New York City Center announces spring dance engagements as part of 2015-16 season

Pacific Northwest Ballet performs works by Balanchine, Dawson, Forsythe, and Pite, Feb 24—27

Whelan/Watson: Other Stories featuring world premiere by Wheeldon, Mar 3—5

Flamenco Festival returns, Mar 10—19

Other highlights include new FREE monthly concert series at CitySpire Atrium and the Studio 5 talk series

New York, NY, August 18, 2015—New York City Center today announced three diverse dance engagements which complete programming for the 2015-16 season. Seattle’s Pacific Northwest Ballet will present two repertory programs, February 24 through 27, featuring classic ballets by George Balanchine and contemporary works by David Dawson, William Forsythe, and Crystal Pite. March 3 through 5, City Center Artistic Associate Wendy Whelan and Royal Ballet Principal Edward Watson will pair for Other Stories, an evening of solos and duets featuring a world premiere by Christopher Wheeldon. And the Flamenco Festival returns March 10 through 19 with performances by Farruquito, Compañía Manuel Liñán, Compañía Rocio Molina, and Ballet Flamenco de Andalucía.

City Center also launches a new, free concert series in September. Cocktail Concerts at the Center, held at 6pm on the third Thursday of the month, brings live music performances to the CitySpire Atrium at 6½ Avenue (between 55th and 56th Streets), directly adjacent to City Center. The first three concerts will feature the incomparable guitar playing of Bucky Pizzarelli, the longtime Sinatra sideman, and Ed Laub (Sep 17), the sublime American Songbook interpretations of Marlene VerPlanck (Oct 15), and saxophone and clarinet virtuosos Peter and Will Anderson (Nov 19). The Studio 5 at City Center talk series, offering a behind-the-scenes look at the dance world, returns in September with guests including Lourdes Lopez, Carla Körbes, Angel Corella, Wendy Whelan, Peter Boal, Stella Abrera, and Virginia Johnson.

The spring dance engagements complete programming for City Center’s 2015-16 season, which kicks off with the 12th annual Fall for Dance Festival (Sep 30—Oct 11), featuring 20 international companies and...
artists in five unique programs. On October 27, Megan Hilty stars in City Center’s annual Gala, **Annie Get Your Gun: In Concert.** And Sylvie Guillem makes her final US appearances in **Sylvie Guillem – Life in Progress** (Nov 12—14). City Center’s Tony-honored Encores! series, led by Artistic Director Jack Viertel and Music Director Rob Berman, begins its 23rd season with **Cabin in the Sky** (Feb 10—14), followed by **1776** (Mar 30—Apr 3), and **Do I Hear a Waltz?** (May 11—15). The acclaimed Encores! Off-Center series, under the artistic direction of Jeanine Tesori, returns in July for a fourth season of landmark Off-Broadway musicals. Programming for Off-Center will be announced at a later date.

Tickets are currently on sale for **Sylvie Guillem – Life in Progress and Annie Get Your Gun: In Concert.** All other on sale dates listed below. Tickets 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.

**Complete schedule of 2015-16 Season**

**2015 Fall for Dance Festival**
*Sep 30—Oct 10 at 8pm, Oct 11 at 7pm*
All tickets $15  
Tickets on sale Sep 13

The 12th edition of the annual Fall for Dance Festival features 20 acclaimed dance companies and artists from across the US and around the world in five unique programs. In keeping with the Festival’s commitment to making dance accessible to everyone, all tickets are $15. The two-week Festival features performances by Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater; Bill Irwin and Tiler Peck; Boston Ballet; Che Malambo; La Compagnie Hervé KOUBI; Companhia Urbana de Dança; Dorrance Dance; doug elkins choreography, etc.; Fang-Yi Sheu and Herman Cornejo; Houston Ballet; Jesús Carmona & Cía; L-E-V; Miami City Ballet; Nrityagram; Paul Taylor Dance Company; Project FFD: Pam Tanowitz; San Francisco Ballet; Stephen Petronio Company; Steven McRae; and the recently added L.A. Dance Project. The Festival’s free pre-show events include dance lessons and panel discussions with Festival artists and dance educators.

