

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**NEW YORK CITY CENTER announces 2024 – 2025 Season**

**Annual Gala Presentation *Ragtime* directed by Lear deBessonet  
starring Joshua Henry, Caissie Levy, and Brandon Uranowitz**

**Dance highlights include Dorrance Dance, Twyla Tharp Dance,  
Sara Mearns | Artists at the Center, and more**

**2025 Encores! Series**

***Urinetown, Love Life, and The Wild Party***

**Tickets from \$45, or less (fees included)**

**Annual Gala Presentation *Ragtime* on sale May 16 to members, May 23 to general public**

**MAY 14, 2024 (NEW YORK, NY)**—NEW YORK CITY CENTER today announced programming for the 2024 – 2025 Season. “We have been welcoming a growing number of artists, audiences, and students to New York City Center for more than 80 years,” said **Michael S. Rosenberg**, President & CEO. “For next season, we’ve crafted a series of dance, musical theater, and community events that will have everyone and their friends coming back to see it all. You’re not going to want to miss a moment that these international dancers, Broadway stars, new discoveries, and community leaders illuminate.”

**FALL 2024**

New York City Center’s 2024 – 2025 Season opens with the **Fall for Dance Festival** from September 18 through 29. An essential part of New York’s fall dance season, this annual showcase features an eclectic array of international dance artists and companies in five unique programs. In keeping with City Center’s mission of accessibility, all tickets for Fall for Dance remain at \$20 (plus \$10 in fees). Highlights on the 2024 line-up include **Boston Ballet**, Italy’s **CCN/Aterballetto** (FFD debut), **Dutch National Ballet**,

Chicago's **M.A.D.D. Rhythms**, New York-based collective **Roderick George | kNOname Artist**, and New York City Ballet principal dancer **Sara Mearns**.

On October 30, the **Annual Gala Presentation *Ragtime*** opens with a benefit performance followed by a gala dinner at the Ziegfeld Ballroom. Led by Tony-nominee and Encores! Artistic Director **Lear deBessonnet** with Music Director **James Moore**, *Ragtime* follows three fictional families in pursuit of the American Dream: Black pianist Coalhouse Walker Jr. (**Joshua Henry**) and his sweetheart Sarah; Latvian immigrant Tateh (**Brandon Uranowitz**) along with his Little Girl; and a wealthy white family led by Mother (**Caissie Levy**). This sweeping, powerful musical adaptation of E.L. Doctorow's novel of the same name with music by **Stephen Flaherty**, lyrics by **Lynn Ahrens**, and a book by **Terrence McNally** won four Tony Awards in 1998. Presented in a special two-week run through November 10, funds raised by all 14 performances allow City Center to continue to expand access to the performing arts by subsidizing education programs and affordable tickets throughout the year.

Award-winning tap dance artist **Michelle Dorrance** returns to City Center with her Company in a joyful program featuring live music from November 22 through 24. Hailed for their ingenuity and expanding the boundaries of tap dance while also honoring its roots, **Dorrance Dance** has been a Fall for Dance favorite since 2013.

**Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater**, New York City Center's Principal Dance Company and a beloved cultural ambassador, returns December 4 - January 5 for a five-week holiday season celebrating a lineage and legacy that continues to open doors and break new ground. Ailey's extraordinary dancers will bring to life world premieres and new productions by a number of choreographers for whom **Alvin Ailey** paved the way, including the 25th anniversary return of **Ronald K. Brown's** blockbuster *Grace*, a rapturous work in which the secular and sacred meet, connecting African and American dance.

### **Winter | Spring 2025**

Led by Music Director **Mary-Mitchell Campbell**, Artistic Director **Lear deBessonnet**, and Creative Producing Director **Clint Ramos**, the Tony-honored **Encores!** series returns in 2025 with a season of musical theater revivals to captivate both seasoned enthusiasts and newcomers alike. The series opens with *Urinetown* from February 5 through 16. Directed by **Teddy Bergman** with Encores! Music Director **Mary-Mitchell Campbell**, this side-splitting satire takes place in a dystopian city on the brink of dehydration where all citizens must pay a fee for "The Privilege to Pee" at one of the public facilities

controlled by a selfish tycoon. With an incisive and clever score by Tony winner **Mark Hollmann**, fourth-wall-breaking humor by Hollman and Tony winner **Greg Kotis**, and a plot of thrilling twists and turns, *Urinetown* examines the darkest dilemmas of humanity—skewering everything from capitalism to environmental activism with irreverent charm and razor-sharp wit.

