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Chuck Cooper, LaChanze, Norm Lewis, and more will star in *Encores!* production of *Cabin in the Sky*, directed by Ruben Santiago-Hudson

Creative teams also announced for *Encores!* productions of *1776* and *Do I Hear a Waltz?*

New York, NY, December 7, 2015—*Encores!* Artistic Director Jack Viertel today announced the creative teams for New York City Center’s 2016 *Encores!* season. **J. Bernard Calloway, Chuck Cooper, Marva Hicks, Carly Hughes, LaChanze, Norm Lewis, Forrest McClendon, and J.D. Webster** will star in Vernon Duke and John Latouche’s jazz-filled fable *Cabin in the Sky*, running for seven performances at City Center from February 10—14. The 1940 musical will be directed by Tony Award winner **Ruben Santiago-Hudson** with choreography by **Camille A. Brown**.

Originally produced in 1940, *Cabin in the Sky* followed *Porgy and Bess* in celebrating African-American music and dance traditions. The musical tells the story of “Little Joe” Jackson, a charming ne’er-do-well who dies in a saloon brawl and is given six months on earth to prove his worth to the Lord’s General (Norm Lewis) and his long-suffering wife Petunia (LaChanze), while resisting the temptations of the Devil’s Head Man (Chuck Cooper).

Duke’s score, featuring the jazz hit “Taking a Chance on Love,” will be restored to its original glory for *Encores!*, thanks to the generous support of The Joseph S. and Diane H. Steinberg Broadway Musical Restoration Fund. The original orchestrations for *Cabin in the Sky* no longer exist and will be recreated by Tony Award winner Jonathan Tunick.

The *Encores!* season will continue with a multi-ethnic production of Sherman Edwards’ Tony Award-winning classic *1776* (Mar 30—Apr 3), directed by **Garry Hynes**, with guest music direction by **Ben Whiteley** and choreography by **Chris Bailey**. The final production of the season, Richard Rodgers and Stephen Sondheim’s 1965 musical *Do I Hear a Waltz?* (May 11—15), will be directed by **Evan Cabnet**, with musical direction by *Encores!* Music Director **Rob Berman** and choreography by **Chase Brock**.

CABIN IN THE SKY ARTISTS

Chuck Cooper (The Head Man) has been featured in 13 Broadway shows in every theatrical genre from Shakespeare to musical comedy. He has received a Tony Award, a Lucille Lortel Award, and two Drama Desk Award nominations. TV appearances include *House of Cards*, *Madam Secretary*, *Nurse Jackie*, and *Muhammad Ali's Greatest Fight*.

LaChanze (Petunia Jackson) Broadway: *If/Then*, *The Color Purple* (Tony Award), *Once on This Island* (Tony, Drama Desk, and Outer Critics Circle Award nominations), *Ragtime*, *Company*, and *Uptown It's Hot*. Off-Broadway: *Dessa Rose* (Obie Award, Drama Desk Award nomination), *The Bubbly Black Girl Sheds Her Chameleon Skin* (Drama Desk Award nomination), *Inked Baby, Baby*, *From the Mississippi Delta*, and *Spunk*. *Encores!*: *The Wizard* and *Out of This World*. Film: *The Help*, *Side Effects*, *Breaking Upwards*, *Confessions of a Shopaholic*, Disney's *Hercules*, *For Love or Money*, and *Leap of Faith*. Television: *Handel's Messiah Rocks* (Emmy Award), *Lucy*, *Law & Order: SVU*, *Sex and the City*, *New York Undercover*, *The Cosby Show*, *Person of Interest*, and the HBO miniseries *Crime*. Her concert "Feeling Good" will tour the US in 2016 and 2017.

Norm Lewis (The Lord's General) made history in 2014 as the first African-American Phantom in Broadway's *The Phantom of the Opera*, and was recently seen on PBS in "Live from Lincoln Center: Show Boat" with Vanessa Williams. His Broadway credits include *The Gershwins' Porgy & Bess* (Tony and Drama Desk Award nominations), *Sondheim on Sondheim*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Les Misérables*, *Chicago*, *Amour*, *The Wild Party*, *Side Show*, *Miss Saigon*, and *The Who's Tommy*. Off-Broadway: *Dessa Rose* (Drama Desk Award nomination), *The Tempest*, *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *Captains Courageous*, and *A New Brain*. Mr. Lewis' film and TV credits include *Winter's Tale*, *Sex and the City 2*, *Magnum Opus* (upcoming), "Chicago Med," "Gotham," "The Blacklist," and his recurring role as Senator Edison Davis on "Scandal." Solo album: *This is the Life*.

