

PUMP BOYS and DINETTES

to star

**Jordan Dean, Hunter Foster, Mamie Parris,
Randy Redd, Katie Thompson, Lorenzo Wolff**

Directed by Lear deBessonet; Choreographed by Danny Mefford

Free Pre-Show Events Include Original Casts of “Pump Boys” and [title of show]

July 16 – July 19

2014 Encores! Off- Center

Jeanine Tesori, Artistic Director; Chris Fenwick, Music Director

New York, N.Y., May 27, 2014 - ***Pump Boys and Dinettes***, the final production of the 2014 *Encores! Off-Center* series, will star **Jordan Dean, Hunter Foster, Mamie Parris, Randy Redd, Katie Thompson** and **Lorenzo Wolff**. *Pump Boys*, running July 16 – 19, will be directed by **Lear deBessonet** and choreographed by **Danny Mefford**. **Jeanine Tesori** is the *Encores! Off-Center* artistic director; **Chris Fenwick** is the music director.

Pump Boys and Dinettes was conceived, written and performed by **John Foley, Mark Hardwick, Debra Monk, Cass Morgan, John Schimmel** and **Jim Wann**. The show is a musical tribute to life on the roadside, with the actors accompanying themselves on guitar, piano, bass, fiddle, accordion, and kitchen utensils. A hybrid of country, rock and pop music, *Pump Boys* is the story of four gas station attendants and two waitresses at a small-town dinette in North Carolina. It premiered Off-Broadway at the Chelsea West Side Arts Theatre in July 1981 and opened on Broadway on February 4, 1982 at the Princess Theatre, where it played 573 performances and was nominated for both Tony and Drama Desk Awards for Best Musical.

THE ARTISTS

Jordan Dean (Jackson) appeared on Broadway in *Mamma Mia!*, *Cymbeline* and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. Jordan has appeared off-Broadway in *The New Century*, *As You Like It*, *Six Characters...* and *The Free Zone*.

Hunter Foster (Jim) appeared on Broadway in *The Bridges of Madison County*, *Hands on a Hardbody*, *Million Dollar Quartet*, *The Producers*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Urinetown*, *Les Miserables*, *Grease*, *Footloose* and *King David*. Off-Broadway, he was seen in *Borrowed Dust*, *Burning*, *Ordinary Days*, *Happiness*, *Frankenstein*, *Dust*, *Modern Orthodox* and *Urinetown* Foster wrote the books for the musicals *Summer of '42*, *Bonnie and Clyde: A Folktale*, *The Hollow* and *The Circus in Winter*, which will make its premiere at Goodspeed this fall.

Mamie Parris (Prudie)'s Broadway and national tour credits include *Wicked* (Elphaba), *9 To 5 –The Musical* (Judy), *Ragtime* (revival), *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Legally Blonde* and Roundabout's *110 In the Shade*. Off-Broadway, she was seen in *See Rock City*. Mamie recently made her NYC solo concert debut with *Home Again* at 54 Below. Other notable credits include *Chicago* at the Macau International Music Festival in China; two national tours with Kenny Rogers; productions at Goodspeed, Pittsburgh CLO, the Muny, and numerous concerts and readings.

Randy Redd (L.M.) appeared on Broadway in *Million Dollar Quartet*, *Ring of Fire* and *Parade*. Other credits include *The Burnt Part Boys* at Playwrights Horizons, *Some Men* at Second Stage, *Lucky Stiff* at the York and *By Jeeves* at the Kennedy Center, Geffen Playhouse and Goodspeed. Randy's writing and directing credits include *What's That Smell: The Music of Jacob Sterling* (composer, with David Pittu), *Fiction in Photographs* (co-writer, with Dan Mills) and *Touché* (composer, with Susan Blair Ross). His original song "With You" (Robin Skye, co-writer) was recorded by Ronan Keating and can be heard in *Postman Pat: The Movie* (Classic Media/Lionsgate UK).

