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# New York City Center

Presents

## THE LOBBY PROJECT

A Series of Pre-Show Events Presented in Conjunction with  
*Encores! Off-Center*

Featuring Artists, Performers, and Other Special Guests

Including

David Auburn, Stephen Oremus, Shaina Taub, and Jeanine Tesori,  
and the original cast and creators of *Witness Uganda*,  
*[title of show]*, and *Pump Boys and Dinettes*

June 25 – July 19

New York, N.Y., May 1, 2014 – **The Lobby Project**, a series of free pre-show events presented in conjunction with the second season of New York City Center’s *Encores! Off-Center* series, will take place June 25 – July 19 at City Center. The events will place each *Off-Center* musical in the context of its legacy and provide insightful explorations of the work the audience is about to experience.

*Encores! Off-Center*, under the artistic direction of **Jeanine Tesori**, is City Center’s newest series, featuring landmark Off-Broadway musicals that pushed creative boundaries when they were first produced. The season includes three shows: *tick, tick... BOOM!* (June 25–28), *Randy Newman’s Faust: The Concert* (July 1), and *Pump Boys and Dinettes* (July 16–19). In keeping with City Center’s founding mission to make the arts accessible to all, the majority of tickets are \$25. The Lobby Project events will take place 45 minutes before each curtain\* and are free for ticket holders.

\* There will not be a Lobby Project event before the one-night-only concert performance of *Randy Newman’s Faust* on Tuesday, July 1.

### LOBBY PROJECT CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**June 25 - The Larson Family: In Conversation**

**When:** 6:45pm

**Where:** Grand Tier Lobby

**What:** Discussion

**Who:** Members of the Larson family with Jeanine Tesori

*tick... tick... BOOM!* is unabashedly autobiographical, with its central character of Jon echoing so much of Jonathan Larson's life and quest to be heard. Jon's sister and parents will discuss the rich details of Jonathan's life and his creation of *tick... tick... BOOM!*.

**June 26 - Sondheim REMIX**

**When:** 6:45pm

**Where:** Grand Tier Lobby

**What:** Performance

**Who:** House/electronic/spoken word/rock/who-knows-what-else musicians... and Stephen Sondheim!

Jonathan Larson was hugely influenced by the work of Stephen Sondheim, enough to use Sondheim's "Sunday" (from *Sunday in the Park with George*) as the basis for an entire number in *tick... tick... BOOM!*. So we've issued a challenge to today's cutting-edge producers, house/electronic musicians, spoken word artists, and music makers of all styles: take any piece from Sondheim's *Sunday in the Park With George* and remix it. Make it yours. Sample it. Adapt it. Run with it. Winners will present their pieces for Mr. Sondheim himself.

For more information on how to submit your own remixes and to view current submissions, visit [sondheimremix.blogspot.com](http://sondheimremix.blogspot.com).

**June 27 - Witness Uganda**

**When:** 7:15pm

**Where:** Grand Tier Lobby

**What:** Performance and Discussion

**Who:** The creators and performers of *Witness Uganda*

Following in the footsteps of Larson's *RENT*, Matt Gould and Griffin Matthews' *Witness Uganda* has been revolutionary in its power to harness theater to inspire social change. Coming off of its thrilling run at the American Repertory Theater, it was declared by the Huffington Post as "destined to be a Broadway hit." This event will feature a performance from *Witness Uganda* accompanied by the creators themselves. Gould and Matthews will also discuss the use of theater as an agent for change.

For more information, visit [www.witnessuganda.com](http://www.witnessuganda.com).

**June 28 - In Conversation: David Auburn and Stephen Oremus**

**When:** 1:15pm

**Where:** Grand Tier Lobby

**What:** Discussion

**Who:** David Auburn, Stephen Oremus, and Jeanine Tesori

When *tick... tick... BOOM!* opened Off-Broadway in 2001, it had been expanded from what Larson called a "rock monologue" into a three-person show, with Jon, the composer figure, at its center. David Auburn (book writer) and Stephen Oremus (music director, orchestrator/vocal arranger) will discuss the expansion and development of the piece, both conceptually and musically.

**June 28 - 54 Below Meets 55 Above: Rare Jonathan Larson Works in Concert**

**When:** 7:15pm

**Where:** Grand Tier Lobby  
**What:** Performance of rare Larson works  
**Who:** 54 Below's incredible talent

From *Superbia* to *Sacred Cows* to *Saved! - An Immoral Musical on the Moral Majority*, there is a lot of Larson work out there that hasn't gotten nearly the same exposure as *RENT* or *tick... tick... BOOM!*. This concert event will feature selections of Larson's rarely heard work, curated by Jennifer Tepper (programming director of 54 Below) and performed by some of Broadway's best talent.

**July 16 - *Pump Boys and Dinettes*: Original Cast Jam**

**When:** 6:45pm  
**Where:** Grand Tier Lobby  
**What:** Stories and jam session!  
**Who:** The original Pump Boys and Dinettes

The original performer/creators of *Pump Boys and Dinettes* reunite to make music together once more. They'll play some tunes, share some stories, and trace the path of *Pump Boys* from the home-grown, rowdy downtown music club scene of the early 1980's to the widely performed hit it is today.

