

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

New York City Center announces 2019 – 2020 season

Programming highlights include Gala Presentation of *Evita*,
Matthew Bourne’s *Swan Lake*, Nederlands Dans Theater,
Encores! 2020—*Mack and Mabel*, *Love Life*, and *Thoroughly Modern Millie*

Tickets on sale starting June 5 for Members;
June 17 for general public

June 3, 2019 (New York, NY)—New York City Center President & CEO **Arlene Shuler** today announced programming for the 2019 – 2020 season. “Our 75th Anniversary Season has been an exciting year that not only celebrated our rich history but showcased the leading artists of today and reaffirmed our commitment to provide access to the arts for all New Yorkers. This season we launch our next 75 years with four new commissions for Fall for Dance, a gala production of Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice’s *Evita*, cutting edge performances by Nederlands Dans Theater, and the return of Matthew Bourne’s glorious *Swan Lake*. We also officially welcome our new Resident Director Lear deBessonet who will direct the third production of the Encores! season and continue to expand our reach through community engagement programs like City Center On the Move,” said Shuler.

2019 Fall Season

The season will open with the annual **Fall for Dance Festival** (October 1 – 13) showcasing a diverse collection of dance artists and companies in five unique programs. Highlights include New York City Center Commissions by **Kyle Abraham** for ABT principal dancer **Misty Copeland**, **Kim Brandstrup** for NYCB principal dancers **Sara Mearns** and **Taylor Stanley**, and tap phenom **Caleb Teicher** who will expand his 2018 City Center Commission *Bzzz*. The fourth commission, sanctioned by The Verdon Fosse Legacy, is a suite of dances choreographed by Bob



Fosse® for collaborator and muse Gwen Verdon, originally created for various TV appearances, which will be performed by NYCB soloist **Georgina Pazcoguin**, accompanied by **Nicholas Sipes** and **Nicolas de la Vega**. The international ten-day festival also includes performances by **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater**, **CNDC-Angers/Robert Swinston** (France),

Dyptik (France), **Skånes Dansteater** (Sweden), and **Vuyani Dance Theatre** (South Africa). In keeping with City Center’s mission of accessibility, all tickets for Fall for Dance are \$15. Full program details will be announced in August before tickets go on sale on September 8 at 11am.

In late October (24 – 26), **Houston Ballet** will celebrate their 50th Anniversary Season with a program of contemporary works by **Aszure Barton**, **Mark Morris** (NY Premiere), and **Justin Peck** (NY Premiere), accompanied by live music. This marks the company’s largest engagement in New York since their season at The Joyce Theater in 2013 and their first program at City Center since 1986. The country’s fifth largest ballet company, Houston Ballet tours globally, most recently becoming the first American ballet company to perform at the Dubai Opera House and returning to Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival after almost 40 years.

The Annual Gala Presentation will feature a new production of Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice’s rock-opera **Evita** for a special extended two-week run, November 13 through 24, directed by **Sammi Cannold**. Charting Perón’s controversial, meteoric rise from poor illegitimate child to the most powerful woman in Latin America, this acclaimed musical features one of Lloyd Webber’s most-loved scores combining Latin, jazz, and pop with traditional influences. The Gala benefit performance on November 13 will honor City Center Board Co-Chairman **Richard Witten** with the Fiorello H. LaGuardia Award for distinguished service to New York City Center in recognition of his extraordinary leadership and generosity. Funds raised by all fourteen performances will allow City Center to continue to provide access to the performing arts by subsidizing education programs and affordable tickets throughout the year.

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, New York City Center’s Principal Dance Company, will open its annual holiday season on December 4 (through January 5, 2020). Artistic Director Robert Battle continues to build upon a six-decade legacy begun with the Company’s pioneering founder by presenting Ailey’s 32 extraordinary dancers in premieres, new productions, and repertory favorites by a wide range of choreographers, as well as Alvin Ailey’s must-see American masterpiece *Revelations*.



