

NEW YORK CITY CENTER
ENCORES!

WONDERFUL
TOWN



APR 30 – MAY 11, 2025

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City Center is “A Little Bit in Love” with **WONDERFUL TOWN**

By Emily White

“This show celebrates New York as the magnet for young people from all fields of endeavor who, like Ruth and Eileen, still come here to fulfill their aspirations in this *Wonderful Town*.”

BETTY COMDEN & ADOLPH GREEN,
WONDERFUL TOWN LYRICISTS

Given that this was the intention of the show’s creators, it’s no wonder that *Wonderful Town* has established a bit of a legacy here at City Center. Not only was one of its creators a former staff member (**Leonard Bernstein** was the Music Director of the New York City Symphony Orchestra at City Center from 1945 – 1947) but also the show was a perennial favorite at City Center during the Golden Age after its original Broadway run.

In some ways, this show is a representation of City Center’s founding mission—to bring performing arts to the people of New York City at an affordable price. And what better way to do that than with a show that was written from the perspective of the city itself by the incredible Bernstein, with Tony-winning actors like **Elaine Stritch**, **Donna Murphy**, and now **Anika Noni Rose** in the starring role.

Follow the history of *Wonderful Town* at City Center throughout the years.



1953

Leonard Bernstein composes the music for the original Broadway production of *Wonderful Town*, alongside the famed musical comedy duo **Betty Comden** and **Adolph Green** as librettists. **Rosalind Russell** starred as Ruth and won the Tony Award for Best Actress. **Edie Adams** played Eileen. The show also won Tony Awards for Best Musical and Best Choreography.

1958

City Center presents a revival of *Wonderful Town* starring **Nancy Walker** as Ruth and **Jo Sullivan Loesser** as Eileen.

1963

City Center presents a revival of *Wonderful Town* starring **Kaye Ballard** as Ruth and **Jacquelyn McKeever** as Eileen.

1967

City Center presents a revival of *Wonderful Town* starring **Elaine Stritch** as Ruth and **Linda Bennett** as Eileen.

2000

City Center Encores!, as part of its sixth season, presents *Wonderful Town* starring **Donna Murphy** as Ruth **Laura Benanti** as Eileen.

2003

The Encores! production of *Wonderful Town* transfers to Broadway, starring **Donna Murphy** as Ruth and **Jennifer Westfeldt** as Eileen. The show won a Tony for Best Choreography.

2025

Encores! presents *Wonderful Town* starring **Anika Noni Rose** as Ruth and **Aisha Jackson** as Eileen.



Despite the title, the Manhattan that Ruth and Eileen Sherwood first encounter isn't particularly wonderful. The Ohio sisters land in Greenwich Village full of hope, only to find noisy fights and plenty of offbeat neighbors. That's the sobering irony of *Wonderful Town*—**Leonard Bernstein**, **Betty Comden**, and **Adolph Green**'s 1953 musical comedy. By the end of the opening number, "Christopher Street," the artistic utopia the sisters dreamed of seems more chaotic than charmed.

Still, *Wonderful Town* has cast a spell over certain Golden Age musical lovers for ages. What it lacks in familiarity when compared to other Bernstein works like *West Side Story* and *On the Town*, it makes up for with genuine humor, heart, and an eclectic range of music styles.

No one knows this more than the creative producers of Encores! In fact, City Center has hosted the show three other times throughout the Golden Age era, and once in 2000 as a part of Encores! Now, 25 years later, *Wonderful Town* returns with an enthusiastic production directed by Obie Award winner **Zhailon Levingston**. When Artistic Director **Lear deBessonnet** and Producing Creative Director **Clint Ramos** approached Levingston to take on a staging of the show, he saw more than nostalgia. He saw an opportunity to recontextualize this underdog of a classic, proving to 2025 audiences that the show holds up even with a widened lens.

Levingston's production invites the full, multiethnic spectrum of New Yorkers who have made this town "wonderful" all along. "It became fascinating to think about a time in Greenwich Village that was more diverse and complicated than it is today," Levingston tells me. "What does it mean to show a neighborhood of New York that, to me, is more interesting then, than it is even now? And is that a way of bringing people closer to this Golden Age material?"


The history is certainly there to support Levingston's vision. "Something we learned during the research process is that the NAACP was founded and built their first headquarters in Greenwich Village. One of James Baldwin's mentors was Beauford Delaney, a modernist painter who lived and worked out of Greenwich Village. It's interesting to think about what was going on during that time. In fact, the more diverse the cast is, the more we're actually telling an accurate story."

There are emotional ripple effects for the characters of course, particularly for aspiring writer Ruth and hopeful actress Eileen, played by **Anika Noni Rose** and **Aisha Jackson**, respectively.



Director Zhailon Levingston's *Wonderful World*

An interview by
Brittani Samuel



Casting Black women lends different stakes to the sisters' flight from Ohio to seemingly bohemian New York. Livingston shared the work of author-editor Dorothy West and trailblazing actress Rosetta LeNoire with Rose and Jackson as touchpoints to illuminate who the Sherwoods might have been inspired by. In Livingston's words, he was also just "really interested to see the story of two Black women pursuing their dreams."

The influence of race is certainly present here, but it isn't the only factor defining Ruth and Eileen's adventure in New York. "Ultimately, their reason for being is their individual ambitions.

Livingston's production invites the full, multiethnic spectrum of New Yorkers who have made this town "wonderful" all along.

In some ways, that still feels like a rare way of telling Black women's stories."

Experiencing Rose and Jackson's interpretation of Bernstein's music also felt like a rare treasure. He was familiar with earworms like the beautiful, bemoaning duet, "Ohio," but the score in its entirety both delighted and intimidated him at first listen. "Abject fear, that's usually my way into a piece," he laughs. "If I'm not sure how I would make it work, that's probably the first clue that it's something I'm interested in."

To match the music's pulse, he turned to movement. "I'm excited about the way choreography is attacking the score. **Lorin Latarro** (choreographer) and **Ayodele Casel** (tap choreographer) are working closely together to create an authentic vocabulary that really expresses the time period the show takes place in, 1930s New York." For these collaborators, that also means adding tap sequences to the show—an exciting rhythmic integration alongside the original orchestrations in this revival.

Ultimately, there will be plenty old and new to love about this Wonderful Town. Just as there is plenty old and new to love about the kaleidoscopic city at the center of it.

"There's something to the tenacity of those who come here, and what they overcome. The overcoming of the city ends up being just as important as the ideal of the city itself. One of the last songs in the show is 'The Wrong Note Rag,' and I've been saying that being in New York is about showing up to this quote-unquote 'wonderful' town, and then realizing that for a while it's really a 'wrong note rag.' But if you play it right, then you actually get to the other side of something that is more than you probably dreamed."

Brittani Samuel is an arts journalist, theater critic, and the co-editor of the Obie Award-winning digital publication, 3Views on Theater.



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Anna Zavelson in Encores!
The Light in the Piazza;
photo by Joan Marcus



**NEW YORK
CITY CENTER**

MICHAEL S. ROSENBERG PRESIDENT & CEO
JENNY GERSTEN VP, PRODUCER OF MUSICAL THEATER



ENCORES!

