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Casting announced for City Center *Encores! Off-Center* season:

***Assassins*, July 12—15**

***The Bubbly Black Girl Sheds Her Chameleon Skin*, July 26—27**

***Really Rosie*, August 2—5**

June 14, 2017/New York, NY—*Encores! Off-Center* Artistic Director **Michael Friedman** today announced casting for his first season at the helm of the popular summer musical theater series at New York City Center.

The trigger-happy squad assembled for ***Assassins***, Stephen Sondheim and John Weidman’s carnival ride through the history of political violence, will star **Steven Boyer** (John Hinckley Jr.), **Alex Brightman** (Giuseppe Zangara), **John Ellison Conlee** (Charles Guiteau), **Clifton Duncan** (The Balladeer), **Shuler Hensley** (Leon Czolgosz), **Ethan Lipton** (The Proprietor), **Erin Markey** (Lynette “Squeaky” Fromme), **Steven Pasquale** (John Wilkes Booth), **Cory Michael Smith** (Lee Harvey Oswald), **Julie White** (Sara Jane Moore), and **Danny Wolohan** (Samuel Byck). *Assassins* will be directed by **Anne Kauffman**, with music direction by **Chris Fenwick** and choreography by **Lorin Latarro**.

Kirsten Childs’ delightful, provocative, and poignant 2000 musical, ***The Bubbly Black Girl Sheds Her Chameleon Skin***, will star Tony Award-winner **Nikki M. James** (*The Book of Mormon*) as Viveca, the young African-American dancer who finds her way from West Coast suburbia to Broadway, all while navigating the politics of race and gender in an attempt to uncover her own identity. Directed by **Robert O’Hara**, the production will feature choreography by **Byron Easley** and music direction by **Annastasia Victory**.

Taylor Caldwell (*Runaways*, *School of Rock*) will star as the little girl with the big imagination from Avenue P in Maurice Sendak and Carole King’s *Really Rosie*. The genius of *Where the Wild Things Are* meets the genius of *Tapestry* in this sweet, sad, wonderful family-friendly musical for the dreamer in all of us. Inspired in part by the stories in Sendak’s Nutshell Library, *Really Rosie* features irresistible songs like “Pierre,” “Alligators All Around,” and “Chicken Soup with Rice.” The *Off-Center* production will be directed by **Leigh Silverman**, with music direction by **Carmel Dean** and choreography by **Ayodele Casel**.

Additional casting will be announced at a later date.

Encores! Off-Center was founded in 2013 with the mission of presenting Off-Broadway 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. *The New York Times* has called *Encores! Off-Center* "a summer theater highlight," with past productions including *Violet* with Sutton Foster; *tick, tick...BOOM!* with Lin-Manuel Miranda; *A New Brain* with Jonathan Groff; *Little Shop of Horrors* with Ellen Greene and Jake Gyllenhaal; and *Runaways* with a cast of 25 young performers. The series also features The Lobby Project, a series of free pre-performance events that place each musical in context of its legacy and provide insights into the work the audience is about to experience.

Off-Center reflects City Center's ongoing outreach to new and young audiences. In keeping with this mission, many *Off-Center* tickets are \$25. Tickets can be purchased online at NYCityCenter.org, by calling 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.

Assassins

July 12—15, 2017

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

Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

Book by John Weidman

Assassins is based on an idea by Charles Gilbert, Jr.

Choreography by Lorin Latarro

Music Director Chris Fenwick

Directed by Anne Kauffman

The Bubbly Black Girl Sheds Her Chameleon Skin

July 26—27

Wed & Thu at 7:30pm

By Kirsten Childs

Choreography by Byron Easley

Music Supervisor Chris Fenwick

Music Director Anastasia Victory

Directed by Robert O'Hara

Really Rosie

August 2—5

Wed—Fri at 7pm and Sat at 2 pm & 7pm

Book and Lyrics by Maurice Sendak

Music by Carole King

Choreography by Ayodele Casel
Music Supervisor Chris Fenwick
Music Director Carmel Dean
Directed by Leigh Silverman

New York City Center gratefully acknowledges *Encores! Off-Center* Founding Sponsors Stacey and Eric Mindich and Stacy Bash-Polley; Leadership Sponsor Nathalie and Pablo Salame; Series Sponsors Luigi Caiola and Sean McGill, Elizabeth and Dean Kehler, Andrew Martin-Weber, the Stephanie and Fred Shuman Fund for *Encores!* and Barbara and David Zalaznick; with additional support provided by The Frederick Loewe Foundation and Paula and Ira Resnick.

Lead support for *Assassins* is provided by the Ted and Mary Jo Shen Charitable Gift Fund. In addition, City Center thanks Lisa and Richard Witten for their generous support of the Artistic Innovation Fund. Support for the Arts Access Fund is generously provided by The Jerome L. Greene Foundation and the Stavros Niarchos Foundation.

The Lobby Project is sponsored by The Frederick Loewe Foundation.

New York City Center (Arlene Shuler, President & CEO) has played a defining role in the cultural life of the city since 1943. For nearly 25 years, City Center's Tony-honored *Encores!* series has been "an essential New York institution" (*The New York Times*). In 2013, City Center launched the *Encores! Off-Center* series, which features seminal Off-Broadway musicals filtered through the lens of today's innovative artists. Dance has also been integral to the theater's mission from the start and programs like the annual *Fall for Dance* Festival remain central to City Center's identity. Home to a roster of renowned national and international companies including Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater (City Center's Principal Dance Company) and Manhattan Theatre Club, New York City Center was Manhattan's first performing arts center, founded with the mission of making the best in music, theater, and dance accessible to all audiences. That mission continues today through robust education and community engagement programs which bring the performing arts to over 9,000 New York City students each year and the expansion of the theatrical experience to include pre-show talks, master classes, and art exhibitions that offer an up-close look at the work of the great theater and dance artists of our time.
www.NYCityCenter.org

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