Ruben Santiago-Hudson (Director) recently directed the world premieres of *Paradise Blue* at Williamstown Theater Festival and his own *Your Blues Ain't Sweet Like Mine* at Two River Theater. Other directing credits include *The Piano Lesson* (Obie and Lucille Lortel Awards); *The Happiest Song Plays Last* at Second Stage; and *My Children! My Africa!*, *Seven Guitars*, and *The First Breeze of Summer*, all at Signature. His screenplay adaptation of his autobiographical play *Lackawanna Blues* received Emmy, Golden Globe, and WGA Award nominations. As an actor, Mr. Santiago-Hudson is the recipient of a Tony Award and an Obie Award, among others. This season he will direct the world premiere of Dominique Morriseau's *Skeleton Crew* at the Atlantic Theater Company. He spent several seasons on the TV series "Castle" and currently costars on TNT's *Public Morals*.

Camille A. Brown (Choreography) Broadway: *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Off-Broadway: *The Fortress of Solitude* (DTC and The Public Theater) and *tick, tick...BOOM! (Encores! Off-Center)*. Regional: *Stagger Lee* (DTC) and Marcus Gardley's *THE BOX: A Black Comedy*. Commissions: Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Ballet Memphis, Hubbard Street II, and Complexions. Fashion: New York Fashion Week (2008). Company: Camille A. Brown & Dancers. Awards: 2015 USA Fellow, 2015 Doris Duke Artist Award, 2015 TED Fellow, 2014 City Center Choreography Fellow, 2014 Bessie Award for Outstanding Production, and Princess Grace Award for Choreography.

1776 ARTISTS

Garry Hynes (Director) was a co-founder of the award-winning Druid Theatre Company. She was Druid's artistic director from 1975 to 1991, and again from 1995 to present. Ms. Hynes was the artistic director of Abbey Theatre from 1991 to 1994. She has also worked with the Royal Shakespeare Company, The Royal Court, Second Stage, Manhattan Theatre Club, The Kennedy Center, the Center Theatre Group, and the

Spoletto Festival. Ms. Hynes holds the distinction of being the first female to win a Tony Award for direction of a play.

Ben Whiteley (Guest Music Director) Broadway/national tours: *The Addams Family*, *A Christmas Story*, *Spamalot*, *The Full Monty*, *Cats*, *Grand Hotel*, *Falsettos*, and *Big*. Carnegie Hall: *Sail Away* with Elaine Stritch and *Carnegie Hall Salutes Comden and Green*. New York Philharmonic: Choral Direction for *Carousel* (PBS), *My Fair Lady*. Regional credits include the MUNY, Paper Mill Playhouse, and 5th Avenue Theatre. He has served as Associate Music Director and/or done choral preparation for over 25 *Encores!* productions, including *The Most Happy Fella*, *Paint Your Wagon*, and *Merrily We Roll Along*. Recordings: *Allegro* and *Boardwalk Empire* (Grammy Award).

Chris Bailey (Choreographer) Credits as a choreographer include *Assassins* (Menier Chocolate Factory), *Cyrano de Bergerac* (Roundabout), and *Dancing Shadows* (Seoul Arts Center). He was associate choreographer for Broadway productions of *Promises, Promises; How to Succeed...; Evita*; and *Cry Baby*; and for West End productions of *Guys and Dolls*, *Evita*, and *Once in a Lifetime*. He has been associate Choreographer for the Academy Awards for the last three years, and co-choreographed the 2013 Tony Awards. Film credits include Kenneth Branagh's *Cinderella*, *A Million Ways to Die in the West*, and *Ted 2*.

