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# New York City Center Gala Celebration

to star

## Megan Hilty

in

Irving Berlin's

## *Annie Get Your Gun*

In Concert

Music and Lyrics by Irving Berlin

Book by Herbert and Dorothy Fields

Directed by John Rando

Musical Direction by Rob Berman

Tuesday, October 27, 2015

New York, NY, Wednesday, June 17, 2015—**Megan Hilty** will star in New York City Center's annual Gala ***Annie Get Your Gun: In Concert***, a one-night-only performance of the classic **Irving Berlin** musical, on October 27, 2015. Directed by Tony Award winner **John Rando**, the Gala will feature **The Encores! Orchestra** led by *Encores!* Music Director **Rob Berman**. Additional casting will be announced at a later date. The event will help fund New York City Center's artistic and education programs.

The Gala will begin at 5:30 pm with cocktails at City Center, followed by the show at 6:30 p.m. and a post-performance dinner in the Grand Ballroom of The Plaza Hotel (58th Street at 5th Avenue). Gala co-chairs are Stacey and Eric Mindich; Stephanie and Fred Shuman; and Lisa and Richard Witten. Gala vice chairs are Luigi Caiola and Sean McGill.

**Megan Hilty** (*Annie Oakley*) returns to City Center after starring in the 2012 *Encores!* production of *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*. She made her Broadway debut as Glinda in *Wicked*, a role that she repeated in Los Angeles and on national tour. She played Doralee in the Broadway and touring productions of *9 to 5*, garnering Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle, and Drama League Award nominations. Megan starred in the NBC series "Smash" and opposite Sean Hayes in "Sean Saves the World." Megan has performed with orchestras across the country, and has appeared on the televised concerts *A Capitol Fourth* and *National Memorial Day Concert* (both PBS) and *Christmas in Washington* (TNT). She continues to tour the country with her critically acclaimed solo show. Her solo album *It Happens All the Time* was released by Sony in 2013. She will be seen in the "Untitled Warren Beatty Project," scheduled for release in 2016.

**John Rando** (*Director*) was nominated for a Tony Award for his direction of the current revival of *On the Town*. He recently directed David Ives' *Lives of the Saints* Off-Broadway. His many Broadway credits include *A Christmas Story*, *The Wedding Singer*, *Urinetown* (Tony Award for Best Director), *A Thousand Clowns*, and Neil Simon's *The Dinner Party*. His Off-Broadway credits include *The Heir Apparent* (Callaway Award for Direction), *All in the Timing* (Obie Award for Direction), and *The Toxic Avenger*, among many others. He has directed ten shows at *Encores!*: *Little Me*, *It's a Bird...It's a Plane...It's Superman*, *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*, *On the Town*, *Face the Music*, *Of Thee I Sing*, *The Pajama Game*, *Do Re Mi*, *Strike Up The Band*, and *Damn Yankees*.

**Rob Berman** (*Music Director*) is entering his ninth season as music director of *Encores!*, for which he has conducted 22 productions as well as the cast recordings of *Merrily We Roll Along*, *Pipe Dream*, *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*, and *Paint Your Wagon*. Rob's Broadway conducting credits include *Finian's Rainbow*, *Irving Berlin's White Christmas*, *The Pajama Game*, *The Apple Tree*, *Wonderful Town*, and *Promises, Promises*. He won an Emmy Award for his work as music director of the Kennedy Center Honors (CBS), and he won a Helen Hayes Award for his musical direction of the Kennedy Center's production of *Sunday in the Park with George*. 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 *Passion* at Classic Stage Company. Most recently Mr. Berman music directed the world premiere of Steve Martin and Edie Brickell's musical *Bright Star* at the Old Globe Theatre in San Diego and the world premiere of *Tuck Everlasting* at the Alliance Theatre in Atlanta.

**Annie Get Your Gun** has music and lyrics by **Irving Berlin** and a book by **Herbert and Dorothy Fields**. Loosely based on the true story of legendary sharpshooter Annie Oakley and her tempestuous romance with gunslinger Frank Butler, the musical features countless standards, including "You Can't Get a Man With a Gun," "There's No Business Like Show Business," "I Got Lost in His Arms," and "Anything You Can Do." The original production starred Ethel Merman and opened at the Imperial Theatre on May 16, 1946; it would prove to be Berlin's longest-running Broadway show, playing 1147 performances.

**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 is dedicated to providing educational opportunities to New York City students and teachers through 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.

Program and artists subject to change.

Benefit Tickets are available at \$5,000; \$2,500; \$1,500; and \$500 per person. Tables of ten are available at \$100,000; \$50,000; and \$25,000. For additional information and reservations, call 212.763.1205 or visit [www.NYCityCenter.org](http://www.NYCityCenter.org).

Show-only tickets starting at \$35 can be purchased at the New York City Center Box Office (West 55<sup>th</sup> Street between 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Avenues), through CityTix® at 212-581-1212, or online at [www.NYCityCenter.org](http://www.NYCityCenter.org).

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