**MasterVoices** (formerly The Collegiate Chorale)  
Tickets start at $30  
Tickets on sale Sep 8

**The Pirates of Penzance**
*Oct 15—16 at 8pm*
Music by Arthur Sullivan  
Lyrics by W. S. Gilbert  
Featuring Orchestra of St. Luke’s  
Directed and Conducted by Ted Sperling  
Starring Deborah Voigt, Hunter Parrish, Julia Udine, Phillip Boykin, Montego Glover, Betsy Wolfe

**Dido and Aeneas**
*Apr 28 at 7pm, 29 at 8pm*
Music by Henry Purcell  
Lyrics by Nahum Tate  
World Premiere Companion Work by Michael John LaChiusa  
Featuring Orchestra of St. Luke’s  
Conducted by Ted Sperling  
Starring Kelli O’Hara, Victoria Clark
After nearly 75 years as “a valuable part of the New York music scene” (The New York Times), The Collegiate Chorale begins a partnership with City Center under their new name: MasterVoices. Dedicated to celebrating the art of musical storytelling through sumptuously mounted concerts featuring Broadway and opera stars, symphony orchestras, and more than 100 of New York’s finest choral singers, MasterVoices brings two English classics to City Center: Gilbert and Sullivan’s 1879 operetta The Pirates of Penzance and Henry Purcell’s Baroque opera Dido and Aeneas.

New York City Center Annual Gala

Annie Get Your Gun: In Concert
Oct 27 at 6:30pm

Three years after her smash-hit performance in Gentlemen Prefer Blondes, Megan Hilty returns to City Center for a concert performance of Irving Berlin’s classic 1946 musical Annie Get Your Gun. Loosely based on the life of sharpshooter Annie Oakley, the show’s countless standards include “There’s No Business Like Show Business,” “I Got Lost in His Arms,” and “Anything You Can Do.” Part of City Center’s annual Gala, this special event includes pre-performance cocktails and a post-performance dinner in the Grand Ballroom of The Plaza Hotel (58th Street at 5th Avenue).

A limited number of performance-only tickets are available at NYCityCenter.org. For table and ticket details, please call 212.763.1205.

Irving Berlin’s Annie Get Your Gun
Music and Lyrics by Irving Berlin
Book by Herbert and Dorothy Fields
Starring Megan Hilty
Featuring The Encores! Orchestra
Music Director Rob Berman
Directed by John Rando

Sylvie Guillem – Life in Progress
Nov 12 at 7:30pm, 13—14 at 8 pm
Tickets start at $25

techné (US Premiere) Akram Khan
DUO2015 (US Premiere) William Forsythe
Here & After (US Premiere) Russell Maliphant
Bye Mats Ek

After an unparalleled career that has spanned nearly 35 years, Sylvie Guillem will make her final appearance in the US at City Center in Life in Progress. Guillem became the Paris Opera Ballet’s youngest-ever star dancer in 1984, and has since emerged as a major force in the contemporary dance world. For Life in Progress, Guillem will be joined by live musicians, La Scala dancer Emanuela Montanari, and Brigel Gjoka and Riley Watts from The Forsythe Company.

New York City Center presents
Sylvie Guillem – Life in Progress
A Sadler’s Wells London Production
Co-produced with Les Nuits de Fourvière, China Shanghai International Arts Festival, and Sylvie Guillem
Thomas Adès: Concentric Paths – Movements in Music
Nov 20—21 at 7:30pm, 22 at 3pm
Tickets start at $25
Tickets on sale Sep 1

Outlier Wayne McGregor
Life Story Karole Armitage
The Grit in the Oyster (US Premiere) Alexander Whitley
Polaris (US Premiere) Crystal Pite

In this groundbreaking production, four choreographers—McGregor, Armitage, Whitley, and Pite—illuminate the work of Thomas Adès, who will conduct the Orchestra of St. Luke’s and play piano onstage alongside the Calder Quartet. The program culminates in Polaris, an “unstoppable and fearsome” work (The Independent UK) featuring a cast of 66 dancers.

Lincoln Center’s White Light Festival
A Sadler’s Wells London Production
Thomas Adès: Concentric Paths – Movements in Music
Presented in association with New York City Center

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater
Dec 2—Jan 3
Tickets start at $25
Tickets on sale Sep 8

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, the Principal Dance Company of New York City Center, returns for their 45th consecutive season with world premieres by Kyle Abraham, Robert Battle, and Ronald K. Brown (New York City Center Commission), and classic works including Alvin Ailey’s American masterpiece Revelations and new productions of Blues Suite (performed with live music), Cry, and Love Songs. This annual holiday tradition also includes the Company premiere of Paul Taylor’s Piazzolla Caldera and Robert Battle’s No Longer Silent; an Opening Night Gala (Wed, Dec 2 at 7pm); the Saturday Family Matinee Series; and a special New Year’s Eve Celebration on December 31 at 7pm. Visit NYCityCenter.org for full season calendar.