MUSIC DIRECTOR
MARY-MITCHELL CAMPBELL

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
LEAR DEBESSONET

PRODUCING CREATIVE DIRECTOR
CLINT RAMOS

APR 30 – MAY 11, 2025

WONDERFUL TOWN

BOOK BY **JOSEPH FIELDS AND JEROME CHODOROV**

MUSIC BY **LEONARD BERNSTEIN**

LYRICS BY **BETTY COMDEN AND ADOLPH GREEN**

BASON ON THE PLAY MY SISTER EILEEN BY **JEROME CHODOROV AND JOSEPH FIELDS**
AND THE SHORT STORIES BY **RUTH MCKENNY**

ORCHESTRATIONS BY
DON WALKER, ROBERT GINZLER, SID RAMIN

CREATIVE CONSULTANT
EISA DAVIS

FEATURING

**JIMMY RAY BENNETT ETAI BENSON ALLISON BLACKWELL DEWITT FLEMING JR.
JESSIE HOOKER-BAILEY AISHA JACKSON JAVIER MUÑOZ FERGIE PHILIPPE
JOHN RAPSON ANIKA NONI ROSE DANIEL TORRES**

**JONATHAN DUVELSON DAVID FOLEY JR. LINDSAY ROBERTS GREENE MARC HEITZMAN
SARAH MICHELE LINDSEY KATE LOUISSAINT ALICIA LUNDGREN MORGAN MARCELL
ROBIN MASELLA DARIO NATARELLI MICHAEL OLARIBIGBE PATRICIA PHILLIPS
RENÉE REID SAMANTHA SIEGEL PHUMZILE SOJOLA NICHOLAS WARD
JACOB KEITH WATSON ANNALIESE WILBUR RICHARD RIAZ YODER**

SCENIC DESIGNER
TERESA L. WILLIAMS

COSTUME DESIGNER
LINDA CHO

LIGHTING DESIGNER
BEN STANTON

SOUND DESIGNER
MEGUMI KATAYAMA

HAIR & WIG DESIGNER
TOM WATSON

MUSIC COORDINATOR
KIMBERLEE WERTZ

PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER
MATTHEW LACEY

CASTING BY
**THE TELSEY OFFICE |
BETHANY KNOX, CSA**

CHOREOGRAPHER
LORIN LATARRO

TAP CHOREOGRAPHER
AYODELE CASEL

FEATURING
THE ENCORES! ORCHESTRA

MUSIC DIRECTOR
MARY-MITCHELL CAMPBELL

DIRECTOR
ZHAILON LEVINGSTON

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The Stacey and Eric Mindich Fund for Musical Theater

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www.concordtheatricals.com

We acknowledge that the land on which New York City Center and its theaters stand was forcibly taken from the Munsee Lenape tribe. We respectfully honor and acknowledge all Indigenous communities—past, present, and future—for their essential and ongoing connection to this land.

WONDERFUL TOWN

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Officer Lonigan	JIMMY RAY BENNETT
Frank Lippencott	ETAI BENSON
Mrs. Wade.....	ALLISON BLACKWELL
Speedy Valenti	DEWITT FLEMING JR.
Helen	JESSIE HOOKER-BAILEY
Eileen Sherwood	AISHA JACKSON
Robert Baker	JAVIER MUÑOZ
Wreck	FERGIE PHILIPPE
Chick Clark	JOHN RAPSON
Ruth Sherwood	ANIKA NONI ROSE
Mr. Appopolous	DANIEL TORRES

Ensemble

DAVID FOLEY JR., LINDSAY ROBERTS GREENE, MARC HEITZMAN, KATE LOUISSAINT,
ALICIA LUNDGREN, MORGAN MARCELL, ROBIN MASELLA, DARIO NATARELLI,
MICHAEL OLARIBIGBE, PATRICIA PHILLIPS, RENÉE REID, SAMANTHA SIEGEL,
PHUMZILE SOJOLA, NICHOLAS WARD, JACOB KEITH WATSON,
ANNALIESE WILBUR, RICHARD RIAZ YODER

Covers

JONATHAN DUVELSON (Swing), DAVID FOLEY JR. (Understudy for Mr. Appopolous & Chick),
LINDSAY ROBERTS GREENE (Understudy for Eileen Sherwood),
SARAH MICHELE LINDSEY (Swing), MICHAEL OLARIBIGBE (Understudy for Wreck),
RENÉE REID (Understudy for Ruth Sherwood), PHUMZILE SOJOLA (Understudy for Robert Baker),
RICHARD RIAZ YODER (Understudy for Frank Lippencott)

This production is being presented as a concert performance in which the actors
may be performing with their scripts in hand.



THE ENCORES! ORCHESTRA

ENCORES! MUSIC DIRECTOR
MARY-MITCHELL CAMPBELL

Orchestrations by **DON WALKER, ROBERT GINZLER, and SID RAMIN**
Additional Orchestrations by **JOE GLOVER, IRWIN KOSTAL, WALTER PAUL,**
JACK MASON, JULIAN WORK, and MARK BUCCI

ASSOCIATE MUSIC DIRECTOR
JACINTH GREYWOODE

MUSIC COORDINATOR
KIMBERLEE WERTZ

**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC ADMINISTRATION
& SCORE RESTORATION**
JOSH CLAYTON

CONCERTMASTER
SUZANNE ORNSTEIN

TROMBONES
NICK GRINDER
MIKE DAVIS
JACK SCHATZ

VIOLINS
MONICA DAVIS
CHRISTOPH FRANZGROTE
MAURA GIANNINI
LORRA BAYLIS
FRITZ KRAKOWSKI
BRYAN HERNANDEZ-LUCH
ERIN BENIM MAYLAND

REEDS
STEVE KENYON
TODD GROVES
JULIE FERRARA
TOM MURRAY
CHAD SMITH

VIOLAS
DAVID BLINN
ANDREW GRIFFIN

PIANO
JOSHUA ROSENBLUM

CELLOS
DEBORAH ASSAEL-MIGLIORE
KATHERINE CHERBAS

BASS
LISA STOKES

DRUMS
MIKE DOBSON

TRUMPETS
DON DOWNS
LIESL WHITAKER
SCOTT WENDHOLT
HUGO MORENO

Percussion
ERIK CHARLSTON



WONDERFUL TOWN
MUSICAL NUMBERS

Act One

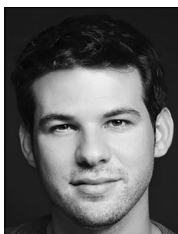
Overture	Orchestra
Christopher Street.....	Tour Guide, People of Greenwich Village
Ohio	Ruth, Eileen
Conquering New York	Ruth, Eileen, Frank, Valenti, New Yorkers
One Hundred Easy Ways to Lose a Man.....	Ruth
What A Waste	Baker, Associate Editors, Secretary
Ruth’s Stories.....	Baker, Ruth, Eileen, Villagers
A Little Bit in Love	Eileen
Pass the Football	Wreck, Cheerleaders
Conversation Piece	Eileen, Frank, Ruth, Chick, Baker
A Quiet Girl.....	Baker
Quiet Ruth	Ruth
Conga!.....	Ruth, Cadets and Company

Act Two

Entr’acte.....	Orchestra
My Darlin’ Eileen	Eileen, Policemen
Swing	Ruth, Villagers
Ohio (Reprise).....	Ruth, Eileen
It’s Love	Eileen, Baker, Villagers
Ballet at the Village Vortex	Villagers
Wrong Note Rag.....	Ruth, Eileen and Company
It’s Love (Reprise)	The Company



JIMMY RAY BENNETT



ETAI BENSON



ALLISON BLACKWELL



DEWITT FLEMING JR.



