James Earl Jones joins previously announced cast members Skylar Astin and Santino Fontana for the *Encores! Off-Center* production of *Kurt Vonnegut’s God Bless You, Mr. Rosewater*

Directed by Michael Mayer, performances run July 27-30 at New York City Center

June 27, 2016/New York, NY—New York City Center today announced casting for the *Encores! Off-Center* production of *Kurt Vonnegut’s God Bless You, Mr. Rosewater*. The first musical written by the blockbuster team of Howard Ashman and Alan Menken, the *Off-Center* production will star Skylar Astin, Derrick Baskin, Jeff Blumenkrantz, Nick Choksi, Eddie Cooper, Kevin Del Aguila, Santino Fontana, Clark Johnson, James Earl Jones, Rebecca Naomi Jones, Eddie Korbich, Maria Louissaint, Liz McCartney, Bonnie Milligan, Brynn O’Malley, and Kate Wetherhead.

The 1979 musical tells the story of Eliot Rosewater (Santino Fontana), a millionaire who drunkenly decides to blow his fortune on the inhabitants of an impoverished town after being inspired by the utopian vision of novelist Kilgore Trout (James Earl Jones). But there are forces who want to put the kibosh on Eliot’s philanthropy—like Norman Mushari (Skylar Astin), a lawyer plotting to have Eliot declared insane. With an irresistible crazy-quilt score that volleys between pop, ragtime, Gilbert & Sullivan, and proto-Disney ballads, *Kurt Vonnegut’s God Bless You, Mr. Rosewater* deserves to be part of our world again. The *Encores! Off-Center* production will feature orchestrations by Danny Troob, which will be heard for the first time. *Kurt Vonnegut’s God Bless You, Mr. Rosewater* will run for five performances at City Center from July 27—30.

Tickets starting at $25 can be purchased online at NYCityCenter.org, by calling CityTix at 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.

*Kurt Vonnegut’s God Bless You, Mr. Rosewater*

July 27—30, Wed and Thu at 7:30pm, Fri at 8pm, and Sat at 2 and 8pm

**Book and Lyrics by** Howard Ashman  
**Music by** Alan Menken
Sisters, opposite (Guthrie); Brynn and Elliot, both Park Morning began One, Choreography by Lorin Latarro. Music Director Chris Fenwick. Directed by Michael Mayer.

**KURT VONNEGUT’S GOD BLESS YOU, MR. ROSEWATER ARTISTS**

Skylar Astin (Norman Mushari) originated the role of Georg in the Tony- and Grammy Award-winning musical *Spring Awakening*. He recently appeared as Tony in Carnegie Hall’s special production of *West Side Story* at the Knockdown Center. In film, Skylar is best known for his breakout role as Jesse in *Pitch Perfect* and its sequel *Pitch Perfect 2*. His other film credits include Ang Lee’s *Taking Woodstock*, the Sundance favorite *Hamlet 2*, the Disney animated feature *Wreck-It Ralph*, and *21 and Over*, in which he starred opposite Miles Teller. Skylar will next appear opposite Nick Nolte in the EPIX TV series *Graves*. Previous television credits include the lead in the Bill Lawrence-created sitcom *Ground Floor* and memorable roles on *Girls*, *House M.D.*, *Glee*, and *Halt and Catch Fire*.


Clark Johnson (Senator Rosewater) is an actor and an Emmy Award-nominated director; he has worked in both capacities on *Homeland*, *The Shield*, *The Wire*, and *Homicide: Life on the Street*. Other TV/Film: *Alpha House*, *Law & Order*: SVU, S.W.A.T., *The Sentinel*, *The Walking Dead*, and *Magnum Opus* (upcoming). He began his professional theatrical career at the age of nine; at 15, he found girls and baseball and took a 35-year break from musicals. This is his New York stage debut.

James Earl Jones (Kilgore Trout) made his Broadway debut in 1957 and most recently starred on Broadway in *The Gin Game* and *You Can’t Take It with You*. He won Tony Awards for *The Great White Hope* and *Fences* and received Tony Award nominations for *On Golden Pond* and *The Best Man*. He received Drama Desk Awards for *Othello*, *Les Blancs*, *Hamlet*, *The Cherry Orchard*, and *Fences*; Obie Awards for *Clandestine on the Morning Line*, *The Apple*, *Moon on a Rainbow Shawl*; the LA Drama Critics Circle Award for *Fences*; and an Olivier Award nomination for *Cat on the Hot Tin Roof*. Other theater credits include *Driving Miss Daisy* (Broadway, London, Australia). He is an award-winning film and TV actor and recipient of three Emmy Awards, a Grammy Award, and a Lifetime Achievement Oscar.

Michael Mayer (Director) Currently: Funny Girl at the Menier Chocolate Factory in London. New York credits include Hedwig And the Angry Inch; Whorl Inside A Loop; Brooklynite; Spring Awakening; American Idiot; Side Man; Thoroughly Modern Millie; A View from the Bridge; Everyday Rapture; On A Clear Day You Can See Forever; Uncle Vanya; You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown; and Triumph of Love. National tours: Angels in America, Thoroughly Modern Millie, Spring Awakening, Charlie Brown, and American Idiot. Michael has received Tony, Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle, Drama League, and Jefferson awards, as well as fellowships from the Drama League, Fox Foundation, TCG/NEA, and Juilliard. Feature films: The Seagull (in post-production), A Home at the End of the World, and Flicka. TV: Smash (Season One) and Alpha House for Amazon Prime. He made his Metropolitan Opera debut with a celebrated new production of Rigoletto. He serves on the Board of New York Stage and Film.

Lorin Latarro (Choreography) Broadway credits include Waitress and Waiting For Godot starring Patrick Stewart and Ian McKellen. Lorin served as the Associate Choreographer of The Curious Incident of the Dog In The Night-Time and American Idiot. She choreographed Queen Of The Night (Drama Desk Award), The Public Theater’s The Odyssey at the Delacorte, Ira Glass and Lin-Manuel Miranda’s 21 Chump Street, Fanny at City Center Encores!, Beaches The Musical at the Drury Lane, Best Is Yet To Come (Drama Desk Award), and Kiss Me Kate at Barrington. Select opera work includes The Met’s Rigoletto (associate), Die Zauberflote, and Love for Three Oranges. As an Artistic Associate at Bucks County Playhouse, she has choreographed Company, Ain’t Misbehavin’, The Rocky Horror Picture Show, and A Taste of Things to Come. Lorin performed in 14 Broadway shows and is a graduate and adjunct professor at The Juilliard School. Upcoming: Twelfth Night at The Delacorte.

Chris Fenwick (Encores! Off-Center Music Director) is currently the music director of Fun Home on Broadway. He music directed the original productions of Michael John LaChiusa's Giant, Los Otros, Queen of the Mist, and See What I Wanna See. Broadway credits include Rocky, Grease, Les Liaisons Dangereuses, The Pajama Game, Wonderful Town, and Elaine Stritch at Liberty. Other credits include the Off-Broadway productions of Hello Again, Here Lies Jenny, Road Show, Happiness, and Mother Courage, and concerts with Patti LuPone at Carnegie Hall, Ravinia Festival, and many more. Chris was music director of the Encores! Off-Center productions of The Wild Party; Little Shop of Horrors; A New Brain; Pump Boys and Dinettes; Faust; tick, tick...BOOM!; I’m Getting My Act Together...; and The Cradle Will Rock.

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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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