

NEW YORK CITY CENTER

AT THE CENTER OF THE ARTS FOR 75 YEARS

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Casting announced for New York City Center's 75th Anniversary Gala Presentation of *A Chorus Line*

**Production will feature Tony Yazbeck, Robyn Hurder,
Jay Armstrong Johnson, and Leigh Zimmerman**

Gala performance on November 14 will honor Board Member Stacy Bash-Polley

Additional performances November 15 - 18

October 18, 2018/NEW YORK, NY—New York City Center today announced casting for the 75th Anniversary Gala presentation of *A Chorus Line*. The production will feature **Jay Armstrong Johnson** (Bobby), **Kate Bailey** (Kristine), **Callan Bergmann** (Frank), **Natalie Bourgeois** (Lois), **Tommy Bracco** (Mike), **Wesley Ian Cappiello** (Roy), **Max Clayton** (Don), **Aaron Patrick Craven** (Butch), **Francine Espiritu**, **Sara Esty** (Maggie), **Joseph Fierberg**, **Emily Franch** (Vicki), **David Grindrod** (Mark), **Eddie Gutierrez** (Paul), **Robyn Hurder** (Cassie), **Jolina Javier** (Connie), **Tara Kostmayer** (Diana), **Denis Lambert** (Greg), **J. Elaine Marcos** (Val), **Melanie Moore** (Judy), **Jenna Nicole Schoen** (Tricia), **Joseph J. Simeone** (Al), **Ahmad Simmons** (Tom), **Ryan Steele** (Larry), **Naomi C. Walley** (Bebe), **Anthony Wayne** (Richie), **Tony Yazbeck** (Zach), and **Leigh Zimmerman** (Sheila).

In 1975, the stories of seventeen Broadway dancers sprang to life when *A Chorus Line* opened Off-Broadway. Born of workshop sessions with actual Broadway dancers (eight of whom appeared in the original cast), this incisive portrait of the life of the Broadway dancer received 12 Tony Award nominations, winning nine—in addition to the 1976 Pulitzer Prize for Drama. With a Broadway run of 6,137 performances, national tours, and international productions, *A Chorus Line* is both a snapshot of a moment in history and a platform for fresh talent, which will be showcased in this Annual Gala Presentation (November 14 – 18) directed by **Bob Avian** (original co-choreographer) with choreography by **Baayork Lee** (Connie, original cast) and music direction by **Patrick Vaccariello**.



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The first performance, on November 14, will honor City Center Board Member **Stacy Bash-Polley**, a longtime partner at Goldman Sachs and founding supporter of Encores! Off-Center. Funds raised at all seven performances of *A Chorus Line* will allow City Center to continue its founding mission, making performing arts accessible to the widest possible audience by subsidizing affordable tickets throughout the year.

Tickets can be purchased online at NYCityCenter.org, by calling 212.581.1212, or in person at the City Center Box Office (131 West 55th Street between 6th and 7th Avenues). The Gala performance on November 14 will be followed by a dinner at The Plaza Hotel (58th Street at 5th Avenue). A limited number of benefit tickets are available at \$2,500, \$5,000, \$7,500 and \$10,000. Tables of ten are available at \$25,000, \$50,000, \$75,000, \$100,000 and \$150,000. For benefit table and ticket details, please call 212.763.1205.

Annual Gala Presentation

A Chorus Line

Conceived and Originally Directed and Choreographed by **Michael Bennett**

Book by **James Kirkwood** and **Nicholas Dante**

Music by **Marvin Hamlisch**

Lyrics by **Edward Kleban**

Originally Co-Choreographed by **Bob Avian**

Choreography by **Baayork Lee**

Executive Producer **John Breglio**

Artistic Consultant **Jack Viertel**

Music Director **Patrick Vaccariello**

Directed by **Bob Avian**

Featuring **Jay Armstrong Johnson, Kate Bailey, Callan Bergmann, Natalie Bourgeois, Tommy Bracco, Wesley Ian Capiello, Max Clayton, Aaron Patrick Craven, Francine Espiritu, Sara Esty, Joseph Fierberg, Emily Franch, David Grindrod, Eddie Gutierrez, Robyn Hurder, Jolina Javier, Tara Kostmayer, Denis Lambert, J. Elaine Marcos, Melanie Moore, Jenna Nicole Schoen, Joseph J. Simeone, Ahmad Simmons, Ryan Steele, Naomi C. Walley, Anthony Wayne, Tony Yazbeck, and Leigh Zimmerman.**

NEW YORK CITY CENTER (Arlene Shuler, President & CEO) has played a defining role in the cultural life of the city since 1943. The landmark 75th Anniversary Season (2018 – 2019) pays tribute to this rich history and celebrates the institution’s singular role in the arts today. For 25 years, City Center’s Tony-honored Encores! series has been “an essential New York institution” (*The New York Times*). In 2013, City Center launched the Encores! Off-Center series, which features seminal Off-Broadway musicals filtered through the lens of today’s innovative artists. Dance has also been integral to the theater’s mission from the start and programs like the annual Fall for Dance Festival remain central to City Center’s identity. Home to a roster of renowned national

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and international companies including Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater (City Center's Principal Dance Company) and Manhattan Theatre Club, New York City Center was Manhattan's first performing arts center, founded by Mayor Fiorello La Guardia with the mission of making the best in music, theater, and dance accessible to all audiences. That mission continues today through robust education and community engagement programs which bring the performing arts to over 9,000 New York City students each year and the expansion of the theatrical experience to include art exhibitions, pre-show talks, and master classes that offer an up-close look at the work of the great theater and dance artists of our time. NYCityCenter.org

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