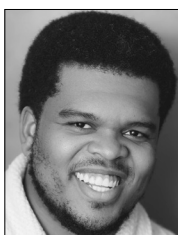
JESSIE
HOOKER-BAILEY



AISHA JACKSON



JAVIER MUÑOZ



FERGIE PHILIPPE



JOHN RAPSON



ANIKA NONI ROSE

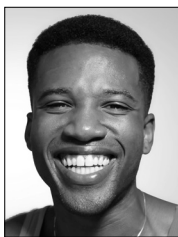


DANIEL TORRES

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#CityCenterEncores!



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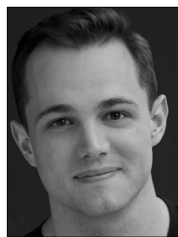
JONATHAN
DUVELSON



DAVID FOLEY JR.



LINDSAY ROBERTS
GREENE



MARC HEITZMAN



SARAH MICHELE
LINDSEY



KATE LOUISSAINT



ALICIA LUNDGREN



MORGAN MARCELL



ROBIN MASELLA



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RICHARD RIAZ
YODER



MEET THE ARTISTS

JIMMY RAY BENNETT (*Officer Lonigan*) was last at Encores! as ‘Sohovik’ in *Damn Yankees*. Theater: The Mark Taper Forum, Alliance, Arena, The Duke on 42nd, Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center, LaJolla Playhouse, McCarter, Ogunquit, Barrow Street, NYTW, and Madison Square Garden. TV: *Hand of God*, *Billions*, *Hot in Cleveland*, *AJ and the Queen*, *The Blacklist*, *The Daily Show*, *Better Nate Than Ever*, and *DL Hughley’s Endangered Species List*. Oh, and he’s “Floyd” in *Grand Theft Auto 5*.

ETAI BENSON (*Frank Lippencott*) Encores! debut. On Broadway, Benson most recently appeared as Paul in the gender-bent revival of *Company*. He originated the role of ‘Papi’ in *The Band’s Visit* (Grammy Award, Principal Soloist). Broadway/National Tour: *Wicked* (Boq), *An American in Paris* (Adam). TV: *Étoile*, *God Friended Me*. Regional: Ogunquit Playhouse, Paper Mill Playhouse, Goodspeed Opera House, The Old Globe, Dallas Theatre Center, and more. Training: University of Michigan and the Moscow Art Theatre. For A&O. @etaibenson

ALLISON BLACKWELL (*Mrs. Wade*) is thrilled to be making her New York City Center Encores! debut in *Wonderful Town*. Broadway: *New York, New York*; *Pretty Woman: The Musical*; *A Night with Janis Joplin*; *The Lion King*; *The Gershwin’s Porgy and Bess*. Regional Roles: ‘Becky’ in *Waitress*; ‘Moon’ in *Caroline, or Change*; ‘Fantine’ in *Les Misérables*; ‘Armelia’ in *Ain’t Misbehavin’*; ‘Mother Abbess’ in *The Sound of Music*. Spelman College (BA) and The Boston Conservatory (MM). Love to DGRW. allisonblackwell.com

DeWITT FLEMING JR. (*Speedy Valenti*) Most recently seen in the Broadway show *A Wonderful World* as ‘Lincoln Perry’ and served as the show’s tap choreographer. Off-Broadway: MCC’s *The Lonely Few* (Paul understudy), Encores! *The Tap Dance Kid* (Daddy Bates), and *Cotton Club Parade* (Lead/Nicholas Brother). Regional: *After*

Midnight, *Scottsboro Boys* (Ozie/Ruby), *Jelly’s Last Jam* (Jelly), *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Simon). National Tours: *Riverdance* (Lead Tapper Baritone Soloist). TV/Film: *Boardwalk Empire*, *Smash*, *Limitless*, *How to be Single*. More on Fleming, please visit dewittflemingjr.com

JESSIE HOOKER-BAILEY (*Helen*) is thrilled to be a part of Encores! *Wonderful Town*! Thank you to HCKR, Zhailon, and the team. Off-Broadway/ Broadway: *The Jonathan Larson Project* (standby), *Waitress* (Dawn understudy), *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*. Other credits: ‘Sarah’ in Sondheim’s *Company* (national tour), ‘Andy’ understudy (performed) in the world premiere of *The Devil Wears Prada* musical (Chicago). In addition to performing, Hooker-Bailey is a passionate musical theater educator and audition coach. Graduate of Shenandoah Conservatory. IG @jessiehookerbailey

AISHA JACKSON (*Eileen Sherwood*) Broadway: *The Notebook*, *Once Upon A One More Time*, *Paradise Square*, *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*, *Waitress*, and *Frozen*, where she made history as the first Black woman to portray ‘Anna’ on Broadway. She desires to continue creating roles for Black women to lead and shine bright onstage and on-screen because representation matters! TV: *Up Here* (Hulu), *Harlem* (Amazon Prime). Voiceover: *Central Park* (Apple TV), *Melon’s House Party*. For Vaughn. Luke 1:37

JAVIER MUÑOZ (*Robert Baker*) is best known for starring and co-creating the role of ‘Alexander Hamilton’ in *Hamilton* and as ‘Usnavi’ in *In the Heights*, both on Broadway. He’s currently starring in the Broadway-bound *Galileo*. He just finished a run as ‘Doc Lopez’ in *Schmigadoon* at The Kennedy Center. Feature credits include *Monuments*, *Love Reconsidered*, and *Three Months*. TV credits include *Shadowhunters*, *Blindspot*, and *Full Frontal with Samantha Bee*. Muñoz is an outspoken activist for LGBTQ+ rights.



FERGIE PHILIPPE (*Wreck*) will soon be touring the nation as 'The Beast' in the 30th Anniversary Revival tour of Disney's *Beauty and The Beast*. Previous Credits—Broadway: *Hamilton* (Hercules Mulligan/James Madison), *Camelot* (Sir Sagamore; King Arthur Understudy). Off-Broadway: *The Connector* (Bob Henshaw/Willis Taylor). National Tour: *Hamilton* (Hercules Mulligan/James Madison). TV/Film: *The Good Fight*, *The Gilded Age*, *Law and Order: SVU*, *Space Cadet*. He sends his love to Rose, his family, and Disney World. Insta: @fergsters95

JOHN RAPSON (*Chick Clark*) Broadway: 'Beadle Bamford' in the 2023 Revival of *Sweeney Todd*, *Les Misérables*. Off-Broadway: *Ragtime* (City Center), *The Play That Goes Wrong*, *Sweeney Todd* (Barrow Street), *Between the Lines*. Tour: The D'Ysquith Family in *A Gentleman's Guide...* Regional: Asolo Rep, Paper Mill, Westport Playhouse, Goodspeed, Berkeley Rep, Broadway Sacramento, St. Louis Rep. Rapson's theatrical adaptation of Washington Irving's *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*, *The Hollow*, premiered in 2022 at Amphibian Stage. TV/Film: *A Christmas Carol*, *The Blacklist*, *The Gilded Age*. Training: University of Michigan.

ANIKA NONI ROSE (*Ruth Sherwood*) Broadway: *Uncle Vanya*; *Caroline, Or Change* (Tony, Theatre World, and Lortel Awards); *Carmen Jones* (Lortel and AUDELCO Awards); *A Raisin in the Sun* (Tony Nomination); *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. Film/TV: *Mufasa: The Lion King*; *Maid*; *Dreamgirls*; *Roots*; *Power*; *The Good Wife*; *The Princess and the Frog*; *Half of A Yellow Sun*. An eleven-time NAACP Image Award nominee. An international performer, Rose is the author of children's book *Tiana's Perfect Plan*.

