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**Leslie Odom, Jr.**  
joins  
**Lin-Manuel Miranda and Karen Olivo**  
in  
***tick, tick... BOOM!***

**Book, Music and Lyrics by Jonathan Larson**

**Directed by Oliver Butler; Choreographed by Camille A. Brown**

**June 25 – 28**

**Jeanine Tesori, Artistic Director; Chris Fenwick, Music Director**

New York, N.Y., April 28, 2014 – **Leslie Odom, Jr.** (“Smash”) will join **Lin-Manuel Miranda** and **Karen Olivo** in the New York City Center *Encores! Off-Center* production of **Jonathan Larson’s *tick, tick... BOOM!***, running for five performances, June 25 – 28. The opening show of City Center’s acclaimed *Encores! Off-Center* series of landmark Off-Broadway musicals will be directed by **Oliver Butler** with choreography by **Camille A. Brown** and music direction by **Chris Fenwick**. **Jeanine Tesori** is *Encores! Off-Center* Artistic Director.

City Center’s *Encores! Off-Center* series presents off-Broadway musicals that pushed creative boundaries when they were first produced. Filtered through the lens of today’s artists, these shows are presented not as historical documents but as living, vital works that continue to resonate with audiences. In the *Encores!* tradition, *Off-Center* places a great emphasis on the scores, with the orchestra performing onstage. The series also features **The Lobby Project**, a series of **free** performances, conversations and readings by groundbreaking artists, poets, authors and performers. The Lobby Project events place each musical in the context of its legacy and provide insights into the work the audience is about to experience. (Schedule of events TBA)

The series reflects City Center’s ongoing outreach to new and younger audiences. In keeping with this mission, \$25 tickets are available to college students and young adults. [NOTE: It is necessary to sign up for City Center’s free *Peer to Peer* program to be eligible for tickets. See details below].

***tick, tick... BOOM!***, with book, music and lyrics by **Jonathan Larson**, script consultant by **David Auburn** and vocal arrangements and orchestrations by Stephen Oremus, is an autobiographical musical by the Pulitzer Prize– and Tony Award–winning composer of *Rent*. First performed as a solo rock monologue by Larson in 1990, it is the story of an aspiring composer who questions his life choices on the eve of his thirtieth birthday. After Larson’s untimely death, it was revamped by playwright David Auburn as a three-actor piece and premiered off-Broadway on June 13, 2001 at the Jane

Street Theatre, featuring Raúl Esparza as Jon. Its London production in 2005 starred Neil Patrick Harris.

### **The Cast**

**Lin-Manuel Miranda** (Jon) is the composer-lyricist of Broadway's *In the Heights*, which received four 2008 Tony Awards (including Best Orchestrations, Best Choreography and Best Musical), with Lin-Manuel receiving a Tony Award for Best Score, as well as a nomination for Best Leading Actor in a Musical. He is the recipient of a 2009 Grammy Award for *In the Heights*, Original Broadway Cast Album and was named a finalist for the 2009 Pulitzer Prize for Drama. Lin-Manuel contributed new songs to the revival of Stephen Schwartz's *Working*, collaborated with Arthur Laurents and Stephen Sondheim on Spanish translations for the 2009 Broadway Revival of *West Side Story*, and most recently, partnered with Jeff Whitty, Tom Kitt and Amanda Green for *Bring It On: The Musical*. He starred in the *Encores!* production of *Merrily We Roll Along*. His next musical, *Hamilton*, will have its world premiere at The Public Theater in 2015.

**Leslie Odom, Jr.** (Michael) made his Broadway debut at 17, playing "Paul" in *Rent*. He won a 2002 Princess Grace Award for Acting, the 2012 Astaire Award for Outstanding Male Dancer on Broadway and was nominated for a Drama League Award for his work on Broadway in *Leap of Faith*. Leslie was a series regular on NBC's "Smash," and has been recurring on the CBS series "Person of Interest" and the NBC series "Special Victim's Unit." He recently finished a series regular role on a new NBC pilot called "State Of Affairs" and is working with Lin-Manuel Miranda on the new musical *Hamilton* to premiere at The Public Theater in 2015.

**Karen Olivo** (Susan) won the Tony Award for her portrayal of Anita in the Broadway revival of *West Side Story*, directed by Arthur Laurents. She originated the role of Vanessa in both the Off-Broadway and Broadway productions of *In the Heights* and appeared on Broadway in *Rent* and *Brooklyn*. Karen's Off-Broadway credits include *Miracle Brothers*, *Murder Ballad* and *By The Way, Meet Vera Stark*. Her television credits include "The Good Wife" and "Harry's Law."

