

NEW YORK CITY CENTER
ENCORES!

LOVE LIFE



MAR 26 – 30, 2025

@NYCITYCENTER

LOVE LIFE: A Cavalcade of American History

by Emily White

1791

LIVING THE AMERICAN DREAM

Sam Cooper, a veteran of the Revolutionary war, is finally able to settle down with his wife, Susan, and their two children, Johnny and Elizabeth, and opens a furniture store. They are unaware that America's first financial crisis, the Panic of 1792, looms just one year away.



1821

THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION BEGINS

Factories are widely replacing small, family-owned businesses. The Panic of 1819 affects the purse strings of Americans across the country, including the Coopers. Sam pivots to work in a factory, and consequently must spend more time away from home.



1857

THE RAILROAD BOOM

The railroad industry booms and Sam follows, travelling even farther away from his family. The first global financial crisis, the Panic of 1857 occurs as a result of over-speculation in the railroad industry and the California Gold Rush, and tensions build until 1861 when the American Civil War begins.



The story in *Love Life* exists in two interlocking spirals. According to director **Victoria Clark**, “One spiral tells the story of the Cooper family and a marriage that is strained and eventually broken by the stresses of modern life, told through sketches that time-jump through American history. The other is the story of the American Dream and how it threatens to undermine us, told through a series of vaudeville acts that serve as socio-political commentary.”

1894



VOTES FOR WOMEN

The National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA) forms in 1890. We hear Susan and her local branch organizing in “Women’s Club Blues.” Meanwhile, Sam is exhausted from his job and the economic downturn caused by the Panic of 1893.

1927

IN THE SHADOW OF THE GREAT DEPRESSION

Prohibition has been in effect since 1920. Sam and Susan go to international waters to celebrate New Year’s Eve and indulge “legally.” The party keeps going despite underlying issues and unrest both for the economy and the Coopers’ marriage. The Great Depression looms just two years away.



Kurt Weill and Alan Jay Lerner place each sketch in the Cooper family’s timeline in a specific, pivotal moment in American history that impacts Sam and Susan’s marriage, as outlined below. The members of the Cooper family do not age as time moves on, and this production begins and ends in “the present.”

1948 – NOW



AMERICA AFTER WWII

Sam and Susan now live in New York City, contemporary to the time and place of *Love Life*’s original run. Americans must adjust to post-war economic and lifestyle change. During the war, many women went to work, and when the men return, everyone struggles to adjust their expectations.

Susan works outside the home at a department store, and Sam works in advertising. Though the family comes together to listen to the radio at the end of the day, they have grown further apart than ever.

Lerner probably could not have predicted that he would, in his own words, “become everything I satirized in that show” — he married a total of eight times. Lerner and Weill also couldn’t have predicted that a major Recession would begin in November of 1948, just months after the show opened.



WONDERFUL TOWN



ANIKA NONI ROSE
RUTH



AISHA JACKSON
EILEEN

“**[Bernstein’s]** music captures the **brassy energy and excitement** of urban living in melody and rhythm — it’s almost a character itself” *VARIETY*

APR 30 –
MAY 11

TICKETS
FROM \$45
(FEES INCLUDED)

Be reminded about what makes New York City so wonderful in **Encores!** *Wonderful Town*, the delightful musical comedy featuring music by the legendary **Leonard Bernstein** and lyrics by the iconic duo **Betty Comden** and **Adolph Green**. Join two sisters, Ruth and Eileen, as they move from Ohio to Greenwich Village in to pursue their artistic dreams and maybe find love along the way.

BOOK BY **JOSEPH FIELDS** AND **JEROME CHODOROV** (BASED UPON THE PLAY *MY SISTER EILEEN* BY JOSEPH FIELDS AND *JEROME CHODOROV* AND THE STORIES BY **RUTH MCKENNEY**)
MUSIC BY **LEONARD BERNSTEIN** • LYRICS BY **BETTY COMDEN** AND **ADOLPH GREEN**
SKETCHES FOR “WHAT A WASTE” BY **BETTY COMDEN** AND **ADOLPH GREEN**
CHOREOGRAPHER **LORIN LATARRO** • TAP CHOREOGRAPHER **AYODELE CASEL**
FEATURING **THE ENCORES! ORCHESTRA** • MUSIC DIRECTOR **MARY-MITCHELL CAMPBELL**
DIRECTOR **ZHAILON LEVINGSTON**

LOVE and LIFE: In Search of the American Dream

Encores! *Love Life* speaks to America, five years after shutdown



Excerpts from a conversation between *Victoria Clark* (Director) and *Rob Berman* (Guest Music Director)

VICTORIA CLARK: As I approach the piece now, I feel more drawn than ever to the Coopers' story. I don't see them as just symbolic figures; they are flesh and blood people living in the present day. Weill and Lerner challenge us to see both *life* and *love* as full of nuance; living and loving both require work. How have you changed your thinking, Rob? What do you admire about the score?

ROB BERMAN: In writing a "vaudeville," Weill drew on so many American idioms: a soft-shoe, a blues, a Tin Pan Alley number, a hoedown, a torch song, and so on. Yet none of it feels generic or pastiche. Things don't go where you think they are going and there are musical surprises at every turn.