2020 Winter-Spring Season

Matthew Bourne's *Swan Lake* shattered conventions and took Broadway by storm at its 1998 premiere. This ground-breaking production returns to City Center January 30 through February 9 with a fresh look for the 21st century. Retaining the iconic elements of the original production loved by millions around the world, Matthew Bourne and award-winning designers Lez Brotherston (scenery and costumes) and Paule Constable (lighting) have created an exciting re-imagining of the classic New Adventures production. Thrilling, audacious, witty, and emotional, this *Swan Lake* is perhaps still best known for replacing the female corps de ballet with a menacing male ensemble. Collecting over thirty international accolades including an Olivier Award and three Tony Awards, Matthew Bourne's powerful interpretation of Tchaikovsky's masterpiece is a passionate and contemporary *Swan Lake*.

New York City Center's Tony-honored **Encores!** series, led by Artistic Director **Jack Viertel** and Music Director **Rob Berman**, begins with Jerry Herman and Michael Stewart's ***Mack and Mabel*** (February 19 – 23). Following the romantic entanglements of pioneering movie producer Mack Sennett and comedienne Mabel Normand, this love letter to the silent film era will be followed by Kurt Weill and Alan Jay Lerner's ***Love Life*** (March 18 – 22) directed by Tony Award-winner **Victoria Clark**. A journey across American history seen through the eyes of a family that never ages, *Love Life* is possibly the first "concept" musical—where the story is interspersed with vaudeville acts that offer commentary on the main action. The third show of the season will launch a new initiative, championed by Encores! Resident Director **Lear deBessonnet**, which will provide a unique opportunity for directors and their artistic colleagues to put a personal stamp on a show they love and want to present through a new lens. Dick Scanlan and Jeanine Tesori's ***Thoroughly Modern Millie*** (May 6 – 10) will launch this endeavor. Starring **Ashley Park** (*Mean Girls, The King and I*) with deBessonnet directing and playwright **Lauren Yee** working with the show's original authors as creative consultant, the team of artists will explore the work with a fresh perspective.

Artistic Director Jack Viertel said, "This Encores! season is kind of a dream for us. It allows us to do work we feel shows off both our longtime commitment to great scores and fascinating musical theater pieces that are too little seen, and simultaneously to strike out in new directions. *Mack and Mabel* certainly has as many memorable songs as any show we've ever done and *Love Life* is a huge piece of musical theater history—a show so many musical theater lovers discuss, but only a few have seen. *Thoroughly Modern Millie*



celebrates the spirit of the classic Broadway show—hopeful, optimistic, and an expression of America’s hopes and dreams.”

Resident Director Lear deBessonet and Ashley Park said, “We are excited to launch this new Encores! initiative by exploring controversial aspects of this 2002 story in a way that makes sense for 2020. *Millie* reflects the engine that has long driven both women and immigrants to create lives for themselves in New York. This big sumptuous raise-the-roof musical deals with a moment in history when the ground was shifting in terms of gender roles and race—we love the show and are especially in love with presenting a *Millie* for today.”

One of the world’s leading contemporary dance companies, **Nederlands Dans Theater (NDT)** returns to City Center with NDT I from March 4 through 7. This international company of dancers, renowned for their versatility and virtuosic expression, will perform pioneering repertoire from house choreographers **Sol León** and **Paul Lightfoot**, **Gabriela Carizzo**, and a third piece to be announced. At the end of March, **Flamenco Festival 20/20** (March 27 – April 5) celebrates the 20th season of this citywide event with two weeks of performances at City Center showcasing Spain’s finest dancers and musicians. The first weekend will feature two artists renowned for reinventing flamenco: **Rocío Molina** (2016 Flamenco Festival) and **María Pagés** (2012 Flamenco Festival). The second weekend begins with a performance by **Manuel Liñan** (2016 Flamenco Festival)—known for his mastery of the traditionally female dancer’s bata de cola (flamenco skirt) and mantón (fringed shawl)—and finishes with the all-star spectacle of passion and virtuosity, **Gala Flamenca**.