The long-awaited *Love Life* takes the City Center stage March 26 through 30. Originally scheduled as part of the 2019 – 2020 season, the performances were cancelled at the start of the Covid-19 shutdown. The only collaboration between **Kurt Weill** and **Alan Jay Lerner**, this rarely staged 1948 musical depicts a love story that takes place over 200 years of American history, seen through the eyes of a family who never ages. Directed by Tony winner **Victoria Clark** with Guest Music Director **Rob Berman**, the musical explores the epic and intimate aspects of a marriage through a juxtaposition of heartfelt scenes and satirical vaudeville acts. Considered by some to be the first concept musical, *Love Life* is an inspiration for musical theater favorites such as *Cabaret*, *Chicago*, and *Company*.

Closing out the 2025 Encores! series from April 30 through May 11 is *The Wild Party*. With music and lyrics by **Michael John LaChiusa** and book by LaChiusa and **George C. Wolfe**, *The Wild Party* brings **Joseph Moncure March**'s notorious poem to life in this vivid musical adaptation. What happens when a night of debauchery leads to a morning of sobering truths? Directed by **Saheem Ali** with Encores! Music Director **Mary-Mitchell Campbell**, this “dangerous, seedy, fantastic” (*The Observer*) gin-soaked party is full of jazz-age indulgence and Vaudeville stars letting loose off-the-clock.

### **Spring 2025 Dance**

For more than 20 years, **Flamenco Festival** has brought Spain's greatest flamenco dancers and musicians to City Center. This “beloved, yearly spectacle” (*Time Out*) returns from March 6 through 9 with a line-up that includes the “visionary, magisterial dancer” (*The Guardian*) **Eva Yerbabuena**, and more to be announced.

The legendary **Twyla Tharp** also returns from March 12 through 16 celebrating the Diamond Jubilee of **Twyla Tharp Dance** with a program of two New York premieres. Set to **Beethoven**'s masterpiece of the same name, the Olivier-nominated *Diabelli Variations* makes visible the elegant humor and depth of the composer's layered genius as Tharp's movement effortlessly shifts from ballet to jazz, to modern, and even unexpected bits of social dance, accompanied by live piano. Combined with a new work set to a reimagining of **Philip Glass**'s iconic *Aguas da Amazonia*, arranged and performed live on a collection of

custom-designed instruments by **Third Coast Percussion**, these two premiere works guarantee an evening of stellar dancing and phenomenal musicianship.

Celebrated New York City Ballet principal dancer **Sara Mearns** has a long artistic relationship with City Center including eight performances in the Fall for Dance Festival, starring in Matthew Bourne's *The Red Shoes*, and making her musical theater debut in *Encores! I Married an Angel* as part of the 75th Anniversary Season (2018 – 2019). This season, Mearns makes her curatorial debut as part of the ongoing **Artists at the Center** series. From April 3 through 5, Mearns expands the boundaries of the balletic form as both a dancer and curator in this annual series.

Bringing their bold vision for the world of classical ballet, **Dance Theatre of Harlem** returns April 10 through 13 with an exciting season of new works and fan favorites. And from May 29 through June 1, the nation's largest Latinx cultural organization **Ballet Hispánico** returns with a gala performance, their signature *En Familia/Family Matinee*, and **CARMEN.maquia**. Choreographed by **Gustavo Ramírez Sansano**, *CARMEN.maquia* is a bold and electrifying reimagining of Bizet's timeless tale with costumes by fashion designer **David Delfín** and set designed by **Luis Crespo**.

## **Studio 5**

The **Studio 5** series of conversations and performances offer an opportunity to hear from today's great dance artists in the intimate setting of City Center's historic studios, moderated by leading scholars and writers in the dance world. Events include **80 Years of Fancy Free** (Nov 25), **George Balanchine's The Nutcracker**® (Dec 9), **Celebrating Black History Month | Street Dance Edition** (Feb 24) with **Ephrat Asherie** and **Adesola Osakalumi**, and **Sara Mearns | Artist at the Center** (Mar 17). Select Studio 5 programs will again be offered as on-demand, live-streamed events this season.