The score contains heartfelt sentiment, savvy showmanship, and biting satire. It's easy to see how it influenced theater artists such as Kander and Ebb or Hal Prince. It's smart, has a strong point of view, and makes the most of that quintessential American

invention, "show-biz." What speaks to you about the book?

VICTORIA CLARK: This piece is deeply insightful about marriage, family, our country, and the skill it takes to communicate. *Love Life* exposes in both serious and comic ways how Americans are lured by the shinier thing, and how our own greed and egos take us farther and farther away from the simple act of listening to one another and tending our relationships. This production gives us an opportunity to explore what it means to be an American, from the vantage of our own diverse backgrounds and stories. How big are our hearts and minds? Big enough to hold all our diversity—race, ideology, culture, class, history? As Americans, how do we weather change, as we are buffeted by social, economic, cultural, environmental, political, technological, and human influences? Like Sam and Susan, can we find a way to talk to each other?



READ THE FULL ARTICLE:
[NYCityCenter.org/LoveLifeInterview](https://nycitycenter.org/loveLifeInterview)

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**ENCORES!**MUSIC DIRECTOR
MARY-MITCHELL CAMPBELLARTISTIC DIRECTOR
LEAR DEBESSONETPRODUCING CREATIVE DIRECTOR
CLINT RAMOS

MAR 26 – 30, 2025

LOVE LIFE**A VAUDEVILLE IN TWO PARTS**MUSIC AND LYRICS BY
KURT WEILL & ALAN JAY LERNERBOOK BY
ALAN JAY LERNERORCHESTRATIONS & ARRANGEMENTS BY
KURT WEILLCONCERT ADAPTATION
JOE KEENAN AND VICTORIA CLARK

FEATURING

**KATE BALDWIN JOHN EDWARDS SARA JEAN FORD ANDREA ROSA GUZMAN
CHRISTOPHER JORDAN BRIAN STOKES MITCHELL CLARKE THORELL****KATE BAILEY JORDAN BARROW ADAM BASHIAN KERRY CONTE JOHN HARMON COOPER
DANIEL EVERIDGE NICOLE FERNANDEZ-COFFARO TA'NIKA GIBSON
JOSEPH RYAN HARRINGTON MARY ILLES ANDREA JONES-SOJOLA ESTHER LEE CORY LINGNER
CAMERON LOYAL RENNI ANTHONY MAGEE ROBIN MASELLA MICHAEL MILKANIN
KRISTIN PIRO NATHAN ANDREW RILEY HEATH SAUNDERS DANIEL SCHWAIT
ALLYSON TUCKER NICHOLAS WARD MINAMI YUSUI**SCENIC DESIGNER
RYAN HOWELLCOSTUME DESIGNER
TRACY CHRISTENSENLIGHTING DESIGNER
PAUL MILLERSOUND DESIGNER
SCOTT LEHRERHAIR, WIG & MAKEUP DESIGN
J. JARED JANASILLUSIONS & MAGIC
SKYLAR FOXMUSIC COORDINATOR
KIMBERLEE WERTZPRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER
MICHAEL MCGOFFCASTING BY
**THE TELSEY OFFICE | DESTINY LILY, CSA
AND ARC**CONSULTING PRODUCER
JACK VIERTTELCHOREOGRAPHER
JOANN M. HUNTERFEATURING
THE ENCORES! ORCHESTRAGUEST MUSIC DIRECTOR
ROB BERMANDIRECTOR
VICTORIA CLARK**Leadership Support for Encores!**

The Stacey and Eric Mindich Fund for Musical Theater

Major Support for New York City Center

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Major Support for Love Life

Robbie Moray and Scott Dunn Eleanor and Howard Morgan Joseph S. and Diane H. Steinberg Charitable Trust

Additional Support for Love Life

Kurt Weill Foundation for Music, Inc., New York, NY The Ted Snowdon Foundation



LOVE LIFE

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

Johnny Cooper	CHRISTOPHER JORDAN
Elizabeth Cooper.....	ANDREA ROSA GUZMAN
Susan Cooper.....	KATE BALDWIN
Samuel Cooper	BRIAN STOKES MITCHELL
“Progress” Octet	DANIEL EVERIDGE, JOHN HARMON COOPER, CLARKE THORELL, ADAM BASHIAN, MICHAEL MILKANIN, RENNI ANTHONY MAGEE, JOSEPH RYAN HARRINGTON, CORY LINGNER
“Economics” Quartet	JORDAN BARROW, HEATH SAUNDERS, NICHOLAS WARD, CAMERON LOYAL
Two Tots	ANDREA ROSA GUZMAN & CHRISTOPHER JORDAN
Daring Dame	SARA JEAN FORD
Hobo	JOHN EDWARDS
Mr. Boylan.....	DANIEL EVERIDGE
Mr. Harvey.....	NICHOLAS WARD
Slade	HEATH SAUNDERS
Leffcourt.....	DANIEL SCHWAIT
Bill.....	CLARKE THORELL
“Susan’s Dream” Trio	ANDREA JONES-SOJOLA, MARY ILLES, KERRY CONTE
“His & Hers, A Divorce Ballet” Dancers	JOSEPH RYAN HARRINGTON, ESTHER LEE, CORY LINGNER, RENNI ANTHONY MAGEE, ROBIN MASELLA, MICHAEL MILKANIN, KIRSTIN PIRO, MINAMI YUSUI
The M.C.	JOHN EDWARDS
Miss Horoscope.....	NICOLE FERNANDEZ-COFFARO
Miss Mysticism.....	TA’NIKA GIBSON
Mr. Cynic	CLARKE THORELL
Miss Ideal Man.....	SARA JEAN FORD

