FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

New York City Center announces re-opening for in-person performances with full calendar of programs for 2021 – 2022 season

Dance programming highlights include
Fall for Dance Festival, TWYLA NOW,
and the launch of two new annual dance series

Additional artistic team members for Encores! 2022 season include choreographers Camille A. Brown for The Life and Jamal Sims for Into the Woods

Tickets start at $35 or less and go on sale for most performances
Sep 8 for members; Sep 21 for general public

July 13, 2021 (New York, NY) – New York City Center President & CEO Arlene Shuler today announced a full calendar of programming for the 2021 – 2022 season, reopening the landmark theater to the public in October 2021. This momentous return to in-person live performances includes the popular dance and musical theater series audiences have loved throughout the years and new programs featuring iconic artists of today. Manhattan’s first performing arts center, New York City Center has presented the best in music, theater, and dance to generations of New Yorkers for over seventy-five years.

“I am delighted to announce a robust schedule of performances for our 2021 – 2022 season and once again welcome audiences to our historic theater on 55th Street,” said Arlene Shuler, President & CEO. “We have all been through so much in the past sixteen months, but with the support of the entire City Center community of artists, staff, and supporters, we have upheld our legacy of resilience and
innovation, and we continue to be here for our loyal audience and the city for which we are proudly named. We are committed to supporting artists and providing opportunities for them to create and perform and to engage with our audience. It is in this spirit that we are launching two new annual dance programs this season and commissioning new works for the Fall for Dance Festival, led by Stanford Makishi, VP and Artistic Director, Dance Programs. We are also beginning the next chapter of our beloved Encores! series under the leadership of Artistic Director Lear deBessonet, Music Director Rob Berman, and Creative Producing Director Clint Ramos.”

New York City Center has been closed to the public since March 12, 2020—days before it was to open the second production of the Encores! 2020 series. The institution shifted its programming to digital presentations starting in summer 2020 and began bringing artists back to the stage in the fall to film dance and music theater concerts, which reached a global audience on City Center’s digital platform. As the organization prepares for a return to in-person performances, City Center is closely monitoring the guidelines established by public health authorities to welcome back audiences feeling safe, comfortable, and secure knowing what is expected upon their return. Updates to City Center’s ventilation systems are being implemented, as well as a comprehensive slate of new cleaning protocols. City Center is also launching mobile ticketing this season, making arrival to the theater a seamless and touchless experience.

2021 Fall Season

The 2021 – 2022 season opens with the popular Fall for Dance Festival, October 13 – 24, which annually signals the start of the fall dance season in New York City. The Festival will consist of the usual five programs each featuring three different groups of artists and companies, presented this year without intermissions. Continuing to provide artists with the valuable opportunity to create new work, four New York City Center commissions will be presented by tap dance superstar Ayodele Casel, modern dance legend Lar Lubovitch for Adrian Danchig-Waring and Joseph Gordon, The Verdon Fosse Legacy reconstruction of a trio of dances featuring Georgina Pazcoguin that were originally created for Tony Award-winning actor and dancer Gwen Verdon, and a co-commission with Vail Dance Festival by sought-after choreographer Justin Peck. In keeping with City Center’s mission of accessibility, all the tickets for Fall for Dance are $15. Tickets go on sale on September 19 at 11am.
The Annual Gala Presentation will open with a benefit performance followed by a gala dinner on November 10, with performances through November 14. Funds raised by all seven performances allow City Center to continue to provide access to the performing arts by subsidizing education programs and affordable tickets throughout the year. Program details will be announced shortly.

The world’s most iconic living choreographer Twyla Tharp is celebrating her 80th birthday at City Center on November 17 – 21 with TWYLA NOW—a program of signature works and two world premieres. Stars including Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater’s James Gilmer and Jacqulyn Harris; American Ballet Theatre’s Aran Bell and Catherine Hurlin; Tony-nominated actor and dancer Robert Fairchild; and New York City Ballet’s Sara Mearns, Roman Mejia, and Tiler Peck are joined by an ensemble of young performers for this once-in-a-lifetime celebration.

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, New York City Center’s Principal Dance Company and America’s beloved cultural ambassador to the world, returns to the stage for a much-anticipated annual season in their “home” theater from December 1 through December 19. Visionary Artistic Director Robert Battle marks a decade of leading the Company forward and will present Ailey’s renowned dancers in a diverse repertory of premieres, new productions, and favorites featuring the original work of Ailey Resident Choreographer Jamar Roberts and classics by Alvin Ailey. The season celebrates the 50th anniversary of the tour-de-force solo Cry which premiered at City Center in 1971. Alvin Ailey created this solo on his stunning muse Judith Jamison as a birthday present for his mother and dedicated to “all Black women everywhere, especially our mothers.”