DANIEL TORRES (*Mr. Appopolous*) is thrilled to be returning to New York City Center for his third production! Broadway: *Tammy Faye*, *Sweeney Todd*, *The Music Man* (Ewart Dunlop), *Beautiful* (Barry Mann), *Evita*, *The Pirate Queen*, and *The Woman in White*. Other

NYC: 'Young Scrooge' in *A Christmas Carol* (MSG), 'Juan' in *Altarboyz* (New World Stages), *Evita* (City Center), and 'The Major' in *Titanic* (Encores!). National Tour: *Wicked*. Follow @danieltweardytorres on IG for more!

JONATHAN DUVELSON (*Swing*) is thrilled to make their New York City Center debut in *Wonderful Town!* A true Renaissance spirit, they are passionate about mastering a wide range of disciplines. Broadway: *Some Like It Hot*, *Tammy Faye*. Television: *Girls5Eva* (Peacock). CESD slay all day! Deepest gratitude to family, both given and chosen. Endless love to the Ozians! Follow the journey: @johnnnybaby

DAVID FOLEY JR. (*Ensemble, Understudy for Mr. Appopolous & Chick Clark*) Select New York/ touring credits: *Funny Girl* (Tom Keeney), *The Phantom of the Opera* (Reyer, Firmin), *Forbidden Broadway*, and the title ogre in *Shrek The Musical*. Favorite regional: *Oz* (L. Frank Baum, freeFall Theatre Company), *Finding Nemo: The Musical* (Marlin, WDW), and *Guys and Dolls* (Nathan, Kevin Kline Award nomination Best Actor). TV/ Film: *The Flight Before Christmas* (Hallmark), *Broadcasting Christmas* (Lifetime). 2023 MAC Award nominee (Manhattan Association of Cabarets Best Male Performer). All my love KD3! IG @itsdavidfoleyjr

LINDSAY ROBERTS GREENE (*Ensemble, Understudy for Eileen Sherwood*) Encores!: *Titanic*; *Oliver!*; *Brigadoon*; *The New Yorkers*; *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*; *Hey, Look Me Over!*; *The Golden Apple*; *Lady, Be Good*; *Lost in the Stars*. Broadway: *The Phantom of the Opera*. Tour: *The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess*, *Memphis*, *After Midnight*. Off-Broadway: *Carmen Jones* (Cindy Lou - AUDELCO nomination), *Radio City*. Greene has performed with symphonies nationwide and is featured on multiple cast albums movies TV projects and commercials. Executive Director of Arts Ignite an international arts education nonprofit. AJ's mommy. @lindsayrobertsgreene



MARC HEITZMAN (*Ensemble*) Broadway: *Back to the Future*, *Bandstand*, *Cats* (Plato/Macavity). Off-Broadway/Regional: *StandardTime*, *When Change Comes*, *High Button Shoes*, *Come Fall in Love*, *Bandstand*, *Carmen*. Tours/International: *Movin' Out* (Eddie), *Man in the Mirror*, *Wexford Opera*, *Broadway Christmas Wonderland* (Tokyo). Film/Television: *Worth*, *The Tony Awards*, *The Tonight Show*, *SNL*, *The Kelly Clarkson Show*, *GMA*. Other: The MET Gala, NY Fashion Week Fashionphile, Robinhood Foundation Gala. All the love to my wife Robin.

SARAH MICHELE LINDSEY (*Swing*) is excited to be back at City Center! Previous credits include Broadway's *Once Upon a Mattress*, *Encores!* *Once Upon a Mattress*, 'Sandy' in *Grease*, *In the Mood* (National & International Tours), *Escape to Margaritaville*, *Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Aida*, *The Wizard of Oz* (International Tour), *The Wedding Singer*, and *Aida* Cruises. Much love to Justin and my entire chosen family. All the time! (@slindsey282

KATE LOUISSAINT (*Ensemble*) is a native New Yorker and absolutely thrilled to make her *Encores!* debut in *Wonderful Town!* OBC: *A Wonderful World*. Regional: *Beautiful* (Broadway Sacramento). 2021 YoungArts and 2024 Earl V. Moore Award Winner. University of Michigan BFA MT24. Sending gratitude always to her Mom and Dad, community, mentors, and God. Now let's groove! Instagram: @katelouissaint

ALICIA LUNDGREN (*Ensemble*) Broadway: *Shuffle Along*, *Funny Girl* revival. New York: Rockette, Met Opera, *Crazy For You* (Lincoln Center.) American Dance Machine, Chita Rivera Awards. Regional: *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *Will Roger's Follies*, *Guys & Dolls*. Concert dance: The Chase Brock Experience, Caleb Teicher and Co., Philadanco, Ailey II. Television: *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*, *Z: The Beginning*, *The Gilded Age*, MTV Video Music Awards. Choreographer: *Encores!* On Disney+. Assoc. Choreographer: *Be*

More Chill (Broadway/London), *Hercules* at The Public. Lundgren is extremely excited to make her *Encores!* debut with this fab team and cast!

MORGAN MARCELL (*Ensemble*) is excited to return to City Center where she was last seen in *Ragtime* and *Oliver!* She recently wrapped *Kiss of The Spider Woman* the movie, performed in *Nine* at the Kennedy Center, and starred as 'The Wife' in Duncan Sheik's newest musical, *Noir!* Broadway (OBC): *Hamilton*, *Bandstand*, *Moulin Rouge!* Associate Choreographer/Cast: *KOTSW*, *Annie Live!*, *Fosse/Verdon*. Other Credits: *Only Gold*, *In the Heights* (first National Tour), *FBI*, *Law & Order: SVU/CI*, *Better Nate Than Ever*, *Up Here*, *Rent Live!* morganmarcell.com

ROBIN MASELLA (*Ensemble*) Thrilled to be back at City Center! Prior *Encores!* productions: *Love Life*, *High Button Shoes*, *Evita*, *I Married an Angel*. Broadway: *The Heart of Rock and Roll*, *Shucked*, *Bad Cinderella*, *Frozen*, *Charlie & the Chocolate Factory*, *Cats*. National Tours: *Frozen*, *Chicago*, *Evita*. Masella is the Associate Choreographer of *Shucked* and has choreographed for and performed on *The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon*, *The Tony Awards*, and *SNL*. Thanks to Hybrid! Love to Mom, Dad, Benji, and Marc. @robinmasella

DARIO NATARELLI (*Ensemble*) (he/him) is very honored to be a part of this production. Broadway: *Illinoise* (OBC, ADC, understudy six roles). Off-Broadway: *Oliver!*, *The Tap Dance Kid* (*Encores!*); *Tappin' Thru Life*; Artists at the Center (Ayodele Casel/Michelle Dorrance); *Illinoise* (Park Avenue Armory). Other credits include: *Maestro* (Netflix), *SNL*, *Postmodern Jukebox* (tap soloist), *Vail Dance Festival*, *Newsies*, *Cabaret*, and more. LaGuardia Arts, PSU MT. Thanks to family, friends, mentors, agents. Go In Rhythm. IG: @dario_natarelli | @knitarelli

MICHAEL OLARIBIGBE (*Ensemble*, *Understudy for Wreck*) is excited to make his *Encores!* debut!