Ensemble

JORDAN BARROW, ADAM BASHIAN, KERRY CONTE, JOHN HARMON COOPER, DANIEL EVERIDGE, NICOLE FERNANDEZ-COFFARO, TA’NIKA GIBSON, JOSEPH RYAN HARRINGTON, MARY ILLES, ANDREA JONES-SOJOLA, ESTHER LEE, CORY LINGNER, CAMERON LOYAL, RENNI ANTHONY MAGEE, ROBIN MASELLA, MICHAEL MILKANIN, KIRSTIN PIRO, HEATH SAUNDERS, DANIEL SCHWAIT, ALLYSON TUCKER, NICHOLAS WARD, MINAMI YUSUI

Covers

KATE BAILEY (Swing), NATHAN ANDREW RILEY (Swing)

This production is being presented as a concert performance in which the actors may be performing with their scripts in hand.



THE ENCORES! ORCHESTRA

ENCORES! MUSIC DIRECTOR
MARY-MITCHELL CAMPBELL

GUEST MUSIC DIRECTOR
ROB BERMAN

ASSOCIATE MUSIC DIRECTOR
DAVID HANCOCK TURNER

MUSIC COORDINATOR
KIMBERLEE WERTZ

**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC ADMINISTRATION
& SCORE RESTORATION**
JOSH CLAYTON

VIOLIN 1
SUZANNE ORNSTEIN, CONCERTMASTER
ROBERT ZUBRYCKI
CONWAY KUO
MAURA GIANNINI
CHRISTOPH FRANZGROTE
BRYAN HERNANDEZ-LUCH

VIOLIN 2
LORRA BAYLIS
FRITZ KRAKOWSKI
LISA TIPTON
MING YANG

VIOLIN 3
TALLIE BRUNFELT
GABRIELA RENGEL

CELLOS
KATHERINE CHERBAS
MELISSA WESTGATE
LAURA BONTRAGER

TRUMPETS
DON DOWNS
TIM SCHADT
MATT GASIOROWSKI

TROMBONE
JULIE DOMBROSKI-JONES

REEDS
LINO GOMEZ
EMILY PECORARO
TODD GROVES
AARON HEICK
JOHN WINDER

PIANO/ACCORDION
JOSHUA ROSENBLUM

GUITAR/BANJO/MANDOLIN
SCOTT KUNEY

Bass/Tuba
SCOTT THORNTON

DRUMS
KORY GROSSMAN

PERCUSSION
ERIK CHARLSTON



LOVE LIFE

SCENE & SONG LIST

Part One

Act 1: "The Magicians"	
Opening.....	Johnny & Elizabeth Cooper
Sketch 1: "The Cooper Family" - Mayville, Connecticut, 1791	
Who Is Samuel Cooper?	Townpeople, Sam and Susan Cooper
Here I'll Stay	Sam and Susan
Act 2: "The Go-Getters"	
Progress.....	Eight Men
Sketch 2: "The Farewell" - Mayville, Connecticut, 1821	
I Remember It Well	Sam and Susan
Green-Up Time	Susan & Company
I Remember It Well (Reprise).....	Sam and Susan
Act 3: "The Common Cents Quartet"	
Economics.....	Four Men
Sketch 3: "The New Baby" - The Cooper House, 1857	
Act 4: "Two Tots & A Daring Dame"	
Mother's Getting Nervous	Two Tots
Sketch 4: "My Kind of Night" - The Cooper House, 1894	
My Kind of Night.....	Sam
Women's Club Blues	Susan & Women
My Kind of Night (Reprise).....	Sam
Act 5: "Love Song".....	Hobo
Sketch 5: "The Cruise" - Ocean Liner, New Year's Eve, 1927	
I'm Your Man.....	Sam & Company

Part Two

Entr'acte	The Encores! Orchestra
Sketch 1: "Radio Night" - The Cooper Apartment, New York City, 1948	
Act 1: "Susan's Dream"	Three Women
Sketch 2: "Farewell Again" - The Cooper Apartment, New York City	
I Remember It Well (Reprise).....	Sam & Susan
Is It Him or Is It Me?	Susan
Act 2: "His & Hers, A Divorce Ballet".....	Dance Ensemble
Sketch 3: "A Hotel Room" - Somewhere Across Town	
This Is the Life	Sam
Act 3: "The Love Life Illusion Show"	
We're Sellin' Sunshine.....	M.C. & Ensemble
Madame Zuzu.....	Miss Horoscope & Miss Mysticism
Taking No Chances.....	Mr. Cynic
Love Is Really What They Say	Miss Ideal Man
Mr. Right	Susan
Finale	Sam, Susan & Company