2022 Winter | Spring Season

The Encores! 2022 series launches Lear deBessonet’s first season as Encores! Artistic Director, alongside Encores! Music Director Rob Berman and Encores! Producing Creative Director Clint Ramos. The Tony-honored series opens February 2 – 6 with The Tap Dance Kid, music by Henry Krieger, lyrics by Robert Lorick, and book by Charles Blackwell. Tony Award-winning director Kenny Leon (A Raisin in the Sun) leads this revival, bringing a fresh take to the production with new tap sequences by choreographer
Jared Grimes (After Midnight) and concert adaptation by Lydia Diamond (Stick Fly). Broadway’s Joseph Joubert (Motown the Musical) will music direct The Tap Dance Kid.

Following is twelve-time Tony-nominated musical (including Best Musical) The Life, March 16 – 20, with music by Cy Coleman, lyrics by Ira Gasman, and book by David Newman, Ira Gasman, and Cy Coleman. Emmy and Tony Award-winning artist Billy Porter reclaims this musical as the production’s adapter and director to bring forth the gritty, dangerous, and exciting decadence of 1980s New York City and an authenticity to the lives of sex workers. The production features choreography by Tony-nominated choreographer and Encores! Creative Advisor Camille A. Brown (Choir Boy).

Into the Woods, the third show in the series, ushers in a new annual tradition at Encores! which celebrates an iconic American musical and the ways theater connects us across generations. From May 4 – 15, a special two-week run of Stephen Sondheim (music and lyrics) and James Lapine’s (book) Tony Award-winning musical, directed by Lear deBessonet, will be the first of these celebrations to bring together Broadway’s brightest talents with a multi-generational group including New York City public school students. The production will feature choreography by film and television’s Jamal Sims (film: Aladdin) and Encores! Music Director Rob Berman.

Two New Annual Spring Dance Series

City Center will also launch two new dance series in spring 2022. Artists at the Center, March 3 – 6, gives City Center’s extraordinary family of artists the platform to conceive and curate their own programs. Award-winning New York City Ballet principal dancer Tiler Peck will launch this annual event with a program of her design, performing alongside a variety of dancers and musicians. The program includes the world premiere of a New York City Center commission set to music composed by jazz legend and recent Academy Award-winner Jon Batiste, alongside works by William Forsythe, Alonzo King, Jennifer Weber, and Peck herself. The new annual City Center Dance Festival will be presented from March 24 through April 10. The inaugural Festival showcases New York companies making their triumphant return to the City Center stage after more than a year away: Ballet Hispánico, Dance Theatre of Harlem, Martha Graham Dance Company, and Paul Taylor Dance Company. Continuing to
grow an audience of dance lovers, accessible tickets are available through the Access City Center Club, which provides exclusive ticket offers for anyone 35 and under.

The Studio 5 series of conversations and performances is an opportunity to hear from today’s great dance artists in the intimate setting of City Center’s historic studios. Events throughout the season feature artists from the mainstage programs—Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Artists at the Center | Tiler Peck, Fall for Dance Festival, and more. A special program with Dance Lab New York focuses on female ballet choreographers of color.

Tickets and General Information

Tickets start at $35 and go on sale September 8 for members and September 20 for the general public for Artists at the Center, City Center Dance Festival, Studio 5, and TWYLA NOW. Fall for Dance Festival tickets go on sale Sunday, September 18 at 11am. Tickets for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater go on sale October 12 for the general public.

Current subscribers may renew their Encores! subscriptions now through August 15. New Encores! subscriptions for members are available starting August 16 and for the general public starting August 23. Single tickets go on sale for members October 4 and for the general public on October 18.

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 W 55th St between Sixth and Seventh avenues.

Leadership Support for TWYLA NOW, Artists at the Center | Tiler Peck, City Center Dance Festival, and Education Programming is provided by The Lynne and Richard Pasculano Fund for Programming and Education.

Major Support for New York City Center is provided by the Ford Foundation and the Howard Gilman Foundation.

Additional Support for Artists at the Center is provided by Denise R. Sobel. We are grateful to the Charina Endowment Fund for its early support of this initiative.