Also appearing during the spring season are **Dance Theatre of Harlem** (April 15 – 18), continuing its 50th Anniversary celebration, and the **Martha Graham Dance Company** (April 22 – 26) who will present the second season of The EVE Project with masterpieces by Graham including *Circe*, *Every Soul is a Circus*, and *Night Journey*, presented alongside newly commissioned works by **Maxine Doyle** and **Bobbi Jene Smith**, **Pam Tanowitz**, and a World Premiere by **Andrea Miller**.

The acclaimed **Encores! Off-Center** series returns in summer 2020 under the leadership of Artistic Director **Anne Kauffman** and Creative Advisor **Jeanine Tesori**. Programming for the Off-Center season will be announced at a later date.



Studio Events and Community Programs

The popular **Studio 5** series returns in the fall offering intimate, behind-the-scenes conversations and performances with today's great dance artists. The first three events (October 28, November 25, December 2) will be hosted by **Alastair Macaulay**, former chief dance critic of *The New York Times*, and three more during the winter-spring season will be curated and hosted by NYCB principal dancer **Tyler Angle** (January 27, March 23, April 20). The master class series **Front & Center**, now in its fourth season, offers a unique opportunity for emerging musical theater artists to explore everything from composition to auditioning to vocal technique with Broadway luminaries. This season's sessions will be led by **Alex Brightman** (October 21) and **Annaleigh Ashford** (January 6). A third master class will be announced.

Following a hugely successful inaugural tour of the five boroughs, **City Center On The Move** returns next spring featuring an investigative theater performance by **The Civilians**. This community engagement initiative, presented in partnership with **NYC Parks Arts, Culture & Fun Series** and new partner, the **Queens Public Library**, expands City Center's mission throughout the city by bringing world-class artists directly to New Yorkers in their own neighborhoods.

Tickets and General Information

Tickets for Houston Ballet, *Evita*, and Matthew Bourne's *Swan Lake* go on sale June 5 for Members and June 17 for the general public. Fall for Dance Festival tickets will go on sale Sunday, September 8 at 11am. Tickets for remaining engagements go on sale September 3 for Members (excluding Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater) and September 9 for the general public.

Current subscribers may renew their Encores! subscriptions now through June 28. New Encores! subscriptions for Members are available starting July 29 and for the General Public starting August 5.

Tickets can be purchased online at NYCityCenter.org, by calling 212.581.1212, or in person at the City Center Box Office. New York City Center is located at 131 W 55th St between Sixth and Seventh avenues.

New York City Center gratefully acknowledges Fall for Dance Festival Lead Sponsor Bloomberg Philanthropies. Major Support is provided by Jody and John Arnhold. City Center is also grateful to Presenting Partners Perry and Marty Granoff, Caroline Howard Hyman, Denise R. Sobel, and Barbara and David Zalaznick.



Major support for the 2020 Encores! season is made possible by the Stacey and Eric Mindich Fund for Musical Theater. Season Sponsors include Roz and Jerry Meyer, The Shubert Foundation, and the Stephanie and Fred Shuman Fund for Encores! Support for *Mack & Mabel* is provided by the Marta Heflin Foundation.

Leadership support for Encores! Off-Center is provided by the Stacey and Eric Mindich Fund for Musical Theater. Major support is provided by Ford Foundation. Series Sponsors include Stacy Bash-Polley, Luigi Caiola and Sean McGill, Elizabeth and Dean Kehler, Andrew Martin-Weber, Paula and Ira Resnick, and Nathalie and Pablo Salame. The Lobby Project is sponsored by The Frederick Loewe Foundation.

Leadership support for Dance at New York City Center is provided by the Howard Gilman Foundation and The Harkness Foundation for Dance.

Support for new dance works at New York City Center is provided by the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation and the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.

Support for City Center On The Move is provided by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF) and the Mertz Gilmore Foundation.

Support for the Arts Access Fund is provided by the JLGreene Arts Access Fund in The New York Community Trust and the Blanchette Hooker Rockefeller Fund.

New York City Center thanks Lisa and Richard Witten for their generous support of the Artistic Innovation Fund.