KATE BALDWIN



JOHN EDWARDS



SARA JEAN FORD



ANDREA ROSA
GUZMAN



CHRISTOPHER
JORDAN



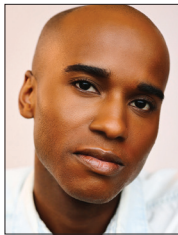
BRIAN STOKES
MITCHELL



CLARKE THORELL



KATE BAILEY



JORDAN BARROW



ADAM BASHIAN



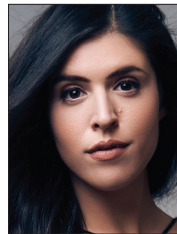
KERRY CONTE



JOHN HARMON
COOPER



DANIEL EVERIDGE



NICOLE FERNANDEZ-
COFFARO



TA'NIKA GIBSON



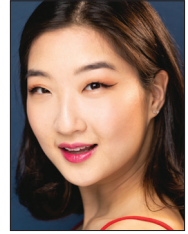
JOSEPH RYAN
HARRINGTON



MARY ILLES



ANDREA
JONES-SOJOLA



ESTHER LEE



CORY LINGNER



CAMERON LOYAL



RENNI ANTHONY
MAGEE



ROBIN MASELLA



MICHAEL MILKANIN



KRISTIN PIRO



NATHAN ANDREW
RILEY



HEATH SAUNDERS



DANIEL SCHWAIT



ALLYSON TUCKER



NICHOLAS WARD



MINAMI YUSUI

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MEET THE ARTISTS

KATE BALDWIN (*Susan Cooper*) Broadway: *Hello, Dolly!* (Tony nomination); *Big Fish*; *Finian's Rainbow* (Tony nomination); *The Full Monty*; *Thoroughly Modern Millie*; *Wonderful Town*. Off-Broadway: *Superhero*, *John & Jen*, *Giant*, *Songbird*. TV: *The Gilded Age*, *Just Beyond*, *First You Dream: The Music of Kander & Ebb*, *Law & Order: SVU*. Emmy nominee for creating and producing *Broadway Comes Home*. Concerts: NY Pops, Boston Pops, National Symphony Orchestra, Kennedy Center Honors. Solo albums: *Let's See What Happens*, *She Loves Him*.

JOHN EDWARDS (*Hobo*) Actor/Singer/Dancer/Songwriter. Currently starring in *MJ The Musical* (Jackie Jackson/tour singer/James Brown soloist). Previously seen in *Encores! Jelly's Last Jam*, and NYC revival of *Smokey Joe's Cafe* (Chita Award winner, Lucille Lortel nominee). Broadway and First National Tour of *Jersey Boys* (Hal Miller/Barry Belson/others). National/International tour of *Hairspray* (Seaweed J. Stubbs), *In the Heights* at The Kennedy Center (Domingo). And more. IG @therealjohnedwards

SARA JEAN FORD (*Miss Ideal Man*) So excited to be back at *Encores!* finally getting to perform *Love Life* with this company! Broadway: Christine Daaé in *The Phantom of the Opera*, Jellylorum in *Cats*, Smitty in *How To Succeed. . .*, Petra in *A Little Night Music*, and *Finian's Rainbow*. Off-Broadway: *Louisa in The Fantasticks* (Original Revival Cast). City Center *Encores!*: *June in Anyone Can Whistle*. National Tours: *Wicked*. Creator/Co-Writer/Star of BroadwayWorld's Web Series, *The Aging Ingenue*. CMU Drama. Love to Cameron & Annie.
@sweetford | sarajeandford.com

ANDREA ROSA GUZMAN (*Elizabeth Cooper*) is a precocious, highly energetic actress and voiceover artist from New York City. She has played roles in English and Spanish, and voices 'Berti' in Disney's animated series *Kindergarten*:

The Musical! Guzman made her film debut as 'Isabel Ramirez' in the independent feature *Regarding Us*, which is now streaming on Apple TV. She studies at the School of American Ballet and most recently appeared with the New York City Ballet in George Balanchine's *The Nutcracker*. Guzman is thrilled to make her theatrical debut in *Love Life!*

CHRISTOPHER JORDAN (*Johnny Cooper*) is overjoyed to be making his New York theatrical debut as Johnny! Jordan has performed in many hometown theatrical performances. He appeared on *Kids Say the Darndest Things* (ABC), played 'young Mario' in *Shadows of the Past* (Scranton Films), and played the 'Hero Child' in *The Polar Express Train Ride* in Whippany, NJ. Jordan would like to thank his family, teachers, and coaches for all their love and support. He is represented by Stewart Talent and managed by Serendipity.