DO I HEAR A WALTZ? ARTISTS

Evan Cabnet (Director) directed the current Broadway production of *Therese Raquin* starring Keira Knightley. Recent: Branden Jacobs-Jenkins' *Gloria* (Vineyard Theater), William Inge's *Off the Main Road* (Williamstown), *Henry V* (Chautauqua), Donald Margulies' *The Model Apartment*, and Theresa Rebeck's *Poor Behavior* (Primary Stages). World premieres include *A Kid Like Jake* and *All-American*, Christopher Shinn's *Teddy Ferrara*, *The Dream of the Burning Boy*, *The Performers*, *Warrior Class*, *Outside People*, *Oohrah!*, Elizabeth Meriwether's *Oliver Park!*, *The Mistakes Madeleine Made*, *Saigono Samurai*, and his own adaptations of *Ubu Roi* and Salman Rushdie's *Haroun and the Sea of Stories*. He is an Associate Artist for the Roundabout, a frequent director at the Juilliard School, and a Performance Consultant for the Metropolitan Opera (*Die Fledermaus*).

Rob Berman (Music Director) is entering his ninth season as music director of *Encores!*, for which he has conducted 22 productions and four cast recordings. His Broadway conducting credits include *Tuck Everlasting* (upcoming), *Dames at Sea*, *Finian's Rainbow*, *Irving Berlin's White Christmas*, *The Pajama Game*, *The Apple Tree*, *Wonderful Town*, and *Promises, Promises*. For nine years he was music director of the Kennedy Center Honors on CBS, for which he won an Emmy Award for outstanding musical direction. He has conducted for Barbara Cook with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, and he was also music director for the PBS presentation of *A Broadway Celebration: In Performance at the White House*. Other credits include *Sunday in the Park with George* (Kennedy Center, Helen Hayes Award); *Passion* (Classic Stage Company); and the world premiere of Steve Martin and Edie Brickell's musical *Bright Star* (Old Globe Theatre).

Chase Brock (Choreographer) Recent choreography includes the *Encores!* productions of *Lost in the Stars*, *Irma La Douce*, and *The Cradle Will Rock*; and the world premieres of Michael John LaChiusa's *First Daughter Suite*, Joe Iconis's *Be More Chill*, Sara Bareilles's *Waitress*, Alan Menken and Stephen Schwartz's *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, Marisa Michelson's *Tamar of the River*, Todd Almond and Lear deBessonet's *The Tempest* and *The Winter's Tale*, and Bono and The Edge's *Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark*.
chasebrock.com

New York City Center gratefully acknowledges the *Encores!* Season Sponsors, Stacey and Eric Mindich,

Nathalie and Pablo Salame, The Shubert Foundation, and the Stephanie and Fred Shuman Fund for *Encores!*. Support for *Cabin in the Sky* is made possible by the Joseph S. and Diane H. Steinberg Charitable Trust. The score restoration for *Cabin in the Sky* is made possible by The Joseph S. and Diane H. Steinberg Broadway Musical Restoration Fund. Support for *Do I Hear a Waltz?* is generously provided by Margot and John Ernst, Roz and Jerry Meyer, and The Ted & Mary Jo Shen Charitable Gift Fund.

NEW YORK CITY CENTER (Arlene Shuler, President & CEO) has played a defining role in the cultural life of the city since 1943. It was Manhattan’s first performing arts center, dedicated by Mayor Fiorello La Guardia with a mission to make the best in music, theater, and dance accessible to all audiences.

Today, City Center is home to many distinguished companies, including Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, City Center’s Principal Dance Company, as well as Manhattan Theatre Club; a roster of renowned national and international visiting artists; and its own critically acclaimed and popular programs. The Tony-honored *Encores!* musical theater series has been hailed as “one of the very best reasons to be alive in New York.” In summer 2013, City Center launched *Encores! Off-Center*, a series that features landmark Off-Broadway musicals filtered through the lens of today’s most innovative artists. Dance has been integral to the theater’s mission from the start — and dance programs, including the annual *Fall for Dance* Festival, remain central to City Center’s identity. Vital partnerships with arts organizations including Jazz at Lincoln Center and London’s Sadler’s Wells Theatre enhance City Center’s programmatic offerings. City Center brings dance and musical theater to over 9,000 New York City students each year through its robust education program, and other learning opportunities are offered to seniors, families, and the general public. City Center is expanding its programming beyond the proscenium and activating its alternative spaces with pre-show talks, master classes, exhibitions of visual art, and intimate performances that give an up-close look at the work of the great theater and dance artists of our time. In October 2011, City Center completed an extensive renovation project to revitalize and modernize its historic theater.

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