**July 17 - The *Off-Center* Young Artists' Mentorship**

**When:** 6:45pm  
**Where:** Grand Tier Lobby  
**What:** Performance and discussion  
**Who:** Three inspiring young students and a special guest mentor!

Inspired by the 2014 *Off-Center* season's focus on shows that place writers at the center of their own work, this new mentorship program helps young writers on a quest to find their own voices. Through the Future Project and the Directory for Contemporary Musical Theatre Writers, we have selected three teams of young artists from urban schools to be mentored by professional theater composers. At this event, the student writers will present their final projects: a piece of music-theater inspired by their lives growing up in the city.

For more information on the participating organizations visit [www.futureproject.org](http://www.futureproject.org) and [www.contemporarymusicaltheatre.com](http://www.contemporarymusicaltheatre.com).

**July 18 - [title of show]**

**When:** 7:15pm  
**Where:** Grand Tier Lobby  
**What:** Performance, discussion, and shenanigans  
**Who:** The creators of [title of show]

The creators of [title of show] took a parallel path to that of the *Pump Boys and Dinettes* team: when the right work isn't coming your way, make the work yourself. The original performers and writers of [title of show] will let us in on their process of creation and will perform selections from their hilarious, bitingly honest and wholly original piece of musical theater.

**July 19 - Teeny Pies**

**When:** 1:15pm

**Where:** Grand Tier Lobby

**What:** discussion and pie!

**Who:** Teeny Lamothe

Two years ago, author Teeny Lamothe quit her day job and dropped everything to do a tour of female-owned pie shops and diners across the United States. After learning recipe after recipe along the way, Teeny has compiled them all into a pie cookbook that details her cross-country experience. At this event, Teeny will lead a tasting of some of her signature pies and will share the pivotal experiences of her coast-to-coast pie saga.

For more information on Teeny and her story, visit <http://teenypies.com>.

### **July 19 - Shaina Taub's Song Forum**

**When:** 7:15pm

**Where:** Grand Tier Lobby

**What:** *Song Forum*

**Who:** Shaina Taub and friends

For the past five years, some of New York's best singer/songwriters have gathered in a homey living room in Crown Heights, bringing guitars, ukuleles, and their latest music to share with their peers. That living room, and the *Song Forum* movement, belongs to a woman named Shaina Taub, winner of the 2014 Larson Grant and company member of *Natasha, Pierre and the Great Comet of 1812*. This event will see Shaina transform the Grand Tier Lobby into her living room, recreating the intimate and heart-on-your-sleeve energy of the *Song Forum* to share with the world. Come prepared to sing along.

Program and Artists subject to change.

## **ENCORES! OFF-CENTER 2014 SEASON**

***tick, tick... BOOM!***, an autobiographical musical by Jonathan Larson, the Pulitzer Prize– and Tony Award–winning composer of *Rent*, is the story of an aspiring composer who questions his life choices on the eve of his thirtieth birthday. Tony Award winner Lin-Manuel Miranda, Leslie Odom Jr. (“Smash”), and Tony Award winner Karen Olivo star. Directed by Oliver Butler, Choreographed by Camille A. Brown; June 25–28.

***Randy Newman's Faust: The Concert*** stars Grammy- and Oscar-winning singer-songwriter Randy Newman as the Devil (who else?) in a darkly hilarious modern-day take on the *Faust* story. Directed by Thomas Kail; July 1.

In ***Pump Boys and Dinettes***, a warmhearted musical tribute to life on the roadside, four gas station attendants and two waitresses sing the stories of their lives in a toe-tapping hybrid of country, rock and pop. Directed by Lear deBessonet; July 16–19.

New York City Center gratefully acknowledges the *Encores! Off-Center* Founding Sponsors, Stacey and Eric Mindich and Stacy Bash-Polley; Series Sponsor, American Express; with additional support provided by the Frederick Loewe Foundation, Inc.; Paula and Ira Resnick and Alec Stais and Elissa Burke.

**New York City Center** (Arlene Shuler, President & CEO), now in its 70<sup>th</sup> year, 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, and 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 the summer of 2013 City Center launched *Encores! Off-Center*, a new series featuring seminal 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 is dedicated to providing educational opportunities to New York City students and teachers with programs such as *Encores! In Schools* and the Young People’s Dance Series. Special workshops cater to families, seniors and other groups, while events such as the *Fall for Dance* DanceTalk series offer learning opportunities to the general public. In October 2011, City Center completed an extensive renovation project to revitalize and modernize its historic theater.

All Lobby Project events are free and available to *Encores! Off-Center* ticket holders. Tickets for all *Encores! Off-Center* productions start at \$25 and can be purchased online at [www.NYCityCenter.org](http://www.NYCityCenter.org), by calling CityTix at 212.581.1212, or at the City Center Box Office (West 55<sup>th</sup> Street between 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Avenues).

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