BRIAN STOKES MITCHELL (*Samuel Cooper*) is making his fifth City Center appearance as he continues to enjoy an extensive five-decade career which includes Broadway, motion pictures, television, concerts, recordings, and singing out his window during the pandemic. The recipient of two Tonys and a host of other awards and commendations, Stokes's biggest reward is the discovery, collaboration, hope, joy, and connection that the arts offer us all. His three solo albums will be re-released later this year with two new ones on the way. His video, *HOPE* is on YouTube. Love One Another.

CLARKE THORELL (*Mr. Cynic*) *Encores!*: *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*, *Junjo*. Broadway: *My Fair Lady*, *The Front Page*, *Annie*, *Hairspray*, *Titanic*, *Mamma Mia!*, *The Who's Tommy*. Other: *Cloud Nine*, *Satellites*, *Wise Guys*, *Twelfth Night*, *Floyd Collins*. Film & TV: *Rustin*, *The Post*, *Men in Black III*, *Super Duper Bunny League*, *9-1-1: Lone Star*, *30 Rock*, *FBI Most Wanted*, *The Deuce*, *The Americans*, *Elementary*, *Chicago Med*, *House of*



Cards, The Good Wife, The Knick, Boardwalk Empire, Law & Order, The Winning Season, The Sopranos.
clarkethorell.com

KATE BAILEY (*Swing*) is elated to be back at New York City Center after appearing as 'Kristine' in the Gala Presentation of *A Chorus Line*. Other recent credits include; Broadway: *Frozen* (Ensemble), *Beetlejuice* (understudy Barbara/Delia). Tour: *Frozen* (understudy Anna), *Something Rotten!* (understudy Portia). Much love and thanks to the *Love Life* team, JoAnn, Brandon, Telsey, Talent House, and the loves of my life, Greg and Patsy. Always, for Dad.

JORDAN BARROW (*Ensemble*) New York City Center Debut! Barrow made history as the first Black actor to play 'Boq' in *Wicked* in North America. New York: *The Tempest* (Shakespeare in the Park). Other credits: *Rent, Peter Pan* (Paper Mill); *Sousatzka* (Elgin Theatre); *America V2.1* (Barrington Stage); *Witness Uganda* (Wallis Annenberg). TV/Film: *Pose* (FX), *Broad City* (Comedy Central), *Amy and Peter are Getting Divorced*. University of Michigan Graduate. Thanks to my family, friends, DGRW, Artists First, and Vicki! @jordant_b

ADAM BASHIAN (*Ensemble*) Thrilled to finally be bringing *Love Life* to Encores! Broadway/ tour: *The Phantom of the Opera, In Transit*. Other favorites: 'Santa Claus' in *The Radio City Christmas Spectacular*, original 'Ed' in Dave Malloy's critically acclaimed *Octet* (Drama Desk Award), *On Your Toes* (Encores!), *Sweeney Todd, Jesus Christ Superstar, Charlie & the Chocolate Factory, The Sorcerer, Tamar of the River*. TV: *House of Cards*. Bass voice in numerous cast recordings. For Laura, Victor, and Jay. @AdamBashian @Dark.Interiors

KERRY CONTE (*Ensemble*) Encores: *Hey, Look Me Over!*; *Lady, Be Good!* National Tour: Irving Berlin's *White Christmas* (Betty), *Mary Poppins* (Winifred, understudy Mary). San Francisco: *Roman Holiday*. Off-Broadway: Irish Rep: *The*

Butcher Boy, Meet Me in St. Louis, The Irish... and How They Got That Way, York, 92nd St Y. Regional: Muny, North Shore, Music Theatre Wichita, Wichita Symphony, Tuacahn, City Springs Theatre, New London Theatre Barn, Theatre By the Sea. Love this dream team. kerryconte.com

JOHN HARMON COOPER (*Ensemble*) is thrilled to be making his City Center debut. Regional: *Kinky Boots* (Lola), *Come From Away* (Bob & others), *The Music Man* (Quartet). TV: Associate Producer, CBS News. Graduate of Yale University. Thanks to the creative team for this opportunity! Love to Mom, family, friends, CBS colleagues, as well as Dan Egan, Brian McManamon, Mike Ruckles, Virginia Grasso, and all mentors & teachers for their invaluable guidance. Rep: Firestarter Entertainment, Chondra Profit. @iamjohncooper

DANIEL EVERIDGE (*Ensemble*) Broadway: *Grease* (revival). Off-Broadway: *FOUND* (Atlantic Theatre), *Fat Camp* (Dodger Theatrical), *Promenade* (Encores! Off-Center), and *Falling* (Best Lead Actor Lortel and Drama Desk nomination). Other theater: *Die Fledermaus* (Metropolitan Opera), *Falling* (Meadow Brook Theatre). Television: *The Knick* (Showtime), *Jessica Jones* (Netflix/Disney+). Film: *Inside Llewyn Davis, The Greatest Showman*. BFA Otterbein. Luedtke Agency. Currently the Director of Acting, Musical Theatre at the acclaimed North East School of the Arts high school in San Antonio, TX.