Encores! Cabin in the Sky
Music by Vernon Duke
Lyrics by John Latouche
Book by Lynn Root
Featuring The Encores! Orchestra
Feb 10—11 at 7:30pm, 12 at 8pm, 13 at 2 & 8pm, 14 at 2 & 7pm
Tickets start at $35
Tickets on sale Oct 5

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 but is given six more months back on earth to prove his worth before judgment day. The score—which will be restored to its original glory for Encores!—gave us jazz hits like “Taking a Chance on Love,” blended with authentic gospel numbers, and full-fledged modern dance pieces, originally created by George Balanchine.
Les Ballets de Monte Carlo
Jean-Christophe Maillot’s
Cinderella
February 18—19 at 8pm, 20 at 2 & 8pm
Tickets start at $50
Tickets on sale Sep 8

There’s no glass slipper in this dark, sensual, and compulsively watchable 1999 work that strips the Cinderella fairy tale of its sugar. Set to Prokofiev’s melodious score, this Cinderella explores the untold story of Cinderella’s mother, who returns from the dead in the form of a fairy godmother. Created by Jean-Christophe Maillot, choreographer-director of Les Ballets de Monte Carlo, Cinderella features a cast of 50 dancers.

Under the Presidency of HRH The Princess of Hanover
Les Ballets de Monte Carlo
Jean-Christophe Maillot
Official Partners: CFM, Principality of Monaco, Holt Global, and Cuomo Foundation
With the support of the Embassy of the Principality of Monaco to the United States, the Consulate General of Monaco in New York, and the Monaco Government Tourist Office

Pacific Northwest Ballet
February 24—25 at 7:30pm, 26—27 at 8pm
Tickets start at $35
Tickets on sale Sep 8

ALL BALANCHINE (Feb 24 & 25)
Square Dance George Balanchine
Prodigal Son George Balanchine
Stravinsky Violin Concerto George Balanchine

CONTEMPORARY INNOVATORS (Feb 26 & 27)
A Million Kisses to my Skin (NY Premiere) David Dawson
The Vertiginous Thrill of Exactitude William Forsythe
Emergence (NY Premiere) Crystal Pite

The renowned Pacific Northwest Ballet returns to City Center with two programs that reflect the company’s reputation for inspired stagings of works by George Balanchine, paired with some of the brightest works in contemporary ballet. The first program offers a trio of Balanchine masterpieces—including Square Dance, which premiered at City Center in 1957. The second program features David Dawson’s A Million Kisses to my Skin, William Forsythe’s The Vertiginous Thrill of Exactitude, and Crystal Pite’s Emergence. The PNB Orchestra will accompany both programs.

Pacific Northwest Ballet
Artistic Director Peter Boal
Music Director/Principal Conductor Emil de Cou

Whelan/Watson: Other Stories
March 3 at 7:30pm, 4—5 at 8pm
Tickets start at $35
Tickets on sale Sep 8
Wendy Whelan has long admired Royal Ballet star Edward Watson’s dramatic intensity; Watson has always envied Whelan’s focus. In Other Stories, they will feed off each other’s protean gifts in solos and duets commissioned from a range of choreographers, including a world premiere duet by Christopher Wheeldon. The pair will be accompanied by live music under the direction of Frank Moon. Detailed programming to be announced.

New York City Center presents
Whelan/Watson: Other Stories
Co-produced with The Royal Ballet

Flamenco Festival 2016
March 10—19
Tickets start at $35 tickets on sale Sep 8

Farruquito, Improvisao, Mar 10—11 at 8pm
From the legendary Los Farruco dynasty, the first family of Gypsy flamenco dance, Juan Manuel Fernandez Montoya, known as Farruquito, is regarded as one of the most faithful representatives of flamenco puro. Improvisao “is a return to my roots and a sample of what I have learned,” says Farruquito. “Singing, guitar, and dance fused with total freedom to create a different show every day.”

Compañía Manuel Liñán, Nómada, Mar 12 at 8pm
The fourth creation by award-winning performer and choreographer Manuel Liñán, Nómada brings together an ensemble of six dancers, three singers, and two guitarists, for a journey through the geographical locales that frame the art of flamenco.

Compañía Rocio Molina, Danzaora, Mar 17 at 8pm
Rocio Molina is considered one of the most refreshing dancers in the current flamenco scene. Danzaora, a term that perfectly defines her style, is a mix of simplicity and power which goes beyond the established canon to merge styles, eras, and trends in contemporary dance.

