length ballets that typify Boris Eifman's singular gift for creating powerful, provocative dance works. Inspired by the tragic life of ballerina Olga Spessivtseva, the 1997 ballet *Red Giselle* has been hailed as "one of the great dramatic ballets of the 20th century" (*The San Francisco Chronicle*). *Tchaikovsky: The Mystery of Life and Death* is a "ballet triumph" (*Newsday*) that delves into the composer's glamorous life and tortured sexuality.

Press contact: Ellen Jacobs, [eja@ejassociates.com](mailto:eja@ejassociates.com) or 212.245.5100

### **Studio 5 at City Center**

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

All tickets \$25

On sale Sep 6

This studio series takes audiences beyond the proscenium for an exclusive behind-the-scenes look at the lives of the great dance artists of our time. Hosted this season by City Center Artistic Associate Wendy Whelan and New York City Ballet principal dancer Tyler Angle, scheduled participants include the extraordinary artists of Nederlands Dans Theater, as well as a discussion with répétiteurs Craig Hall (soloist, New York City Ballet) and Jason Fowler (former soloist, New York City Ballet) about setting the work of acclaimed choreographers Justin Peck and Christopher Wheeldon. All events feature live performance excerpts. Dates and program details to be announced at a later date.

### **Encores! Unscripted**

The Jerome L. Greene Performance Space at WNYC (44 Charlton St)

Tickets: \$20

On sale Jul 25

This live-streamed series of conversations and performances about the glorious, complicated legacy of the Broadway musical returns for a second season. Created in partnership with The Greene Space at WNYC.

Mon, Oct 17 at 7pm

#### ***How Broadway Listens—To America***

American musicals have always reflected the national mood, and many have tried to reinforce—or question—the character of the land that gave them birth. *Oklahoma!* can be read as a wartime expression of national pride, while *Follies* reflected a country, embittered by Vietnam and the torn fabric of the American dream. Broadway shows are often derided as being out of touch with contemporary life—but host Jack Viertel will make the case that musicals have been taking the nation’s pulse for over a century.

Mon, Dec 19 at 7pm

#### ***Putting it Together: The Art of Adaptation***

In the words of Andrew Lloyd Webber, “*Cats* on paper was the worst idea conceivable.” Now that the most unlikely hit musical in history is back on Broadway, *Encores! Unscripted* will explore how the worst ideas sometimes evolve into commercial and critical triumphs. Michael Friedman—who has written musicals about everything from Andrew Jackson to the porn industry—will host this exploration of the mystical art of transposing poems, cartoons, and novels onto the stage.

Mon, Jan 30 at 7pm

#### ***When Pop Writers Go Broadway***

Broadway’s relationship with pop music is a rocky one. Burt Bacharach and Hal David triumphed with their swinging 1968 hit *Promises, Promises*, but the team never wrote another musical—a pattern followed by subsequent Broadway one-timers like Paul Simon, Boy George, and Dolly Parton. How do pop and rock songwriters adjust to writing for the theater? And why has the Broadway establishment been so resistant to their flawed but often fascinating shows? Hosted by Jack Viertel.

Mon, Feb 27 at 7pm

#### ***Love for Sale: The History of Sex in Musicals***

In the beginning, the Broadway musical had one thing on its mind: sex. The chorus girls were leggy, the comedians were blue, and the songwriters were happy hedonists like Cole Porter, whose 1930 musical *The New Yorkers* featured songs so scandalous that they were banned on the radio. For decades after

that, sex sold on Broadway, from the eroticized choreography of Bob Fosse to the nudie musicals that reigned supreme in the 1970s. Join host Jack Viertel for a look at 100 years of life upon the wicked stage.

*Encores! Unscripted* at The Greene Space at WNYC is sponsored by Margee and John Falk.

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

Tickets: \$25

City Center's new series of musical theater master classes will provide a unique opportunity for distinguished artists, emerging professionals, and audiences to explore themes relevant to the development and growth of artists in the field. Each event will focus on a different topic, from composition to auditioning, to the synthesis of vocal technique and acting. 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 kicks off on November 21 with a master class led by Tony Award-winning actress and singer Victoria Clark. Check back for updates on future events at NYCityCenter.org.

### **Manhattan Theatre Club**

On sale Sep 6

Under the leadership of Artistic Director Lynne Meadow and Executive Producer Barry Grove, Manhattan Theatre Club has become one of the country's most prominent and prestigious theater companies, producing bold, new American plays and musicals at its Off-Broadway home at New York City Center Stages I and II.

***Vietgone*** (New York premiere), Previews begin Oct 4, Stage I

A modern twist on the All-American love story, Qui Nguyen's (*She Kills Monsters*) new play *Vietgone* pulses with contemporary energy. It's the classic story of boy meets girl – except this boy and girl are refugees from the Vietnam War newly settled in a relocation camp inside Middle America. Borrowing elements from the world of up-to-the-minute popular culture to recreate the playwright's own parents' meeting, *Vietgone* ranges from hilarity to heart-wrenching drama. Nguyen and director May Adrales (Luce at LCT3) skip through time and around the globe to present a fresh theatrical take on a moving account of one real family's history.

*Vietgone* is produced in association with South Coast Repertory.

***Sell/Buy/Date***, Previews begin Sep 27, Stage II

Tony Award-winning playwright and performer Sarah Jones (*Bridge & Tunnel*) returns to the New York stage as a dazzling medley of characters in *Sell/Buy/Date*, an exuberant new show inspired by the real-life experiences of people affected by the sex industry. Brimming with Jones' masterful, multicultural characterizations, *Sell/Buy/Date* presents an honest, moving and even humorous look at a complex and fascinating subject, all while preserving the full humanity of voices seldom heard in the theater.

### **Sponsors**

The 2017 *Encores!* season is made possible, in part, 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,



Andrew Martin-Weber, and the Stephanie and Fred Shuman Fund for *Encores!*; with additional support provided by The Frederick Loewe Foundation, Paula and Ira Resnick and Alec Stais and Elissa Burke.

Major support for the 2016-2017 season is provided by Barbara and David Zalaznick, the Henry and Lucy Moses Fund, Inc., The Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation, and The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation.

Support for new dance commissions for the 2016-2017 season is provided by The Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation.

Leadership support for Dance at City Center is provided by The Harkness Foundation for Dance.

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New York City Center and its 2016-2017 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. 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.

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