NICOLE FERNANDEZ-COFFARO (*Ensemble*) NYC: *Carmen* (Frasquita), Lincoln Center; *Significant Other* (Laura), TAG Theatre Co. Regional: *Evita* (A.R.T./Shakespeare Theatre Company), *1776* (Alhambra Theatre), *Evita* (Actors' Playhouse). Concert: *SNL 50* (Radio City Music Hall), *Lady in the Dark* (New York City Center), *Lyrics & Lyricists* (92nd St Y), *Babes in Toyland* (Carnegie Hall), *Iron & Coal* (Prototypet Festival). Kurt Weil Foundation Lotte



Lenya Competition Finalist. Education: BFA in Theater Performance/Vocal Performance Minor from Chapman University. Special thanks to Vicki Clark, The Luedtke Agency, and my family. @nicolecoffaro

TA'NIKA GIBSON (*Ensemble*) is a staunch advocate for arts education and foster care/adoption in this country! Broadway: *Into The Woods* (Lucinda), *Ain't Too Proud* (Diana Ross). Off-Broadway/Regional: *Ragtime* (u/s Sarah, City Center), *Oklahoma!* (Laurey), *Aida* (Aida). TV: HBO's *Winning Time!* (Debbie Allen), Marvel's *Iron Fist*, and *Bull*. Thank you to God, my wonderful parents and dear Patty, my amazing friends and family, and my incredible team at HCKR and Thomas Green Entertainment. @tanika_renee_gibson

JOSEPH RYAN HARRINGTON (*Ensemble*) is excited to be a part of New York City Center's Encores! Broadway: *Billy Elliot* (Billy), *How the Grinch...* (Bugsy Who). Select NYC/Regional: *Radio City Christmas Spectacular*; *Tempest* (Ariel, La Mama); *White Christmas* (The Gateway); *42nd St* (Andy Lee, Arrow Rock); *Little Shop Of Horrors*, *The Nutty Professor* (Ogunquit). BFA from Pace University. PhD in Being A Silly Goose. Thanks to Carson Kolker, Edge, and my family for their love and support!

MARY ILLES (*Ensemble*) Encores!: *The Light in the Piazza*, *Love Life*, *Lost in the Stars*, *Finian's Rainbow*, *Music in the Air*, *Anastasia* First National Tour: *Dowager* (understudy/performed); original Golde in *Yiddish Fiddler* (NYTF). Broadway: *The Phantom of the Opera*, *The Music Man*, *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, *Steel Pier*, *She Loves Me*. Dona Lucia D'Alvadorez in *Goodpeed's Where's Charley?* Soloist: The Vienna Philharmonic, Hartford Symphony. Gumbie Cat/Griddlebone: *Cats* in Paris and Vienna. Thank you, Clear Talent, Love you, Max and Caroline. @mkatherineilles

ANDREA JONES-SOJOLA (*Ensemble*) Broadway: *The Music Man*, The Gershwins' *Porgy and Bess*. NY: *Once Upon a Mattress*, *The Light in the Piazza*, *Dear World*, *Brigadoon*, *Cabin in the Sky*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Most Happy Fella*, *Carmen Jones*, *Candide*, *Showboat*, *Parade*, *Sweeney Todd*, *A Little Night Music*, *Newton's Cradle*, *Ragtime*. Film: *For Colored Girls*. Television: *FBI*, *The Blacklist*, *Mozart in the Jungle*, *The Sound of Music Live!*, *Monsterland*. Voice Over Series: *New Nigeria County*, *The Lamb*, *Strange and Unexplained*. IG: @andreajonessojola

ESTHER LEE (*Ensemble*) is excited to make her New York City Center Encores! debut! A Jersey native and graduate of Ailey/Fordham, she was most recently in *Anyone Can Whistle* (Carnegie Hall); *Frozen*, *Escape to Margaritaville* (North Shore Music Theatre); and *South Pacific* (The Fulton Theatre). Thank you to family & friends, Roberta, JoAnn, and HKA @esther.lee13

CORY LINGNER (*Ensemble*) Previous Encores!: *I Married an Angel*. Broadway: *Carousel*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *An American in Paris*, *On The Town*. Off-Broadway/International: Disney on Classic Japan, *Stardust Road*, *Once Upon a Mattress* (Astaire Award nomination), Drayton Entertainment. Television: Tony Awards, SNL, Hulu's *The Battery's Down*, and more. Regional: MUNY, Broadway at Music Circus, La Mirada, Lyric Theatre OKC, and more. Thanks to *Love Life* team, my family, friends, & Nicolosi & Co. @corylingner corylingner.com

CAMERON LOYAL (*Ensemble*) Encores! Debut! Broadway: *Bad Cinderella* (Prince Charming). National Tours: *Les Misérables* (u/s Javert, u/s Bishop of Digne), *My Fair Lady* (Freddy Eynsford-Hill), *An Officer and a Gentleman* (Sid Worley). New York Theater: Carnegie Hall: *Austen's Pride*. Regional: Signature Theatre: *A Funny Thing... Forum* (Miles Gloriosus); Goodspeed: *South Pacific* (Lt. Cable); Ivoryton Playhouse: *Smokey Joes Cafe* (Fred);