## **Education & Community Engagement**

City Center's **Education & Community Engagement** expanding programs provide pathways to and through the arts for thousands of students and New Yorkers across the city with workshops, residencies, performances, apprenticeships, and high school externships. The **Lynne & Richard Pasculano Student Matinees** provide access to over 10,000 students, offering subsidized tickets to performances. Student matinees can be combined with In-School Workshops or Residencies that enrich students' learning experience, helping them to prepare and reflect on the performance. Student Matinees for the 2024 – 2025 Season include *Ragtime* on November 7 (Grades 6 – 12), *Dorrance Dance* on November 22 (Grades 3 – 12), *Ailey II* on December 10 and 12 (Grades 3 – 12), *Encores! Urinetown* on February 13 (Grades 6 –

12), and Ballet Hispánico on May 3 (Grades 3 – 12). For more information on attending a Lynne & Richard Pasculano Student Matinee, email [Education@NYCityCenter.org](mailto:Education@NYCityCenter.org) or call 212.763.1221.

City Center **Community Nights** build common bonds around the power of performance. In a new format for the 2024 – 2025 season, these events will be held post-performance with concessions remaining open, inviting even more audience members to take part. Community Nights include *Ragtime* on Friday November 8; Encores! *Urinetown* on Friday, February 14; Flamenco Festival on Friday, March 7; and Encores! *The Wild Party* on Friday, May 9. Performances with **ASL Interpretation** will be held Thursday, November 7 (*Ragtime*); Thursday, February 13 (Encores! *Urinetown*); Sunday, March 30 at 2pm (Encores! *Love Life*); and Thursday, May 8 at 7:30pm (Encores! *The Wild Party*). And Dorrance Dance includes **Family Friendly Matinees** on Saturday, November 23 at 2pm, and Sunday, November 24 at 2pm.

### **Tickets and General Information**

Tickets for the Annual Gala Presentation *Ragtime* go on sale at noon on May 16 to members and May 23 to the general public. Dorrance Dance and the Winter/Spring dance season go on sale to members on August 20 and to the general public on August 22. Fall for Dance Festival tickets are on sale Sunday, August 25 at 11am, with all tickets remaining at \$20 (plus \$10 in fees). Tickets for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater go on sale September 10 to the general public.

Current subscribers may renew their Encores! subscriptions now through June 28. New Encores! subscriptions for members are available starting August 6 and for the general public starting August 20. Subscriptions may be purchased for the first week of two-week engagements. Encores! single tickets go on sale to members October 1 and to the general public on October 8.

Tickets can be purchased online at [NYCityCenter.org](http://NYCityCenter.org), by calling 212.581.1212, or in person at the City Center Box Office. Access City Center Club is available to those 38 years of age and under and offers a limited number of \$28 tickets (fees included) to City Center productions. For more information and to sign up, visit [NYCityCenter.org/Access](http://NYCityCenter.org/Access). New York City Center is located at 131 W 55th St between Sixth and Seventh avenues.

Casting and programming subject to change.

Major support for New York City Center is provided by the Howard Gilman Foundation.

New York City Center gratefully acknowledges Fall for Dance Festival Lead Sponsor Bloomberg Philanthropies.

Leadership support for Fall for Dance is provided by Jody and John Arnhold

New York City Center is also grateful for the support of its Fall for Dance Presenting Partners including Perry and Marty Granoff, Caroline Howard Hyman, Denise R. Sobel, and Barbara and David Zalaznick.

Additional support for Fall for Dance is provided by The Shubert Foundation, Joyce F. Menschel, The Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation, Inc., and The SHS Foundation.

Fall for Dance is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts.

Support for new dance works is provided by the Arlene Shuler Artistic Innovation Fund and the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation.

Leadership Support for Encores! provided by the Stacey and Eric Mindich Fund for Musical Theater.

Support for the Ann Reinking Encores! Choreography Fellowship is provided by Bloomberg Philanthropies and Peter Talbert in honor of Ann Reinking.

Encores! Season is sponsored by The Shubert Foundation and the Stephanie and Fred Shuman Fund for Encores!.

Additional Support for Encores! is provided by The Kaplen Brothers Fund, The Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation, the Frederick Loewe Foundation, Daryl and Steven Roth, The Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation, Inc., The SHS Foundation, The Ted Snowdon Foundation, and the Marta Heflin Foundation.

Major Support for Encores! *Love Life* is provided by Eleanor and Howard Morgan and the Joseph S. and Diane H. Steinberg Charitable Trust.