Katie Thompson (Rhetta)'s theater credits include *Giant* at The Public Theater, The Witch in *Big Fish* at The Oriental Theatre in Chicago, *Spidermusical* at the Mint Theatre and *Bloodties* at NYMF. Katie's version of "Heaven is a Place on Earth" was featured in Stacey Tookey's Emmy-nominated routine for "So You Think You Can Dance" in 2011, and her music has been featured on the show's American, U.K. and Canadian editions. Her solo albums include *Private Page*, *KT Live* and *What I've Done Right*. www.Katiethompson.com

Lorenzo Wolff (Eddie) has performed with Michael Cerveris and Loose Cattle, Steve Martin and Edie Brickell, Bill Irwin and many more. His first solo record, *Keep it Down*, was released last year and is available at www.Lorenzowolff.com. His theater credits include *The Good Person of Szechuan* (La Mama and Public Theater) *Bright Star* (Powerhouse Theater) and *Fururity* (ART). Lorenzo plays with the surf rock band The Cameramen, the old timey band 5000 Jazz Assassins, and writes and produces albums for other artists at Restoration Sound, his studio in Greenpoint. www.Restorationsoundstudio.com

Authors, Pump Boys and Dinettes: **Jim Wann**, the principal author/composer of *Pump Boys*, co-wrote the Off-Broadway productions of *Diamond Studs: The Life of Jesse James*, *A Saloon Musical* and *The People vs. Mona: A Musical Mystery Screwball Comedy*. **Debora Monk** won the Tony Award for Best Actress for *Redwood Curtain* and was nominated for her roles in *Picnic* and *Steel Pier*. **Cass Morgan** has appeared in numerous Broadway shows, including *Memphis*, *Mary Poppins* and *Ring of Fire*. **Mark Hardwick** composed the music for the 1975 Broadway production of *Of Mice and Men* and co-wrote the musical *Oil City Symphony*. **John Schimmel** was a bass player and musical director in New York theaters, clubs, and studios before becoming a Hollywood producer. **John Foley** was the musical director for *Smoke on the Mountain* at Lamb's Theatre and appeared as an actor and guitar player in *Diamond Studs* at the Westside Theatre.

Lear deBessonnet (Director, *Pump Boys and Dinettes*) is the Director of Public Works at the Public Theater. She is the recipient of the 2013 Obie Award for Direction for her acclaimed production of The Foundry Theater's *Good Person of Szechwan* starring Taylor Mac and Lisa Kron, which subsequently played an extended, sold-out run at the Public Theater. Lear recently collaborated with Todd Almond on an adaptation of *The Tempest* at the Delacorte Theatre for the Public Theater's Public Works program. Her New York credits include *Piece of Meat*, *On the Levee*, *Lines* (NEA commission, Joe's Pub), *Takarazuka*, *Monstrosity* and *The Scarlet Letter*. She created and ran the TICKETS FOR THE PEOPLE program, an initiative to distribute tickets to non-traditional theatregoers including immigrants, students, and seniors. In 2006 she was named one of *Time Out New York's* "25

People to Watch,” and in 2008 she was honored with LMCC’s Presidential Award for Artistic Excellence.

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*.

Danny Mefford (Choreographer)’s Broadway credits include the choreography for *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson* and movement for *The Bridges of Madison County*. Off Broadway, he choreographed The Public Theater productions of *Fun Home*, *Good Person of Szechwan* and *Love’s Labor’s lost*.