New York City Center thanks Lisa and Richard Witten for their generous support of the Artistic Innovation Fund.
Support for the Arts Access Fund is provided by the JLGreene Arts Access Fund in the New York Community Trust, the Blanchette Hooker Rockefeller Fund, and the William and Dewey Edelman Charitable Trust.

New York City Center gratefully acknowledges Fall for Dance Festival Lead Sponsor Bloomberg Philanthropies. Major Support for Fall for Dance is provided by Jody and John Arnhold. City Center is also grateful to Presenting Partners Perry and Marty Granoff, Caroline Howard Hyman, Denise R. Sobel, and Barbara and David Zalaznick. Additional support for Fall for Dance Festival is provided by The Shubert Foundation, Joyce F. Menschel, The Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation, Inc., and The SHS Foundation.


Support for new dance works at New York City Center is provided by the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation.

New York City Center is a city-owned facility and is supported by funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the New York City Council and the National Endowment for the Arts. Musical Theater and Dance at New York City Center, as well as the Arts Administration Apprentice Program, are made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

NEW YORK CITY CENTER (Arlene Shuler, President & CEO) has played a defining role in the cultural life of the city since 1943. Manhattan’s first performing arts center, City Center was founded by Mayor Fiorello La Guardia with the mission of making the best in music, theater, and dance accessible to all audiences. This commitment continues today through celebrated dance and musical theater series including the Fall for Dance Festival, the Tony-honored Encores! and Encores! Off-Center, and the newest series Artists at the Center and the City Center Dance Festival. The distinctive neo-Moorish theater welcomes over 300,000 annual visitors to experience internationally acclaimed artists on the same stage where legends like George Balanchine, Leonard Bernstein, Barbara Cook, José Ferrer, Martha Graham, and Paul Robeson made their mark. 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, City Center’s dynamic programming, art exhibitions, studio events, and master classes, are complemented by education and community engagement programs that bring the performing arts to over 11,000 New York City students, teachers, and families each year. NYCityCenter.org
NEW YORK CITY CENTER
2021 – 2022 SEASON SCHEDULE

FALL FOR DANCE FESTIVAL
Oct 13 – 24, 2021
Week 1: Wed – Sat 8pm
Week 2: Tues – Sat 8pm; Sun 3pm
All tickets $15

Welcoming an audience of newcomers and seasoned enthusiasts to experience an eclectic mix of choreographers and performers since 2004, Fall for Dance is a highlight of the fall dance season in New York City and accessible to everyone with all tickets $15. This year’s line-up consists of five programs each featuring three different collections of artists and companies. City Center commissions will be presented by tap dance superstar Ayodele Casel, modern dance legend Lar Lubovitch for Adrian Danchig-Waring and Joseph Gordon, The Verdon Fosse Legacy reconstruction of a trio of dances featuring Georgina Pazcoguin that were originally created for Tony Award-winning actor and dancer Gwen Verdon, and a co-commission with Vail Dance Festival by sought-after choreographer Justin Peck. Full programming details will be announced later.

ANNUAL GALA PRESENTATION
Nov 10 – 14, 2021
Wed – Fri 7:30pm, Sat 2pm & 8pm, Sun 2pm & 7pm
Tickets (performance only) start at $35

The annual gala production has come to be known as the fall event that showcases some of Broadway’s brightest talents. Funds raised by all performances support our founding mission to make the performing arts accessible to the widest possible audience by subsidizing affordable tickets throughout the year. Program details will be announced shortly.
TWYLA NOW
Nov 17 – 21, 2021
Wed – Fri 8pm, Sat 2pm & 8pm, Sun 2pm
Tickets start at $35

Pioneering choreographer Twyla Tharp turns 80 and she’s celebrating on the City Center stage. Stars including Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater’s James Gilmer and Jacqueline Harris; American Ballet Theatre’s Aran Bell and Catherine Hurlin; Tony-nominated actor and dancer Robert Fairchild; and New York City Ballet’s Sara Mearns, Roman Mejia, and Tiler Peck perform signature works alongside two world premieres including a group piece featuring the principal dancers and an ensemble of young performers in this once-in-a-lifetime event.