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Some of his credits are Broadway: *Once Upon a Mattress* (Ensemble/ Jester understudy), *The Heart of Rock and Roll* (Ensemble/Eli understudy). Regional: *West Side Story* (Lyric Opera of Chicago), *Griswolds Broadway Vacation* (5th Ave), *Kinky Boots* (Muny). Film: *A Jazzman's Blues*. Olaribigbe thanks his family and Team TGE & HCKR for their support IG: @Olar.26

PATRICIA PHILLIPS (Ensemble) First woman of color to portray 'Carlotta' in *The Phantom of The Opera* Broadway and worldwide. More Broadway: *Sweeney Todd* (2023 OBC), *Kinky Boots*, *Baz Luhrman's La Bohème* (OBC), *The Secret Garden* (OBC), *Jerry Springer the Opera* (OUS). TV: Live at Lincoln Center: *Sweeney Todd*, *Billy On The Street*, *The Sopranos*, Tony Awards. She has taught at Carnegie Mellon, Penn State, and NYU's Tisch, New Studio on Broadway. @theofficialpatriciaphillips ♥DIF

RENÉE REID (Ensemble, Understudy for Ruth Sherwood) is excited to be part of *Wonderful Town!* Broadway: *Mrs. Doubtfire* (Swing/Wanda Cover). National/International Tours: *Frozen* (Final Bulda – North American Broadway Tour), *Hairspray* (Pearl/Dynamite/Motormouth u/s), *Dreamgirls* (Lorrell u/s). Grateful to God, her family, Brian Herrick, Gregory at Dottridge Talent Management, and Telsey Casting! IG/TikTok: @renee.reid

SAMANTHA SIEGEL (Ensemble) Encores debut! Theatre/Stage: *Swing!* (The Gateway), *A Very SW!NG OUT Holiday* (The Joyce), Co-Resident Director of *Swing!* feat. orig. Broadway choreography (Norwegian Cruise Line). Associate Director/Choreographer: *A Charlie Brown Christmas* (National Tour). Select TV/Film: *The Bride!*, *Blue's Big City Adventure*, *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*. Proud San Francisco Bay Area native and NYU Tisch Dance grad. This is for you, Lynne Taylor-Corbett. Love to Mama, Daddy-O, and Anders for their unending support. @samanthalsiegel

PHUMZILE SOJOLA (Ensemble, Understudy for Robert Baker) is happy to return to Encores! following his debut in *Dear World*. He appeared in *Cats*: "the Jellicle Ball" at the PAC. Broadway: *Porgy and Bess* (Peter) and *Cinderella* (Lord Pinkleton) OBC. National Tour: *The Phantom of The Opera* (Piangi). Syracuse stage: "Master Harold"...and the Boys (Willie). Regional credits: Boston Pops: *Ragtime* (Coalhouse Walker). Metropolitan Opera credits: *Moby Dick*, *Aida*, *Fidelio*, *Porgy and Bess*, and *Malcolm X*. @phumzile_sojolaat

NICHOLAS WARD (Ensemble) is celebrating his tenth Encores! Broadway: *Lempicka*, *The Music Man*, *Lion King*, *Frozen*, *In Transit*, *On the Town*. Lincoln Center: *Anastasia*, *Camelot*, *I Am Harvey Milk*. Encores!: *Love Life*, *Brigadoon*, *1776*, *The Golden Apple*, *Cabin In The Sky*, *Zorba!*, *Paint Your Wagon*, *Pipe Dream*, *Annie Get Your Gun*. Tours: *Show Boat*, *Porgy and Bess*. Regional: *A Little Night Music*, *Tommy*, *JCS*, *Big River*, *Ragtime*, *La Mancha*, *OOTI*, *Little Shop*, *Smokey Joe's Cafe*. Soundtracks: *Wicked*, *Frozen 2*, *Schmigadoon!*. Insta & TikTok @NicholasTheWard

JACOB KEITH WATSON (Ensemble) Broadway: *Merrily We Roll Along* (Mr. Spencer, Joe understudy); *Carousel* (Enoch Snow); *Hello, Dolly!*; *Violet*; *The Phantom of the Opera* (Joseph Buquet); and *Amélie*. Encores!/City Center: *Ragtime* (Willie Conklin), *1776* (Robert Livingston), *Mack & Mabel*, and *Oliver!*. National Tour: *Chicago* (Amos). Regional: *Into the Woods*, (The Baker), *Seussical* (Horton), *Shrek the Musical* (Shrek), *The Music Man* (Marcellus), *Swept Away*, *Benny & Joon* (Waldo). TV: *Annie Live!* (Mr. Bundles), *The Gilded Age*, *Law & Order: SVU*.

ANNALIESE WILBUR (Ensemble) (they/ them) Encores! debut! Previous credits include *Funny Girl* (National Tour); *Diary of a Tap Dancer* (A.R.T.); *West Side Story* and *Pippin* (Reagle). Thank you to Marc, Dustin, and Eden at Daniel Hoff. To the queer non-binary kid in the audience: you belong here. Wishing you love and



happiness always. @annaliese.wilbur

RICHARD RIAZYODER (*Ensemble, Understudy for Frank Lippencott*) is elated to return to City Center Encores! this season last seen in *Once Upon a Mattress*. An award-winning tap dancer, actor, choreographer, and veteran of seven Broadway shows, they have been seen on Broadway in *White Christmas*; *On the Twentieth Century*; *Shuffle Along*; *Hello, Dolly!*; *My Fair Lady*; *Some Like It Hot*; and *Once Upon a Mattress*. Love and thanks to my family, friends, and my manager, Steve. Go in Rhythm! @richardriaz

BETTY COMDEN (1917 – 2006) & **ADOLPH GREEN** (1914 – 2002) (*Lyrics*) in a partnership spanning nearly 60 years received Tony Awards for their lyrics and/or librettos for *Applause*, *Wonderful Town*, *Hallelujah Baby!*, *On the Twentieth Century*, and *The Will Rogers Follies*. Other Broadway credits: *Peter Pan*, *Bells Are Ringing*, *Do Re Mi*, and *Subways Are For Sleeping*. They wrote the screenplays and lyrics for such motion pictures as *Good News*, *On the Town*, *Singin' in the Rain*, *It's Always Fair Weather* (Academy Award Nomination), and *Auntie Mame*. They were inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame and received the Kennedy Center Honors Award in 1991.

LEONARD BERNSTEIN (1918 – 1990) (*Music*) was a world-renowned conductor and composer and a 20th-century classical music icon. He was Music Director of the New York Philharmonic and conducted the world's major orchestras leaving behind an enormous legacy of audio and video recordings. His books as well as the much-beloved televised *Young People's Concerts* with the New York Philharmonic established him as a leading educator. His orchestral and choral works include three symphonies (No. 1: *Jeremiah*, No. 2: *Age of Anxiety*, and No. 3: *Kaddish*), *Serenade*, *MASS*, *Chichester Psalms*, *Songfest*, *Divertimento for Orchestra*, *Arias and Barcarolles*, and *Concerto for Orchestra*. Bernstein's works

for the Broadway stage include *On the Town*, *Wonderful Town*, *Candide*, and the immensely popular *West Side Story*. In addition to the *West Side Story* collaboration, Bernstein worked with choreographer Jerome Robbins on three major ballets: *Fancy Free*, *Facsimile*, and *Dybbuk*. Bernstein was the recipient of many honors, including eleven Emmy Awards, one Tony Award, the Lifetime Achievement Grammy Award, and the Kennedy Center Honors.