Support for Encores! Student Matinees is provided by Judy Taub Gold. Kevin Ryan, Jeanette Loeb, Akila Raman-Vaseghi and Ali Vaseghi, the Frederick Loewe Foundation, Julie and Paul Leff, and Deborah Goodman Davis and Gerald R. Davis.

Major Support for Career Pathways and Encores! Student Matinees is provided by RBC Foundation.

Leadership support for Twyla Tharp Dance Diamond Jubilee and Artists at the Center is provided by the Lynne and Richard Pasculano Fund for Programming and Education.

Additional support for Twyla Tharp Dance Diamond Jubilee and Artists at the Center is provided by the Arlene Shuler Artistic Innovation Fund.

Support for the Arts Access Fund is provided by Jerome L. Greene Foundation Fund in the New York Community Trust, the William and Dewey Edelman Charitable Trust, and the Blanchette Hooker Rockefeller Fund.

Support for ASL-interpreted performances is provided by the Howard Gilman Foundation.

*Ragtime* and Encores! *Urinetown* are presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. [www.mtishows.com](http://www.mtishows.com)

Encores! *Love Life* is presented under license from European American Music Distributors Company, on behalf of the Kurt Weill Foundation for Music, Inc., and the Alan Jay Lerner Testamentary Trust.

Encores! *The Wild Party* is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals. [www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)

**NEW YORK CITY CENTER** (Michael S. Rosenberg, President & CEO) has played a defining role in the cultural life of the city for more than 80 years. The distinctive Neo-Moorish building was founded by Mayor Fiorello La Guardia in 1943 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, Artists at the Center,

the Tony-honored Encores! series, and the annual season by Principal Dance Company Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. City Center welcomes audiences to experience internationally acclaimed artists including Kyle Abraham, Matthew Bourne, Ayodele Casel, Manhattan Theatre Club, Nederlands Dans Theater, and Twyla Tharp, 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 a full slate of education and community engagement programs that bring the performing arts to thousands of New York City students, teachers, and families every year. [NYCityCenter.org](https://www.nycitycenter.org)

## **NEW YORK CITY CENTER 2024 – 2025 SEASON**

Tickets for the **Annual Gala Presentation *Ragtime*** go on sale at noon on May 16 to members and May 23 to the general public.

### **Fall for Dance Festival**

**Sep 18 – 29, 2024**

Week 1: Wed – Sat | 7:30pm

Week 2: Tues – Sat | 7:30pm; Sun 2pm

Including **Boston Ballet**, **CCN/Aterballetto** (Italy, FFD debut), **Dutch National Ballet** (Netherlands), **M.A.D.D. Rhythms**, **Roderick George** | **kNoName Artist**, and **Sara Mearns**

Full programming details to be announced.

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### **Annual Gala Presentation**

#### ***Ragtime***

**Oct 30 – Nov 10, 2024**

Week 1:

Wed | 6pm – Gala Performance

Thu & Fri | 7:30pm

Sat 2pm & 7:30pm | Sun 2pm & 7pm

Week 2:

Wed – Fri | 7:30pm

Sat 2pm & 7:30pm | Sun 2pm & 7pm

**Lynne & Richard Pasculano Student Matinees:** Thu, Nov 7, 11am (Grades 6 – 12)

**ASL Interpreted Performance:** Thu, Nov 7, 7:30pm

**Community Night:** Fri, Nov 8, 7pm

**Family Childcare Matinee:** Sat, Nov 9, 2pm

Book by **Terrence McNally**  
Music by **Stephen Flaherty**  
Lyrics by **Lynn Ahrens**  
Based on the novel *Ragtime* by **E.L. Doctrow**  
Music Director **James Moore**  
Directed by **Lear deBessonet**  
Starring **Joshua Henry, Cassie Levy, and Brandon Uranowitz**

*Ragtime* casting is by The Telsey Office

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## **Dorrance Dance**

Nov 22 – 24, 2024

Fri | 7:30pm

Sat 2pm & 7:30pm | Sun 2pm

**Lynne & Richard Pasculano Student Matinees:** Fri, Nov 22, 11am

**Family Friendly Matinees:** Sat, Nov 23, 2pm & Sun, Nov 24, 2pm

Program details to be announced.

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## **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater**

**Dec 4, 2024 – Jan 5, 2025**

Tickets from \$42 (fees included)

On sale Sep 10

**Lynne & Richard Pasculano Student Matinees:** Tue, Dec 10, 11am & Thu, Dec 12, 11am (Grades 3 – 12)

Program details to be announced.