### **The Artists**

**Oliver Butler** (Director) directed the recent premiere of Will Eno's *The Open House* at the Signature Theatre Company. He is a co-founder and co-artistic director of The Debate Society, a Brooklyn-based ensemble theater company, with whom he has co-created and directed seven full-length plays since 2004, including *Blood Play*, *Buddy Cop 2*, *Cape Disappointment*, *You're Welcome*, *The Eaten Heart*, *The Snow Hen* and *A Thought About Raya*. In New York, Oliver has also directed the premieres of *Goodbye New York Goodbye Heart* by Lally Katz and *Hostage Song*, a new musical by Kyle Jarrow and Clay McLeod Chapman. In 2006, at The Ontological Incubator, he directed and developed the workshop performance of *Nine Days Falling* written by Lally Katz and Mac Wellman. TDS' new play *Jacuzzi* will premiere there in the fall.

**Camille A. Brown** (choreographer) is Artistic Director of Camille A. Brown & Dancers and choreographer of *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Broadway, 2012), William Shakespeare's *A Winter's Tale* (Regional), and Marcus Gardley's *THE BOX: A Black Comedy* (Regional). She is a two-time Princess Grace Award recipient (Choreography & Works in Progress Residency), a two-time recipient of NEFA's National Dance Project: Production Grant, the recipient of the 2014 Joyce Award with DANCECleveland, and a 2014 New York City Center Choreography Fellow. She has been commissioned by Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Philadanco, Urban Bush Women, Complexions, among others. She is choreographer for *The Fortress of Solitude*, which opened at Dallas Theater Center early this year, and opens at The Public Theater this Fall.

**Chris Fenwick** (Music Director) is currently music director of the Broadway production of *Rocky* and recently music directed *Fun Home* at The Public Theater. 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 *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 Cradle Will Rock* and *I'm Getting My Act Together*.

**Jonathan Larson** (Author) received three posthumous Tony Awards and a posthumous Pulitzer Prize for Drama for his 1996 rock musical *Rent*. His works include *Superbia* and *Sitting on the Edge of the Future*. Jonathan died unexpectedly of an aortic aneurysm on January 25, 1996, ten days before his thirty-sixth birthday.

**Jeanine Tesori** (Artistic Director) composed the scores to the Broadway productions of *Caroline, or Change* (2004 Tony nomination for Best Original Score), *Shrek the Musical* (Tony and Drama Desk Award nominations for her music) and *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (2000). Her Off-Broadway musical *Violet*, (Obie Award, New York Drama Critics' Circle Award for Best Musical, and Lucille Lortel Award for Outstanding Musical), was presented as a one-night only event during the *Encores! Off-Center* inaugural season, and will be opening on Broadway in March 2014. Her recent Off-Broadway musical, *Fun Home*, has just completed a sold-out run at the Public Theater. Tesori arranged the music for the Broadway productions of the Johnny Mercer revue *Dream*, the 1998 revival of *The Sound of Music* and the 1999 revue *Swing!*. She also served as associate conductor for the Broadway productions of *The Secret Garden* and *The Who's Tommy*. She has written music for several plays, including *Twelfth Night* at Lincoln Center and Bertolt Brecht's *Mother Courage and Her Children*, which was produced as part of the 2006 Shakespeare in the Park season. Tesori is currently working on a commission for a joint initiative of the Metropolitan Opera and Lincoln Center. And her new all-ages opera, *The Lion, the Unicorn and Me*, had its world premiere run at D.C.'s Washington National Opera in December 2013. She is a lecturer in music at Yale University.

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**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, 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 new 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.

**Peer to Peer**, New York City Center's discount ticket program for students and young adults, provides special ticket offers on select City Center productions for full-time college students as well as to non-students under 25. Students must have valid college IDs or email addresses ending in .edu, and non-students must have valid government-issued IDs with proof of age. They can sign up for the free program at [www.NYCityCenter.org](http://www.NYCityCenter.org) to receive discount offers throughout the season.

**tick, tick... BOOM!** will play five performances, June 25 – 28, as follows: Wednesday, June 25 and Thursday, June 26 at 7:30 pm; Friday, June 27 at 8 pm; Saturday, June 28 at 2 and 8 pm. All tickets begin at \$25 and can be purchased at the New York City Center Box Office (West 55th Street between 6th and 7th Avenues), through CityTix® at 212-581-1212, or online at [www.NYCityCenter.org](http://www.NYCityCenter.org).

**Program and Artists subject to change.**