New York City Center is a city-owned facility and is supported by funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the New York City Council and the National Endowment for the Arts. Encores!, Encores! Off-Center, and Dance Programs are made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

NEW YORK CITY CENTER (Arlene Shuler, President & CEO) has played a defining role in the cultural life of the city since 1943. A landmark 75th Anniversary Season (2018 – 2019) paid tribute to this rich history while celebrating the institution’s singular role in the arts today. For over 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 brings today’s innovative artists into contact with groundbreaking musicals from the past. Dance has also been integral to the theater’s mission from the start and programs like the annual Fall for Dance Festival, with all tickets \$15, remain central to City Center’s identity. Home to a roster of renowned national and international companies including Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater (City Center’s Principal Dance Company) and Manhattan Theatre Club, New York City Center is Manhattan’s first performing arts center, founded with the mission of making the best in music, theater, and dance accessible to all audiences. That mission continues today through dynamic education and community engagement programs which bring the performing arts to over 10,000 New York City students, teachers, and



families each year and the expansion of the theatrical experience to include art exhibitions, pre-show talks, studio events, and master classes that offer an up-close look at the work of the great theater and dance artists of our time. NYCityCenter.org

New York City Center 2019 – 2020 Season Schedule

Fall for Dance Festival

October 1 – 13, 2019

Week 1 & 2: Tue – Sat 8pm, Sun 3pm

All tickets \$15

The international ten-day Festival will include performances by **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater**, **Caleb Teicher & Company**, **CNDC-Angers/Robert Swinston** (France), **Dyptik** (France), **Georgina Pazcoguín** with **Nicholas Sipes** and **Nicolas de la Vega**, **Misty Copeland**, **Sara Mearns** and **Taylor Stanley**, **Skånes Dansteater** (Sweden), and **Vuyani Dance Theatre** (South Africa). Full program details will be announced in August.

Houston Ballet

October 24 – 26, 2019

Thu 7:30 pm, Fri 8pm, Sat 2pm & 8 pm

Tickets start at \$35

The Letter V (NY Premiere) Houston Ballet Commission

Choreography by Mark Morris

Music by Joseph Haydn

Come In

Choreography by Aszure Barton

Music by Vladimir Martynov

Reflections (NY Premiere) Houston Ballet Commission

Choreography by Justin Peck

Music by Sufjan Stevens

-more-



Annual Gala Presentation

Evita

November 13 – 24, 2019

Week 1: Wed 6pm, Thu 7:30pm, Fri 8pm, Sat 2pm & 8pm, Sun 2pm & 7pm

Week 2: Tue – Thu 7:30pm, Fri 8pm, Sat 2pm & 8 pm, Sun 2pm

Tickets (performance only) start at \$50

Book and Lyrics by Tim Rice

Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber

Directed by Sammi Cannold

Funds raised at all fourteen performances of *Evita* will allow City Center to make the performing arts accessible to all New Yorkers by subsidizing education programs and affordable tickets throughout the year. Tickets for the Gala benefit (November 13) are available at \$2,500, \$5,000, and \$10,000. Tables of ten are available at \$25,000, \$50,000, and \$100,000.

For further information, please contact SStrebel@NYCityCenter.org or call 212.763.1205.

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

December 4, 2019 – January 5, 2020

Program details to be announced.

Press contact: Christopher Zunner, czunner@alvinailey.org or 212.405.9028

For photos, visit pressroom.alvinailey.org

Matthew Bourne's *Swan Lake*

January 30 – February 9, 2020

Week 1: Thu & Fri 8pm, Sat 2pm & 8pm, Sun 2pm & 7:30pm

Week 2: Tue – Thu 7:30pm, Fri 8pm, Sat 2pm & 8pm, Sun 2pm

Tickets start at \$35

Choreography by Matthew Bourne

Music by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

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Encores!

Mack & Mabel

February 19 – 23, 2020

Wed & Thu 7:30pm, Fri 8pm, Sat 2 & 8pm, Sun 2 & 7pm

Tickets start at \$35

Based on an idea by Leonard Spigelglass

Book by Michael Stewart

Music and Lyrics by Jerry Herman

Featuring The Encores! Orchestra

Encores! Artistic Director Jack Viertel

Encores! Music Director Rob Berman

Nederlands Dans Theater (NDT)

March 4 – 7, 2020

Wed & Thurs 7:30pm, Fri & Sat 8pm

Tickets start at \$35

Shut Eye

Choreography by Sol León and Paul Lightfoot

Music by Olafur Arnalds and Bryce Dessner

The Missing Door

Choreography by Gabriella Carizzo

Music by Raphaëlle Latini

Third piece to be announced.