Ballet Flamenco de Andalucía, Images: 20 Years, Mar 18—19 at 8pm
Recognized as one of the most important representatives of flamenco art in Spain, Ballet Flamenco de Andalucía returns under the direction of award-winning choreographer and performer Rafaela Carrasco. In Images: 20 Years, which commemorates the company’s 20th anniversary, Carrasco reinterprets five of the company’s most celebrated pieces in inventive and exciting ways.

Flamenco Festival 2016 presented by New York City Center and Flamenco Festival

Encores! 1776
America’s Prize Winning Musical
Music and Lyrics by Sherman Edwards
Book by Peter Stone
Based on a Concept by Sherman Edwards
Original Production Directed by Peter Hunt
Originally Produced on the Broadway Stage by Stuart Ostrow
Featuring The Encores! Orchestra
Mar 30—31 at 7:30pm, Apr 1 at 8pm, 2 at 2 & 8 pm, 3 at 2 & 7pm tickets on sale Oct 5
Tickets start at $35
Ring in the election year with 1776, the classic Tony Award-winning musical about how the founding fathers drafted the Declaration of Independence and gave birth to a new nation. A unique show that presents John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and Benjamin Franklin in all their fractious, fascinating complexity, 1776 features beloved songs such as “Sit Down, John,” “Cool, Cool, Considerate Men,” and “He Plays the Violin.”

Dance Theatre of Harlem
April 6 at 7pm, 8 at 8pm, 9 at 2 and 8pm
Tickets start at $35
Tickets on sale Sep 8

Following last year’s triumphant homecoming, Dance Theatre of Harlem returns to City Center with a boldly compelling repertoire that includes new work by Dianne McIntyre, last season’s hit Coming Together by Nacho Duato, and the ever-popular Return by DTH Resident Choreographer Robert Garland. A family matinee on April 9 includes a post-show talkback and “Meet the Ballerina” event.

Martha Graham Dance Company: The Next 90!
April 14—16 at 8pm, Gala performance April 18 at 7pm
Tickets start at $35
Tickets on sale Sep 8

The company that revolutionized dance celebrates its 90th anniversary season with The Next 90! Masterworks like Appalachian Spring, Chronicle, Cave of the Heart, and Night Journey will be presented alongside premieres from contemporary choreographers Marie Chouinard, Mats Ek, and Pontus Lidberg.

Martha Graham Dance Company: The Next 90!
Presented in association with New York City Center

Encores! Do I Hear a Waltz?
Music by Richard Rodgers
Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim
Book by Arthur Laurents
Based on the play The Time of the Cuckoo by Arthur Laurents
Featuring The Encores! Orchestra
May 11—12 at 7:30pm, 13 at 8pm, 14 at 2 & 8pm, 15 at 2 & 7pm
Tickets start at $35
Tickets on sale Oct 5

The only collaboration of musical theater titans Richard Rodgers and Stephen Sondheim, Do I Hear a Waltz? tells the romantic tale of a middle-class American woman who uses her meager savings for a long-dreamed-of trip to Venice, where she finds love, life, and her truest self. Featuring the music of a revered master and the lyrics of a genius coming into his own, this 1965 musical has not been staged in New York since its original Broadway run.

Encores! Off-Center season
July 2016
Tickets start at $25
Programming to be announced
**Studio 5 at City Center**
Barbara and David Zalaznick Studio (130 W 56th Street)
Tickets on sale Sep 8
All tickets $25
This studio series takes audiences beyond the proscenium for an exclusive behind-the-scenes look at the lives of the great dance artists of our time.

**The Next Chapter** (Thu, Oct 1 at 6:30): Lourdes Lopez, Artistic Director of Miami City Ballet and former New York City Ballet principal dancer, talks about life after performing with Carla Körbes, Associate Artistic Director of L. A. Dance Project and former principal with Pacific Northwest Ballet. This discussion will be moderated by Katie Glasner, Co-Chair of the Barnard College Department of Dance, and feature select performance excerpts.

**The Art of Coaching** (Mon, Nov 16 at 6:30): Pennsylvania Ballet Artistic Director Angel Corella has said that coaching “is the part of being an artistic director that I enjoy the most.” In an evening moderated by New York City Ballet’s Tyler Angle, Corella will work with dancers from Pennsylvania Ballet (including Youth American Grand Prix medalist Peter Weil) to show how coaching can elevate mere execution to refined artistic expression.

