



Contact: Helene Davis, 212 .354.7436
Helene@helenedavispr.com
Helene Davis Public Relations

Tony Yazbeck to Join Christian Borle
And
Joshua Bergasse to Choreograph
The New York City Center *Encores!* production of
Cy Coleman and Carolyn Leigh's
Little Me

Directed by John Rando; Music Direction by Rob Berman

February 5 – 9

New York, NY, October 3, 2013 –**Tony Yazbeck** will join the previously announced **Christian Borle** in Cy Coleman and **Carolyn Leigh's** *Little Me*, the opening production of New York City Center *Encores!* series, running for seven performances, February 5 - 9, 2014. **Joshua Bergasse** will choreograph the production, along with the previously announced Director **John Rando** and Music Director **Rob Berman**.

Little Me, Neil Simon's first musical, is the story of the glamorous Belle Poitrine, a self-invented celebrity who has spent her life in pursuit of wealth, culture and social position. Her seven oddball lovers are played by one actor: seven plum roles, from an innocent college boy to an octogenarian lecher to the dying king of a tiny European country that doesn't seem to exist. The *Encores!* production will star **Christian Borle** as Belle's seven lovers.

Based on the novel *Little Me: The Intimate Memoirs of that Great Star of Stage, Screen and Television/Belle Poitrine*, by Patrick Dennis, *Little Me* has a book by **Neil Simon**, music by **Cy Coleman** and lyrics by **Carolyn Leigh**. The original production starred Sid Caesar as Belle's seven love interests. It opened at the Lunt-Fontanne Theatre on November 17, 1962 and ran for 257 performances. Songs include "I've Got Your Number," "Real Live Girl" and "The Other Side of the Tracks."

Christian Borle (multiple parts) won a Tony Award for his role in *Peter and The Starcatcher* and was nominated for *Legally Blonde*. His other Broadway credits include *Mary Poppins*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Monty Python's Spamalot* and *Footloose*. Borle has starred Off-Broadway in the Signature Theatre Company's revival of *Angels in America* and *Elegies: A Song Cycle* by William Finn at Lincoln Center. He most recently starred in NBC's musical drama "Smash" as composer Tom Levitt. Borle starred in the *Encores!* production of *On The Town*. He will be seen in Michael Mann's upcoming cyber crime movie.

Tony Yazbeck (George Musgrove) has appeared on Broadway in *Chicago*, *Irving Berlin's White Christmas*, *A Chorus Line*, *Oklahoma!*, *Never Gonna Dance* and *Gypsy* with both Tyne Daly and Patti LuPone. His many

Encores! credits include *On the Town*, *Gypsy*, *The Apple Tree*, *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* and *Pardon My English*. He will soon be seen in Barry Manilow's *Harmony* at the Alliance and Ahmanson Theatres.

John Rando (Director) recently directed the staged performance of Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Carousel* at the New York Philharmonic. Rando's Broadway credits include *A Christmas Story*, *The Wedding Singer*, *Urinetown* (Tony Award for Best Director), *A Thousand Clowns* and Neil Simon's *The Dinner Party*. Off-Broadway credits include *All in the Timing* (revival) and *The Toxic Avenger*, among many others. His many *Encores!* credits include *It's a Bird...It's a Plane...It's Superman*, *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*, *On the Town* and *Damn Yankees*.

Joshua Bergasse (Choreographer) is the 2012 Emmy Award-winning choreographer for NBC's musical drama "Smash," now in its second season. Joshua has choreographed Fox-TV's "So You Think You Can Dance" as well as *The Sound of Music* at Carnegie Hall. His choreography credits include the off-Broadway productions of *Bomb-Itty of Errors* and *Captain Louie*, as well as many national and international tours. Mr. Bergasse will choreograph the upcoming Broadway musical, *Second Hand Lions*, based on the Warner Brothers film. His previous *Encores!* credits include *It's a Bird, It's a Plane, It's Superman*.

Support for *Little Me* is generously provided by Joseph S. and Diane H. Steinberg Charitable Trust.

Support for *The Most Happy Fella* is generously provided by Roz and Jerry Meyer.

The 2014 *Encores!* season is made possible, in part, by the Stephanie and Fred Shuman Fund for *Encores!*, Stacey and Eric Mindich, Newman's Own Foundation, Nathalie and Pablo Salame and The Shubert Foundation.

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 and New York City Opera; 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." This summer City Center launched *Encores! Off-Center*, a new series featuring seminal 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 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.

Encores! subscriptions can be purchased online starting August 5, 2013 and at the New York City Center Box Office on September 3 (West 55th Street between 6th and 7th Avenues), through CityTix® at 212-581-1212, or online at www.NYCityCenter.org.

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NEW YORK CITY CENTER

2014 ENCORES! SEASON

Little Me (February 5 – 9, 2014)

Based on the novel *Little Me: The Intimate Memoirs of that Great Star of Stage, Screen and Television/Belle Poitrine*, by Patrick Dennis

Music by Cy Coleman

Lyrics by Carolyn Leigh

Book by Neil Simon

Directed by John Rando

Choreographed by Joshua Bergasse

Cast: Tony Yazbeck

The Most Happy Fella (April 2 – 6, 2014)

Based on the play *They Knew What They Wanted* by Sidney Howard

Music, Book and Lyrics by Frank Loesser

Directed and choreographed by Casey Nicholaw

Starring Laura Benanti, Shuler Hensley, Cheyenne Jackson

Irma La Douce (May 7 – 11, 2014)

Music by Marguerite Monnot

Original Book and Lyrics by Alexandre Breffort

English Book and Lyrics by Julian More, David Heneker and Monty Norman

Directed by John Doyle