Encores!

Love Life

March 18 – 22, 2020

Wed & Thu 7:30pm, Fri 8pm, Sat 2 & 8pm, Sun 2 & 7pm

Tickets start at \$35

Music and Lyrics by Kurt Weill and Alan Jay Lerner

Book by Alan Jay Lerner

Featuring The Encores! Orchestra

Directed by Victoria Clark

Encores! Artistic Director Jack Viertel

Encores! Music Director Rob Berman



Presented by New York City Center and Flamenco Festival

Flamenco Festival 20/20

March 27 – April 5, 2020

Tickets start at \$35

Rocío Molina

Fri, Mar 27 8pm

María Pagés Compañía

Sat, Mar 28 8pm & Sun, Mar 29 3pm

Manuel Liñan

Fri, Apr 3 at 8pm

Gala Flamenca

Sat, Apr 4 8pm & Sun, Apr 5 3pm

Dance Theatre of Harlem

April 15 – 18, 2020

Programs to include Vision Gala, Family Matinee (Sat at 2pm), and the New York Premiere of *Passage*, choreographed by Claudia Schreier with music by Jessie Montgomery. Full details to be announced.

Press contact: Billy Zavelson, billy@kornbergpr.com or [212.944.9444](tel:212.944.9444)

Martha Graham Dance Company

April 22 – 26, 2020

Two separate programs selected from the following works:

Chronicle

Choreography by Martha Graham

Music by Wallingford Riegger

Circe

Choreography by Martha Graham

Music by Alan Hovanes

Deo

Choreography by Maxine Doyle and Bobbi Jene Smith

Music by Lesley Flanigan

Every Soul is a Circus

Choreography by Martha Graham

Music by Paul Nordoff



Frontier

Choreography by Martha Graham
Music by Louis Horst

Night Journey

Choreography by Martha Graham
Music by William Schuman

Untitled (Souvenir)

Choreography by Pam Tanowitz
Music by Caroline Shaw

Untitled World Premiere

Choreography by Andrea Miller

Press contact: Janet Stapleton, stapleton.janet@gmail.com

Encores!

Thoroughly Modern Millie

May 6 – 10, 2020

Wed & Thu 7:30pm, Fri 8pm, Sat 2 & 8pm, Sun 2 & 7pm
Tickets start at \$35

New Lyrics by Dick Scanlan
New Music by Jeanine Tesori
Book by Henry Morris and Dick Scanlan
Featuring The Encores! Orchestra
Directed by Lear deBessonet
Encores! Artistic Director Jack Viertel
Encores! Music Director Rob Berman

-more-



Cherry Orchard Festival presents

Chekhov Moscow Arts Theater

June 4 – 7, 2020

Thu – Sat 7:30pm, Sun 2pm

Tickets start at \$55

Seryozha (US Premiere) In Russian with English subtitles

Based on Leo Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina* and Vasily Grossman's *Life and Fate*

Directed by Dmitry Krymov

Cast: Mariya Smolnikova, Anatoly Belyi, Victor Khorinyak, Olga Voronina, Nina Guseva, Nadezhda Zharycheva, Anton Efremov, Vladimir Kuznetsov, Kuzma Kotrelyov, Nikita Karpinsky, Anton Loban, Marusya Pestunova, Mariya Sokolskaya, Dmitry Sumin, Daniil Feofanov, Ulyana Kravets, Veronika Timofeeva, Valery Zazulin, and Egor Zotov.

The Chekhov Moscow Arts Theater makes a rare appearance at New York City Center with this new work by Dmitry Krymov—fusing storytelling with visual effects for a cutting-edge approach to theater.

For more information, email info@cherryorchardfestival.org or call the Festival's office at 800.349.0021.

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