Cornbread
Choreography by Twyla Tharp
Music by Carolina Chocolate Drops

World Premiere I
Choreography by Twyla Tharp
Music by Thomas Larcher

Pergolesi
Choreography by Twyla Tharp
Music by Giovanni Pergolesi

World Premiere II
Choreography by Twyla Tharp
Music by Johannes Brahms
Featuring the principal dancers and an ensemble of young performers

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER
Dec 1 – 19
Tickets start at $29
On sale Oct 12

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, New York City Center’s Principal Dance Company and America’s beloved cultural ambassador to the world, returns to the stage for a much-anticipated annual season in their “home” theater. Visionary Artistic Director Robert Battle marks a decade of leading the Company forward and will present Ailey’s renowned dancers in a diverse repertory of premieres, new productions, and favorites featuring the original work of Ailey Resident Choreographer Jamar Roberts and classics by Alvin Ailey. The season celebrates the 50th anniversary of the tour-de-force solo Cry which premiered at City Center in 1971. Alvin Ailey created this solo on his stunning muse Judith Jamison as a birthday present for his mother and dedicated to “all Black women everywhere, especially our mothers.” Full programming details will be announced later.

Press contact: Christopher Zunner, CZunner@AlvinAiley.org or 212.405.9028
For photos, visit pressroom.alvinailey.org
ENCORES!
THE TAP DANCE KID
Feb 2 – 6, 2022
Wed – Fri 7:30pm, Sat 2pm & 8pm, Sun 2pm & 7pm
Tickets start at $35

Music by Henry Krieger
Lyrics by Robert Lorick
Book by Charles Blackwell
Based on the novel Nobody’s Family is Going to Change by Louise Fitzhugh
Concert Adaptation by Lydia Diamond
Choreography by Jared Grimes
Music Director Joseph Joubert
Directed by Kenny Leon

A 10-year-old boy from an upper-middle-class Black family dreams of becoming a professional tap dancer. Director Kenny Leon leads this revival, bringing a fresh take to the production with new tap sequences by choreographer Jared Grimes and a concert adaptation by Lydia Diamond, reminding us of the power of family and dance as a force of healing.

NEW SERIES
ARTISTS AT THE CENTER | TILER PECK
Mar 3 – 6, 2022
Tickets start at $35

Artists at the Center is City Center’s new dance series that gives artists opportunities to conceive and curate their own programs for the City Center stage. Tiler Peck, award-winning New York City Ballet principal dancer, will launch this annual event with a program of her design, performing alongside a variety of dancers and musicians. A City Center-commissioned world premiere set to music composed by jazz legend and recent Academy Award-winner Jon Batiste is presented alongside works by William Forsythe, Alonzo King, Jennifer Weber, and Peck herself. Program details to be announced later.
ENCORES!
THE LIFE
Mar 16 – 20, 2022
Wed – Fri 7:30pm, Sat 2pm & 8pm, Sun 2pm & 7pm
Tickets start at $35

Music by Cy Coleman
Lyrics by Ira Gasman
Book by David Newman, Ira Gasman, and Cy Coleman
Choreography by Camille A. Brown
Adapted and directed by Billy Porter

This story of the complex lives in post-disco Times Square centers around Queen, a prostitute who strives for a better life against all oppressive forces. Billy Porter reclaims this musical as director and adaptor to bring forth the gritty, dangerous, and exciting decadence of New York City in the 1980s.

NEW SERIES
CITY CENTER DANCE FESTIVAL
BALLET HISPÁNICO
DANCE THEATRE OF HARLEM
MARTHA GRAHAM DANCE COMPANY
PAUL TAYLOR DANCE COMPANY
Mar 24 – Apr 10, 2022
Tickets start at $35

The inaugural City Center Dance Festival showcases New York companies making their triumphant return to the City Center stage: Ballet Hispánico, Dance Theatre of Harlem, Martha Graham Dance Company, and Paul Taylor Dance Company. Programming details to be announced later. Accessible tickets are available through Access City Center Club which provides exclusive ticket offers for anyone 35 and under. Full programming details will be announced later.

PAUL TAYLOR DANCE COMPANY
Thu Mar 24 – Sat Mar 26 8pm, Sun Mar 27 3pm,
Tue Mar 29 – Thu Mar 31 7:30pm

BALLET HISPÁNICO
Fri Apr 1 8pm, Sat Apr 2 2pm & 8pm, Sun Apr 3 3pm

DANCE THEATRE OF HARLEM
Tue Apr 5 8pm, Fri Apr 8 8pm, Sat Apr 9 2pm, Sun Apr 10 5pm

MARTHA GRAHAM DANCE COMPANY
Wed Apr 6, Thu Apr 7, & Sat Apr 9 8pm, Sun Apr 10 1pm
ENCORES!
INTO THE WOODS
Special two-week run
May 4 – 15, 2022
Week 1: Wed – Fri 7pm, Sat 2 & 8pm, Sun 2 & 7pm
Week 2: Tue – Fri 7pm, Sat 2 & 8pm, Sun 2pm
Tickets start at $35

Music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim
Book by James Lapine
Choreography by Jamal Sims
Music Director Rob Berman
Directed by Lear deBessonet

Directed by Encores! Artistic Director Lear deBessonet, this production ushers in a new annual tradition that brings together Broadway’s brightest stars with a multi-generational group including New York City public school students, to celebrate an iconic American musical and inspire all New Yorkers to find their own way into the work.