JOSEPH FIELDS (1895 – 1966) (*Book*) the brother of the noted songwriter Dorothy Fields, and the famous librettist Herbart Fields, was the author of many successful plays written with Jerome Chodorov, including *My Sister Eileen*, *Junior Miss*, *The Ponder Heart*, *Anniversary Waltz*, *Wonderful Town* (Tony Award), *The Girl in Pink Tights*, and *Tunnel Of Love*. He also wrote the libretto for *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* with Anita Loos. His numerous films include the screenplays for *My Sister Eileen*, *Junior Miss*, *Tunnel of Love*, and *Louisiana Purchase*.

JEROME CHODOROV (*Book*) wrote *Junior Miss*, *Anniversary Waltz*, *The Ponder Heart*, *Tunnel of Love*, *The Girl in Pink Tights*, *A Talent for Murder*, *A Community of Two*, *Three Bags Full*, the revised book of *The Great Waltz*, and *My Sister Eileen*, later the basis for the Tony-winning *Wonderful Town*. Movie credits include *My Sister Eileen*, *Junior Miss*, *Happy Anniversary*, *Those Endearing Young Charms*, and *Louisiana Purchase*. He also directed plays in NY and LA, including *Make a Million* and *The Gazebo*.

DON WALKER (1907 – 1989) (*Orchestrations*) worked on more than 110 Broadway musicals, providing orchestrations for the scores of such musicals such as *Carousel*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Cabaret*, *The Music Man*, *She Loves Me*, *Shenandoah*, *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*, *The Unsinkable Molly Brown*, *The Rothschilds*, *Silk Stockings*, *Call Me Madam*, *Here's Love*, and *Zorba!* His film scores include *A Thousand Clowns*



(for which he received an Academy award nomination), and *The Appointment*.

SID RAMIN (1919 – 2019) (*Orchestrations*) Broadway credits include *West Side Story*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *Wildcat*, *I Can Get It for You Wholesale*, and *1600 Pennsylvania Avenue*. Ramin received an Oscar for the film version of *West Side Story* (1961) and his television credits include *The Patty Duke Show*, *Candid Camera*, and *The Texaco Star Theatre*.

ROBERT “RED” GINZLER (1910 – 1962) (*Orchestrations*) orchestrated the original Broadway productions of *Bye Bye Birdie*, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, *All American*, *Donnybrook!*, *Wildcat*, *Oh Captain!*, and John Kander’s first original Broadway musical, *A Family Affair*. He also arranged and orchestrated music for advertising and early television shows, including *The Texaco Star Theatre*.

EISA DAVIS (*Creative Consultant*) is a performer, composer, and writer. A recipient of a USA Artists Fellowship, Creative Capital Award, an AUDELCO, an Obie for Sustained Excellence in Performance and the Herb Alpert Award in Theater, Davis was also a Pulitzer Prize finalist for her play *Bulrushes*. Along with other stageworks such as *Angela’s Mixtape*, *||: Girls ||: Chance ||: Music ||:*, and the score for *Devil In A Blue Dress: The Musical*, she has written for television, recorded two albums of original music, *Something Else* and *Tinctures*, and directed a short film, *Remembrance*. Notable performance work includes *Kindred*, *Mare of Easttown*, *The Wire*, *Kings*, *The Essentialist*’s, the musical of *The Secret Life of Bees*, and *Passing Strange*. An alumna of New Dramatists and a Cave Canem fellow, Davis co-created the *Warriors* concept album with Lin-Manuel Miranda. She lives in Brooklyn, NY.

ZHAILON LEVINGSTON (*Director*) is a Louisiana-raised storyteller and director. He is a board member for the Broadway Advocacy Coalition, which received an honorary Tony

Award in 2021. Levingston is also the Artistic Director of Inheritance Theatre Project. Select credits include: *Tina: The Tina Turner Musical* (Broadway), *Hadestown* (Korea), *The Wiz* (Cincinnati Children’s Theatre), *Chicken And Biscuits* (Broadway), *Patience* (Second Stage), *Little Miss Perfect* (Goodspeed), *Cats: “The Jellicle Ball”* (Perelman Performing Arts Center).

MARY-MITCHELL CAMPBELL (*Music Director, Encores! Music Director*) has served as the music supervisor or director for many Broadway shows including *Some Like It Hot*, *The Prom*, *Mean Girls*, *Tuck Everlasting*, *Finding Neverland*, *Big Fish*, *The Addams Family*, *Company*, and *Sweeney Todd*. She has conducted the Chicago Symphony, the Cincinnati Symphony, the Dallas Symphony, the Nashville Symphony, and was recently named an Imagination Artist for the Colorado Symphony. Campbell is passionate about arts education and access to arts education for marginalized communities. She is the Founder of Arts Ignite (artsignite.org) which recruits and trains high-level artists to teach young people health education and life skills through the arts. She is very active in *Maestra* (maestramusic.org) and *MUSE - Musicians United for Social Equity*. Museonline.org

LORIN LATARRO (*Choreographer*) choreographed Broadway’s *Once Upon a Mattress*, *The Who’s Tommy*, *Into the Woods*, *The Heart of Rock and Roll*, *Waitress*, *Mrs. Doubtfire*, *Les Liaisons Dangereuse* (with Janet McTeer and Liev Schreiber), *Waiting For Godot* (with Sir Ian McKellen and Sir Patrick Stewart); *Merrily We Roll Along* (Roundabout); and *La Traviata* (The Met Opera). She recently directed Candace Bushnell’s *Is There Still Sex in The City?* at the Daryl Roth Theatre (*New York Times* Critic’s Pick). Additional: *Chess*, *21 Chump Street* at BAM, *Twelfth Night* at The Public, the immersive *Queen of the Night* at Paramount Hotel, *Peter Pan*. For *Encores!*: *Once Upon a Mattress*; *Into the Woods*; *Oliver!*; *Assassins*; *God Bless You, Mr. Rosewater*; and *Fanny*. She holds a BFA from the



Juilliard School and directing MA from NYU.
Upcoming: Joy at The Laura Pels.

AYODELE CASEL (*Tap Choreographer*) a Doris Duke Artist in the dance category is hailed as a “tap dancer and choreographer of extraordinary depth” (*The New York Times*). Casel’s work includes her Drama Desk-nominated choreography for the Broadway revival of *Funny Girl* and her concert and Bessie Award-winning film *Chasing Magic*. In 2024, Casel wrote choreographed and performed *Diary of a Tap Dancer* (directed by Torya Beard) at the American Repertory Theater. Along with Beard, she co-directed *Rooted*, a documentary for ALL ARTS. Casel was a fellow at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University, an artist-in-residence at Harvard University, and is the recipient of a United States Artist Fellowship, Herb Alpert Award, Doris Duke Artists Award, Bessie, and Flo-Bert Award. A frequent New York City Center collaborator, she was the 2023 Artist at the Center, and serves on their board. In 2021, Casel was depicted on a US Postal Service Forever Stamp celebrating tap dance.