White Plains: *Aida*, Artshhi: *Legally Blonde* (Kyle).
If you're reading this—Thank you.
IG: @cameronloyal

RENNI ANTHONY MAGEE (*Ensemble*) has appeared on TV, on Broadway, and regionally, and is incredibly thankful to God and his family. They are the reason he's here. Notable credits include *The Outsiders* (Broadway), *MJ: The Musical* (Broadway), *Alien/Nation* (Forest of Arden), *Oklahoma!* (DCPA), *Porgy & Bess* (MET), *The Beauty of Love* (Film/Peacock), Chloe Flowers's *Carol of the Bells* (music video). Training: Interlochen, Boston Conservatory. Instagram: @renni_anthony

ROBIN MASELLA (*Ensemble*) Thrilled to be back at City Center Encores! Productions: *High Button Shoes*, *Evita*, *I Married an Angel*. Broadway: *The Heart of Rock & Roll*, *Shucked*, *Bad Cinderella*, *Frozen*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *Cats*. National Tours: *Frozen*, *Chicago*, *Evita*. Masella is the Associate Choreographer of *Shucked* and has choreographed for and performed on *The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon*, *The Tony Awards*, and *SNL*. Love to Hybrid, Mom, Dad, Benji, and Marc. @robinmasella

MICHAEL MILKANIN (*Ensemble*) Broadway: *Elf*, *Lempicka*, *Shucked*, *Bad Cinderella*, *Kinky Boots*. National Tours: *Disney's Frozen*, *Bat Out of Hell*, *Kinky Boots*. Regional: *The Little Mermaid*, *Paint Your Wagon* (Muny); *Beauty and the Beast* (Paper Mill); *The Who's Tommy* (Kennedy Center). Big thanks to JoAnn and CESD. This ends in a week y'all, come find me on insta: @mmilkanin

KRISTIN PIRO (*Ensemble*) is thrilled to be back at Encores! She has graced the Broadway stage in *Catch Me if You Can*, *Rocky*, *An American in Paris*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, and *Spamalot*. As a lifelong dancer, singer, and actress, most recently Piro, and husband David, added winemaker to the resume! Their wine company, Intermission Cellars, is Sonoma-based, theater-

inspired wine! Check out IntermissionCellars.com! Endless love to my family, CGF, David, and my perfect little boy, Cooper! @kpiroette @intermissioncellars

NATHAN ANDREW RILEY (*Swing*) is excited to return to Encores! at City Center after being here in 2019 with *High Button Shoes*! Favorite credits include Disney's *The Lion King* (National Tour); *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* (First and Second National Tours); *The Radio City Christmas Spectacular* (Radio City Music Hall); *The Color Purple* (Denver Center Theatre); *Ragtime*, *The Addams Family*, *Waitress* (Broadway at Music Circus); *The Scottsboro Boys* (Phoenix Theatre Company). Love to mio innamorato MK!

HEATH SAUNDERS (*Ensemble*) is an actor, composer, multi-instrumentalist, director, teacher, and producer. Select theater: *Company* (Broadway), *RENT* (Atlanta Opera), *Once* (Hangar Theater), *Jesus Christ Superstar* (NBC Live!), *Chicago Lyric*, *Alice By Heart* (MCC Theater), and *...The Great Comet* (Broadway). Their 2020 EP *Does Not Play Well With Others (I Hope You're Not 'Others')* can be heard wherever you stream music. In 2021, they co-founded a tech start-up, Spectra Media Collective. Read more about it at spectramediacollective.com

DANIEL SCHWAIT (*Ensemble*) Encores!: *Annie Get Your Gun*, *The Most Happy Fella* as well as the recordings of *Brigadoon* and *The New Yorkers*. Other New York and regional credits include *Androcles and the Lion*; *Caesar & Cleopatra*; *Ancient History*; *Chess*; *Carousel*; *The Secret Garden*; *Les Misérables*; *Kiss Me, Kate*; *Evita*; *Sweeney Todd*; and *Side Show*. He also has many recordings available on all streaming platforms. For my Grandmother who loved Kurt Weill. Go O's! @realdanschwait

ALLYSON TUCKER (*Ensemble*) Broadway: *Chita Rivera: The Dancer's Life*; revival *Man of La Mancha* (u/s Aldonza, Antonia, Housekeeper); original revival of *Follies* (Young Stella); Original



Broadway *Ragtime* (u/s Sarah); *The Will Rogers Follies*; *Oh, Kay!* Regional: *Post-Roe Monologues* (Chantal), *Baby* (Pam), *Chicago* (Velma; Barrymore award nominee), *Dames at Sea* (Joan), *Blues in the Night* (Woman), *West Side Story* (Anita). Featured soloist: *Cotton Club Confidential* (54 Below), *Duke Ellington Big Band* (Birdland). Associate director *American Prophet* (Arena Stage).