STUDIO 5
The Barbara and David Zalaznick Studio
Tickets: $35

This Monday evening series of conversations and performances is an opportunity to hear from today’s great dance artists in the intimate setting of our historic studios.

FALL FOR DANCE FESTIVAL: The Verdon Fosse Legacy
Mon Oct 4 at 6:30pm

DANCE LAB NEW YORK
Mon Nov 15 at 6:30pm

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER
Mon Nov 22 at 6:30pm

ARTISTS AT THE CENTER | TILER PECK
Mon Feb 7 at 6:30pm

CITY CENTER DANCE FESTIVAL
Mon Feb 14 at 6:30pm

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Award-winning choreographer Boris Eifman explores the life and artistic universe of the famous comedy dramatist Molière in his latest production *Molière Passion, or The Mask of Don Juan*. Like the 2001 production of *Don Juan & Molière*, the new ballet draws its dramatic energy from the contradictory unity of theater and reality, and the paradoxical relationship between the author and his characters.

*Molière Passion, or The Mask of Don Juan*
A ballet by Boris Eifman
Music by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Hector Berlioz, and Jean-Baptiste Lully

*MANHATTAN THEATRE CLUB*
New York City Center Stage I

*MORNING SUN*
Previews begin Oct 12, 2021
Opening Nov 3, 2021
Tickets on sale Sep 8

By Simon Stephens
Directed by Lila Neugebauer
With Blair Brown, Edie Falco, Marin Ireland

Tony Award winner Blair Brown (*Copenhagen, Orange Is the New Black*), Four-time Emmy Award winner Edie Falco (*The Sopranos, Frankie and Johnny*...), and Tony nominee Marin Ireland (*Reasons to Be Pretty*) form a powerhouse trio of stars in this deeply felt, gorgeously imagined new play by Tony winner Simon Stephens (*Heisenberg, The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*).

In Greenwich Village a generation or so ago, the city is alive. Joni Mitchell sings, friends and lovers come and go, and the regulars change at the White Horse Tavern. As 50 years pass, one woman’s life is revealed in all its complexity, mystery, and possibility in this enthralling world premiere about mothers and daughters, beginnings and endings in New York City. Directing is Lila Neugebauer (*The Waverly Gallery*).

*Morning Sun* was commissioned by MTC through the Bank of America New Play Program.

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PRAYER FOR THE FRENCH REPUBLIC
Previews begin Jan 11, 2022
Opening Feb 1, 2022

By Joshua Harmon
Directed by David Cromer

In 1944, a Jewish couple in Paris desperately awaits news of their missing family. More than 70 years later, the couple’s great-grandchildren find themselves facing the same question as their ancestors: “Are we safe?” Following five generations of a French Jewish family, Prayer for the French Republic is a sweeping look at history, home, and the effects of an ancient hatred.

This powerful world premiere comes from acclaimed playwright Joshua Harmon (Bad Jews, Significant Other) and director David Cromer, a Tony Award winner for The Band’s Visit.

Prayer for the French Republic is sponsored by The Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation’s Theatre Visions Fund program. Special thanks to The Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust for supporting Manhattan Theatre Club. Prayer for the French Republic is a recipient of an Edgerton Foundation New Play Award and was commissioned by MTC through the Bank of America New Play Program.

GOLDEN SHIELD
Previews begin Apr 26, 2022
Opening May 17, 2022

By Anchuli Felicia King
Directed by Danya Taymor

From international playwright Anchuli Felicia King comes a riveting new play about loyalties, intrigue, and the delicate art of translation. When enterprising American lawyer Julie Chen files a class-action lawsuit involving a multinational technology corporation and the Chinese government, she hires her strong-minded sister Eva as her translator. But what compromises will they make in order to win? And can they put aside their past differences to speak the same language? Directing this fast-paced production is Danya Taymor (Heroes of the Fourth Turning).

Support for Golden Shield is provided by the National Endowment for the Arts.

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