TERESA L. WILLIAMS (*Scenic Designer*) is a set designer originally from New Orleans, LA. Recent design credits include *John Proctor* is *The Villain* (Broadway), *The Preacher’s Wife* (Alliance Theater), *Triple Threat* (T32 Theatrical), *The Cotillion* (New Georges/The Movement), *Ragtime* (American Stage). MFA: NYU Tisch. tlwilliamsdesign.com

LINDA CHO (*Costume Designer*) Previous Encores! productions are *Ragtime*, *The Light in the Piazza*, *Grand Hotel*. Cho received the Tony Award for her designs for *The Great Gatsby* and *A Gentleman’s Guide to Love and Murder*, and she was nominated for a Tony, Outer Critic’s Circle, and Drama Desk Award for *Anastasia*. Other selected Broadway credits include *Pirates of Penzance*, *Doubt*, *POTUS*, and *Take Me Out*. Her work in ballet and opera can be seen at The Metropolitan

Opera, Washington National Opera, and American Ballet Theater. She is the recipient of the TDF Irene Sharaff Young Master Award, and is currently serving on the Advisory Committee of the American Theatre Wing, and judge for the Susan Blackburn Playwriting Prize. MFA Yale School of Drama. More at Lindacho.com

BEN STANTON (*Lighting Designer*) is a lighting designer for theater, concerts, dance installations, and events. He is a four-time Tony Award nominee as well as an Obie, Lortel, IRNE, and Ovation Award winner. Stanton is currently represented on Broadway by *Maybe Happy Ending* at the Belasco Theater. Recent Broadway credits include *The Notebook* (Schoenfeld Theater); *Mary Jane* (starring Rachel McAdams); *Days of Wine and Roses* (Starring Kelli O’Hara & Brian Darcy James); *Goodnight, Oscar* (starring Sean Hayes); *The Collaboration* (Starring Paul Bettany & Jeremy Pope); *Charles Dickens’ A Christmas Carol* (Featuring Jefferson Mays); *The Rose Tattoo* (starring Marisa Tomei); *Derren Brown: Secret* (James Earl Jones Theater); *Regina Spektor: Live On Broadway* (Lunt-Fontanne Theater); *Ayad Akhtar’s Junk* (Lincoln Center); *Six Degrees of Separation* (starring Allison Janney Corey Hawkins and John Benjamin Hickey); Deaf West Theater’s *Spring Awakening* (Lena Horne Theater); *Fully Committed* (starring Jesse Tyler Ferguson); and *Fun Home* (Broadway Off-Broadway first National Tour London).

MEGUMI KATAYAMA (*Sound Designer*) is thrilled to return to Encores! after designing *Titanic*, *Jelly’s Last Jam*, and *The Light in the Piazza*. Off-Broadway/NYC: Playwrights Horizons, The Public Theater, The New Group, LCT3, NAATCO, Primary Stages, Target Margin/NYU Skirball, Minetta Lane, Ping Chong+Company, Rattlestick, New Victory, Little Island, NYTW Gala. Regional: *Cambodian Rock Band* (Tour), Paper Mill, Alley, Alliance, Trinity Rep, Huntington, The Old Globe, CTG, DCPA, Geva Studio Theater, Everyman, Woolly Mammoth,



Two River, Cincinnati Playhouse, Kansas City Rep, OKC Rep, Long Wharf, Yale Rep, Resident Ensemble Players, ZACH, East West Players, Dorset Theater Festival, Chautauqua Theater Company, Skylight Music Theatre, Theater Aspen, and more. Megumikatayama.com

TOM WATSON (*Hair & Wig Designer*) headed the wig/makeup department at the Metropolitan Opera for 17 years. He has designed more than 100 Broadway productions including *Wicked*, *Rock of Ages*, *The King & I*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Oslo*, *Falsettos*, *The Little Foxes*, *My Fair Lady*, *Plaza Suite*, *Parade*, *Spamalot* (revival), *Just in Time*, and *Floyd Collins*. His continued work Off-Broadway, regional, opera and theater, and The Glimmerglass Festival bring him much joy and inspiration.

THE TELSEY OFFICE (*Casting*) With offices in both New York and Los Angeles, The Telsey Office casts for theater, film, television, and commercials. The Telsey Office is dedicated to creating safe, equitable, and anti-racist spaces through collaboration, artistry, heart, accountability, and advocacy. thetelseyoffice.com

KIMBERLEE WERTZ (*Music Coordinator*) Delighted to be part of another Encores! season. Broadway: *Good Night and Good Luck*; *Maybe Happy Ending*; *Once Upon a Mattress*; *Stereophonic*; *The Notebook*; *Parade*; *Bob Fosse's Dancin'*; *KPOP*; *Almost Famous*; *Into The Woods*; *Funny Girl*; *The Music Man*; *The Lehman Trilogy*; *West Side Story*; *King Lear*; *Carousel*; *Hello, Dolly!*; *A Year With Frog and Toad*. Off-Broadway: *Here We Are*, *The Gardens of Anuncia*. TV: The Academy Awards, The Tony Awards, The Kennedy Center Honors, The Emmy Awards, *A Capitol Fourth*, *Disney Holiday*, *Mozart in the Jungle*, *Jimmy Carter 100: A Celebration In Song*, *SNL50: The Homecoming Concert*, and six Democratic National Conventions. Thank you to all our wonderful Encores! musicians, and the late Red Press, beloved music coordinator and friend.

MATTHEW LACEY (*Production Stage Manager*) is thrilled to make his Encores! debut. Broadway credits include: *Sunset Boulevard* (2017 & 2024 revivals), *Spamalot*, *MJ: the Musical*, *Tootsie*, *SpongeBob SquarePants*, *Waitress*, *An American In Paris*, *On the Twentieth Century*, *Motown the Musical*, *Ghost the Musical*, *Urinetown*. Regional/ Dance: The Kennedy Center (*Schmigadoon*, *Spelling Bee*, *Nine*, *Guys & Dolls*, *The Music Man*) Theatre Raleigh (*Bull Durham*), Radio City Christmas Spectacular, St. Louis Muny, Kansas City Starlight, and American Ballet Theatre.

WILLIE PORTER (*Stage Manager*) Broadway: *Spamalot*, *Almost Famous*, *Redwood*, *MJ: the Musical*, *The Music Man*, *Moulin Rouge!* Other: *Schmigadoon!*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Nine*, *Spamalot*, and *The Music Man* (Kennedy Center); Radio City Christmas Spectacular; *Evita* (City Center); and nine seasons at The Muny. Big thanks to Matt and Michael for everything. For MB, Mom & Dad.

MICHAEL DOMUE (*Assistant Stage Manager*) Encores! debut. City Center: *Sweet Gwen Suite* (2021 Fall for Dance). Broadway: *Spamalot*. Radio City: Spring Spectacular, Heart and Lights, Christmas Spectacular. Other credits: *Coriolanus* (Delacorte); *Twelfth Night*, *As You Like It* (Public Works); *Mile Long Opera* (High Line); *In Your Arms* (Old Globe); *Spelling Bee*; *Nine*; *Spamalot*; *Sunset Boulevard*; *Company*; *A Streetcar Named Desire*; Master Class (Kennedy Center); Carnegie Hall; Totem Pole Playhouse.

JARED WATSON (*Associate Director*) is a graduate of the School of Musical Theater at the University of Oklahoma. He is the Artistic Director of Stage Center in Shreveport, LA where he lives with his partner, Seth. A former member of the Director's Lab at LCT, he's also interned with Telsey Casting. Thanks to Zhai for this incredible opportunity.