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## **Encores!**

### ***Urinetown***

**Feb 5 – 16, 2025**

Week 1:

Wed – Fri | 7:30pm

Sat 2 & 7:30pm | Sun 2 & 7pm

Week 2:

Tue – Fri | 7:30pm

Sat 2 & 7:30pm | Sun 2pm

**Lynne & Richard Pasculano Student Matinees:** Thu, Feb 13, 11am (Grades 6 – 12)



**ASL Interpreted Performance:** Thu, Feb 13, 7:30pm  
**Community Night:** Fri, Feb 14, 7:30pm

Music and Lyrics by **Mark Hollmann**  
Book and Lyrics by **Greg Kotis**  
Featuring **The Encores! Orchestra**  
Encores! Music Director **Mary-Mitchell Campbell**  
Directed by **Teddy Bergman**

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## **Flamenco Festival**

**Mar 6 – 9, 2025**

Thu – Sat | 7:30pm

Sun | 2pm

**Community Night:** Fri, Mar 7, 7:30pm

Featuring **Eva Yerbabeuna**, and more to be announced.

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## **Twyla Tharp Dance**

**Diamond Jubilee**

featuring **Third Coast Percussion**

**Mar 12 – 16, 2025**

Wed – Fri | 7:30pm

Sat 2pm & 7:30pm | Sun 2pm

**Community Night:** Fri, Mar 14, 7:30pm

***Diabelli Variations*** (NY Premiere)

Music by **Ludwig van Beethoven**

***New York Premiere***

Featuring **Third Coast Percussion**

Music by **Philip Glass**

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## **Encores!**

***Love Life***

Mar 26 – 30, 2025

Wed – Fri | 7:30pm

Sat 2 & 7:30pm (New curtain time) | Sun 2 & 7pm

**Community Night:** Fri, Mar 28, 7:30pm  
**ASL Interpreted Performance:** Sun, Mar 30, 2pm

Music and Lyrics by **Kurt Weill** and **Alan Jay Lerner**  
Book by **Alan Jay Lerner**  
Featuring **The Encores! Orchestra**  
Guest Music Director **Rob Berman**  
Directed by **Victoria Clark**

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## **Sara Mearns | Artists at the Center**

**Apr 3 – 5, 2025**  
Thu – Fri | 7:30pm  
Sat | 2pm & 7:30pm

Program details to be announced.

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## **Dance Theatre of Harlem**

**April 10 – 13, 2025**

Program details to be announced.

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## **Encores!**

### ***The Wild Party***

**Apr 30 – May 11, 2025**

Week 1:

Wed – Fri | 7:30pm

Sat 2 & 7:30pm | Sun 2 & 7pm

Week 2:

Tue – Fri | 7:30pm

Sat 2 & 7:30pm | Sun 2pm

**ASL Interpreted Performance:** Thu, May 8, 7:30pm

**Community Night:** Fri, May 9, 7:30pm

**Family Childcare Matinee:** Sat, May 10, 2pm

Music and Lyrics by **Michael John LaChiusa**  
Book by **Michael John LaChiusa** and **George C. Wolfe**  
Based on the poem by **Joseph Moncure March**  
Featuring **The Encores! Orchestra**  
Encores! Music Director **Mary-Mitchell Campbell**  
Directed by **Saheem Ali**

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## **Ballet Hispánico**

May 29 – Jun 1, 2025

Thu | 6:30PM

Fri | 7:30PM

Sat 2 & 7:30PM | Sun 2PM

**Lynne & Richard Pasculano Student Matinees:** Fri, May 30, 11am (Grades 3 – 12)

### **Gala Performance**

***CARMEN.maquia***

**En Familia/Family Matinee**

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## **Studio 5**

The Barbara and David Zalaznick Studio

Mondays at 6:30pm

Mon Nov 25 **80 Years of *Fancy Free***

Moderated by **Robert LaFosse** and **Alastair Macaulay**

Mon Dec 9 ***George Balanchine's The Nutcracker***<sup>®</sup>

Moderated by **Alastair Macaulay**

Mon Feb 24 **Celebrating Black History Month | Street Dance Edition**

With **Ephrat Asherie** and **Adesola Osakalumi**

Mon Mar 17 **Sara Mearns | Artist at the Center**

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