**Balanchine on the Coasts** (Mon, Feb 22 at 6:30): Celebrated ballerina Wendy Whelan retired from New York City Ballet in 2014 after a 30-year career with the company. For this Studio 5 event, Whelan joins fellow NYCB alum Peter Boal, Artistic Director of Pacific Northwest Ballet, for a conversation about the choreography of George Balanchine.

**Breaking Barriers** (Mon, Apr 4 at 6:30): Wendy Whelan will moderate a conversation with three women whose experiences map the evolving history of race in ballet: Raven Wilkinson, the first African-American woman to dance full-time with the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo; Virginia Johnson, a founding member and now the artistic director of Dance Theatre of Harlem; and Stella Abrera, who was recently promoted to principal dancer at American Ballet Theatre.

**Manhattan Theatre Club**
Under the leadership of Artistic Director Lynne Meadow and Executive Producer Barry Grove, Manhattan Theatre Club has become one of the country’s most prominent and prestigious theater companies, producing bold, new American plays and musicals at its Off-Broadway home at New York City Center Stages I and II.

**Ripcord** (World Premiere), Previews begin Sep 29, Stage I, Tickets: $90
A sunny room on an upper floor is prime real estate in the Bristol Place Assisted Living Facility, so when the cantankerous Abby (Holland Taylor) is forced to share her quarters with new arrival Marilyn (Marylouise Burke), she has no choice but to get rid of the infuriatingly chipper woman by any means necessary. As heartfelt as it is deliciously inappropriate, this hilarious world premiere marks Pulitzer Prize winner David Lindsay-Abaire’s sixth collaboration with MTC. Directed by David Hyde Pierce. **Ripcord** was commissioned by MTC through the Bank of America New Play Commission Program.

*Ripcord* is a recipient of an Edgerton Foundation New American Plays Award.
Special thanks to The Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust for supporting Manhattan Theatre Club.

**Prodigal Son** (World Premiere), Previews begin Jan 19, Stage I, Tickets: $90
Prodigal Son is a passionate, explosive portrait of a young man on the verge of salvation or destruction, written and directed by Tony, Oscar, and Pulitzer Prize winner John Patrick Shanley. A 17-year-old boy from the Bronx finds himself suddenly in a private school in New Hampshire. He’s violent, gifted, alienated, on fire with a ferocious loneliness. Two faculty members wrestle with the dilemma: Is the kid a star or a disaster?

Incognito (US Premiere), Previews begin May 3, Stage I, Tickets: $90

A pathologist steals the brain of Albert Einstein; a neuropsychologist embarks on her first romance with another woman; a seizure patient forgets everything but how much he loves his girlfriend. Incognito braids these mysterious stories into one breathtaking whole that takes us into the last uncharted realm: the mind. See this “astonishing and original” (The Daily Telegraph, UK) new play from Constellations playwright Nick Payne. Directed by Doug Hughes.

Important Hats of the Twentieth Century (World Premiere), Previews begin Nov 10, Stage II, Tickets: $30

This whip-smart, epic, and utterly insane new comedy by Emmy Award nominee Nick Jones (Orange Is the New Black) spins the tale of Sam Greevy, the hottest fashion designer in 1930s New York...that is, until rival Paul Roms starts releasing strange but popular pieces like “sweatshirts,” “track suits,” and “skater pants.” When Greevy’s minions make a startling discovery about Roms, this rivalry turns into a battle for the very future of humankind—and more importantly—fashion! Directed by Moritz Von Stuelpnagel.

Important Hats of the Twentieth Century is produced in association with Studio 42. Lead support has been provided by MTC’s Producing Fund Partner, Andrew Martin-Weber.

Additional Stage II production to be announced.

Sponsors

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Studio 5 at City Center is supported by Barbara and David Zalaznick.

Support for Encores! Off-Center includes Founding Sponsors, Stacey and Eric Mindich and Stacy Bash-Pollay; Leadership Sponsors, Nathalie and Pablo Salame; Series Sponsors, American Express, Luigi Caiola and Sean McGill, Andrew Martin-Weber, and Stephanie and Fred Shuman Fund for Encores!; with additional support provided by The Frederick Loewe Foundation, Paula and Ira Resnick, and Alec Stais and Elissa Burke.
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The 2015-2016 Dance Season is generously sponsored by Barbara and David Zalaznick.

In addition, City Center thanks The Howard Gilman Foundation and Lisa and Richard Witten for their generous support in establishing the Artistic Innovation Fund.

**New York City Center**

**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 2013, City Center launched *Encores! Off-Center*, a series featuring landmark 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.

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