JACINTH GREYWOODE (*Associate Music Director*) Jacinth Greywoode is a Brooklyn-based composer, orchestrator, and music director. Broadway: *Cult Of Love* (Music Supervisor); *A Soldier's Play* (Music Consultant/Arranger); *Rose Tattoo* (AMD). Off-Broadway: *...Wholesale* (CSC; MD/Orchestrator). NY: *Jelly's Last Jam* (Encores!; AMD). As composer: *Blended Harmony* (Theater Mu). *Black Girl In Paris* (Richard Rodgers Winner); *Iron John* (NAMT Winner, Richard Rodgers Finalist). jacinthgreywoode.com

DEE TOMASETTA (*Associate Choreographer*) Broadway: *The Who's Tommy* (Associate Choreographer/Dance Captain/Swing); *The Heart of Rock & Roll* (Assistant Choreographer); *SIX* (Associate Choreographer). NYC: Radio City Christmas & New York Spectacular. National Tour: *Finding Neverland* (Peter Pan/Associate Choreographer). Television: *Gilded Age*, *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*, *SNL*. University of Michigan Alumna. Endless love to my family & CESD! @deetomasetta

NAOMI FUNAKI (*Tap Choreography Assistant*) is a NYC based award winning tap dance artist from Tokyo, Japan. She was selected as a winner of Princess Grace Award 2023 and named one of *Dance Magazine's* "25 to Watch" in 2024. She has worked with Ayodele Casel, Caleb Teicher & Company, Music From The Sole, and Dorrance Dance.

TAYLOR FRIEL (*Associate Scenic Designer*) is a Brooklyn-based artist and designer for theater, dance, opera, music videos, and more. Selected credits include *Kafkaesque* (Out of the Box Theatrics), *Beyond the Horizon* (La Mama), *Aging Prelude* (The Chocolate Factory), *Where Women Go* (HERE Arts Center), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Double Feature Plays). MFA from New York University.

ALEC VIKEN OHANIAN (*Associate Costume Designer*) First and foremost, a sincere thank you to Linda Cho and Patrick Bevilacqua for being

the most supportive leaders I could ask for. I am so pleased to return to New York City Center for another incredible Encores! production. Thank you to everyone involved for your dedication and commitment. Past work includes *Ragtime* (City Center), *Schmigadoon!* (The Kennedy Center), and *Pirates! The Penzance Musical* (Broadway).

NICK SOLYOM (*Associate Lighting Designer*) *Take the Lead* at Paper Mill Playhouse. Lighting Design: *The Hollow* by John Rapson and *Westerly Breath* by Hamed Sinno. Associate Lighting Design: *Death Becomes Her*, *The Outsiders*, *Moulin Rouge!*, and *The Music Man*. Solyom is from Los Angeles and lives in New York City. SolyomDesign.com

SUN HEE KIL (*Associate Sound Designer*) Associate designed Broadway productions to PyeongChang Winter Olympics Opening & Closing Ceremonies in South Korea. Her sound design includes Off-Broadway, regional, and international theater productions. Kil is an Assistant Professor of Sound Design at Purchase College State University of New York. sunheekil.com

THE ENCORES! ORCHESTRA Chosen for their versatility and virtuosity, the musicians of The Encores! Orchestra are experts in all eras and styles of theater music, from the operettas of Sigmund Romberg, to the jazz-inflected scores of Harold Arlen, to the classic 1960s Broadway sound of John Kander and Fred Ebb.

LEAR DEBESSONET (*Encores! Artistic Director*) is a Tony-nominated director and the Artistic Director of Encores! Directing credits include *Ragtime* (City Center), *Once Upon a Mattress* (Broadway, Encores!), *Into the Woods* (Broadway, Encores!), National Tour), *Lionel Bart's Oliver!* (Encores!), *Annie Live!* (NBC), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Shakespeare in the Park), *The Odyssey* (Public Theater), and *Good Person of Szechwan* (Public Theater/Foundry). She is the Founder of Public Works at The Public Theater, where she served as the Resident Director from



2012-2020, and the Founder and Co-Artistic Director of Arts for EveryBody. She received the Drama League Founders Award and Best Director of a Musical 2023, Obie Award, Ammerman Award, Lilly Award, and multiple Drama Desk and OCC nominations.

CLINT RAMOS (*Encores! Producing Creative Director*) is a producer and designer. Prior to joining the Encores! leadership team, he was one of the principal designers for Encores! Off-Center, having designed 22 shows. He has designed over 200 plays, operas, musicals, films, and environments. Honors include a Tony award and six nominations, two Obie Awards including one for Sustained Achievement in Design, Drama Desk, three Lucille Lortels, two American Theatre Wing Henry Hewes, Helen Hayes, USA Fellowship, and Ani Ng Dangal Philippine Presidential Medals for the Arts. He is the Visual Director for Lincoln Center's Summer for the City. He sits on the American Theatre Wing advisory board and is one of the founders of Design Action, advocating for a more equitable landscape for American theater design. @clintramos

JENNY GERSTEN (*VP & Producer, Musical Theater*) also serves as Line Producer for the *Beetlejuice* National Tour, and with Half Zip Productions was one of the partners for City Center's production of *Once Upon a Mattress* on Broadway (also produced cast album). Previously she produced Alex Edelman's acclaimed *Just For Us* on Broadway, the Off Broadway "pie shop" production of *Sweeney Todd*, and Gavin Creel's musical, *Walk on Through* with MCC. Upcoming: *Downstate*. Formerly the Artistic Director of the Williamstown Theatre Festival, Executive Director of Friends of the High Line. Associate Producer of The Public Theater, and Creative Producer for Virgin Voyages.

MICHAEL S. ROSENBERG (*President & CEO*) has a long and distinguished career of leading performing arts institutions to nurture artists,

expand audiences, and engage communities. Beginning with Drama Dept. (the Greenwich Village artist collective he co-founded in the '90s) and carrying through to the present, he has helped develop works by playwrights, songwriters, choreographers, directors, authors, designers, visual artists, and students. As Managing Director of La Jolla Playhouse, Rosenberg worked with Artistic Director Christopher Ashley and the staff to oversee the development and production of a host of acclaimed productions, many of which transferred to Broadway, Off-Broadway, and the West End—including the international smash hit *Come from Away*. More recently, as Managing Director of McCarter Theatre Center, Rosenberg was part of the evolution of the historic theater, expanding programming to include family-friendly performances and multidisciplinary events. His work in building diversity, equity, and inclusion encompasses artists, audiences, and administrators alike.

NEW YORK CITY CENTER has played a defining role in the cultural life of the city since 1943. The distinctive Neo-Moorish building was founded by Mayor Fiorello La Guardia as Manhattan's first performing arts center with the mission of making the best in theater, dance, and music accessible to all audiences. This commitment continues today through celebrated dance and musical theater series like the Fall for Dance Festival and the Tony-honored Encores! series; the annual season by Principal Dance Company Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater; and the artist-curated Artists at the Center series. City Center welcomes audiences to experience internationally acclaimed artists on the same stage where legends made their mark. Dedicated to a culture built on the values of curiosity, collaboration, accessibility, and inclusivity, City Center's dynamic programming, art exhibitions, and studio events are complemented by education and community engagement programs that bring the performing arts to thousands of New York City students, teachers, and families every year.

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Additional audio equipment: Gibson Entertainment

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City Center Circle is a vibrant group of young professionals (40 and under) who are passionate about the performing arts and enjoy socializing and networking with like-minded peers. For more information, please email Circle@NYCityCenter.org or call 212.763.1206.

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