Jeanine Tesori (Artistic Director) has written four Tony-nominated scores for Broadway: *Twelfth Night* at Lincoln Center; *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (lyrics, Dick Scanlan); *Caroline, or Change* (lyrics, Tony Kushner); and *Shrek the Musical* (lyrics, David Lindsay-Abaire). The production of *Caroline, or Change* at the National Theatre in London received the Olivier Award for Best New Musical. Her 1997 Off-Broadway musical, *Violet*, opened on Broadway this spring, starring Sutton Foster, and has garnered four Tony Nominations including Best Musical Revival. Her most recent musical, *Fun Home* (lyrics, Lisa Kron) made its premiere at the Public Theater this fall to critical acclaim (winner of Lortel, Outer Critics, NY Drama Critics, and Obie Awards). Her opera credits include *A Blizzard on Marblehead Neck*, (libretto, Tony Kushner; Glimmerglass) and *The Lion, The Unicorn, and Me* (libretto, J. D. McClatchy; Kennedy Center). She has written music for the plays *Mother Courage* (dir. George C. Wolfe, with Meryl Streep and Kevin Kline), John Guare’s *A Free Man of Color* (Lincoln Center Theater, dir. George C. Wolfe, *Romeo and Juliet* (Delacorte Gala).

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 reflects City Center’s ongoing outreach to new and younger audiences. In keeping with this mission, the majority of seats are \$25.

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New York City Center (Arlene Shuler, President & CEO), now in its 70th 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.

Pump Boys and Dinettes will play five performances, July 16 – 19 as follows: Wednesday, July 16 and Thursday, July 17 at 7:30 pm; Friday, July 18 at 8 pm; Saturday, July 19 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.

THE LOBBY PROJECT EVENTS

The Lobby Project, a series of pre-performance events free to ticket holders, will feature performances and conversations about *Pump Boys and Dinettes* and its legacy. The Lobby Project events take place in the Grand Tier Lobby.

July 16 at 6:45 pm - *Pump Boys and Dinettes*: Original Cast Jam

The original performer/creators of *Pump Boys and Dinettes* reunite to make music together once more. They'll play some tunes, share some stories, and trace the path of *Pump Boys* from the home-grown, rowdy downtown music club scene of the early 1980's to the widely performed hit it is today.

July 17 at 6:45 pm - The *Off-Center* Young Artists' Mentorship

Inspired by the 2014 *Off-Center* season's focus on shows that place writers at the center of their own work, this new mentorship program helps young writers on a quest to find their own voices. Through the Future Project and the Directory for Contemporary Musical Theatre Writers, we have selected three teams of young artists from urban schools to be mentored by professional theater composers. At this event, the student writers will present their final projects: a piece of music-theater inspired by their lives growing up in the city. For more information on the participating organizations visit www.futureproject.org and www.contemporarymusicaltheatre.com.

July 18 at 7:15 pm - [title of show]

The creators of [title of show] took a parallel path to that of the *Pump Boys and Dinettes* team: when the right work isn't coming your way, make the work yourself. The original performers and writers of [title of show] will let us in on their process of creation and will perform selections from their hilarious, bitingly honest and wholly original piece of musical theater.

July 19 at 1:15 pm - Teeny Pies

Two years ago, author Teeny Lamothe quit her day job and dropped everything to do a tour of female-owned pie shops and diners across the United States. After learning recipe after recipe along the way, Teeny has compiled them all into a pie cookbook that details her cross-country experience. At this event, Teeny will lead a tasting of some of her signature pies and will share the pivotal experiences of her coast-to-coast pie saga. For more information on Teeny and her story, visit <http://teenypies.com>.

July 19 at 7:15 pm – Shaina Taub’s *Song Forum*

For the past five years, some of New York’s best singer/songwriters have gathered in a homey living room in Crown Heights, bringing guitars, ukuleles, and their latest music to share with their peers. That living room, and the *Song Forum* movement, belongs to a woman named Shaina Taub, winner of the 2014 Larson Grant and company member of *Natasha, Pierre and the Great Comet of 1812*. This event will see Shaina transform the Grand Tier Lobby into her living room, recreating the intimate and heart-on-your-sleeve energy of the *Song Forum* to share with the world. Come prepared to sing along.

Program and Artists subject to change.

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