NICHOLAS WARD (*Ensemble*) is loving life and thrilled to be returning to his Encores! family for his ninth production. Broadway: *Lempicka*, *The Music Man*, *Lion King*, *Frozen*, *In Transit*, *On the Town*. Lincoln Center: *Anastasia*, *I Am Harvey Milk*. Encores!: *Brigadoon*, *1776*, *The Golden Apple*, *Cabin in the Sky*, *Zorba!*, *Paint Your Wagon*, *Pipe Dream*, *Annie Get Your Gun*. Tours: *Show Boat*, *Porgy and Bess*. Movie and TV Soundtracks: *Wicked*, *Frozen 2*, and *Schmigadoon!* Insta and TikTok @ NicholasTheWard

MINAMI YUSUI (*Ensemble*) Delighted to make her Encores! debut! Broadway: *My Fair Lady*, *Miss Saigon*, *The King and I*. National Tour/International: *Mary Poppins*, *Wicked* (Japan). Regional: Paper Mill, Goodspeed, Maine State Music Theatre. TV: English dub of FX's *Shōgun* (Gin). Assistant Director and Translator for the Japanese premiere of *Spring Awakening*. Founder of YU-project.org. Grateful to the entire creative team and company, Dave, Dan, family, and friends. Proud Kanazawa native. @minamiyusui

KURT WEILL (*Music & Lyrics, Orchestrations & Arrangements*) (1900 – 1950) began his career in the early 1920s in Berlin after studying in Busoni's master class. By the time his first opera, *The Protagonist* (Georg Kaiser), was performed to great acclaim in April 1926, he was an established young composer, but he had already decided to devote himself to the musical theater. His works with Bertolt Brecht soon made him the leading theater composer of his generation, particularly

with the stunning success of *The Threepenny Opera* (1928) and the opera *Mahagonny*. He and his estranged wife Lotte Lenya fled the new Nazi regime in March 1933 and continued his indefatigable efforts, first in Paris (1933-35) with *The Seven Deadly Sins*. Arriving in New York in 1935 for *The Eternal Road* directed by Max Reinhardt, repeated postponements prompted him to stay. He first worked with the left-wing collectives of the Group Theatre and the Playwrights Company, before breaking into mainstream Broadway with *Lady in the Dark* (Moss Hart and Ira Gershwin, 1941), *One Touch of Venus* (SJ Perelman and Ogden Nash), *Street Scene* (Elmer Rice and Langston Hughes, 1947), and finally *Lost in the Stars* (Maxwell Anderson, 1949). Before his death at age 50, he was honored with the first Tony Award for outstanding score of a musical.

ALAN JAY LERNER (*Book, Music & Lyrics*) (1918 – 1986) wrote some of the American theater's most memorable musicals. He was born in New York City in 1918 and attended Choate and Harvard. With Frederick Loewe, he had his first Broadway hit in 1947 with *Brigadoon*. The following year, teaming up with established veteran Kurt Weill, Lerner had his second success with *Love Life*. Resuming his partnership with Loewe, the pair had their next hit in 1951 with *Paint Your Wagon*. In 1956, *My Fair Lady* opened on Broadway. Often called the "perfect musical," the show ran for 2,717 performances and the cast album sold more than five million copies. Lerner & Loewe's 1958 film musical, *Gigi*, won nine Academy awards and in 1960 came the last great success of their partnership, *Camelot*, starring Richard Burton and Julie Andrews. Lerner went on to collaborate with other composers including Burton Lane, Leonard Bernstein, and Andre Previn. He died in 1986 at the age of 67.

VICTORIA CLARK (*Director, Concert Adaptation*) Shortly after the American Revolution Clark graduated from Yale University



and moved to New York with one suitcase to become a Very Important Director. While attending NYU's Musical Theater Graduate Writing Program (Cycle 1) and collaborating on new work, fate snatched her up and threw her onscreen and onstage for 40 some odd years where she proceeded to appear in countless Off-Broadway and Broadway shows, garnering two Tony Awards for originating leading roles in *Kimberly Akimbo* and *The Light in the Piazza* and three additional nominations. The passion for directing ever present, Clark snuck off along the way to helm productions at Classic Stage Company (*The Dance of Death*); Fredericia Theater/Denmark (*The Trouble With Doug*); Village Theater (*Hansel and Gretel and Heidi and Günther*); Premieres/Barrow Group (*Scaffolding* by Jeff Blumenkrantz), NYMF (*Newton's Cradle*); Philadelphia Opera, Texas Opera Theater, Goodspeed, and NAMT. Five years ago, this adaptation of *Love Life* was set to premiere at Encores! We are thrilled to be back this season. For my family. @victoriajclark

JOE KEENAN (*Concert Adaptation*) is a playwright, novelist, lyricist, and screenwriter. His first musical *The Times* premiered at the Long Wharf Theatre and he won a Kleban award for its lyrics. His farcical first novel *Blue Heaven* led to seven years of writing similar if shorter farces for *Frasier* while winning five Emmys, a GLAAD Award, and two Writers Guild Awards. He also worked on *Desperate Housewives*, *Out of Practice*, and several more TV shows he's hoping you won't Google. *Love Life* is not his first concert adaptation. He wrote MasterVoices' Carnegie Hall concerts of *Babes in Toyland* and *Of Thee I Sing*, and new lyrics for their *Mikado*. His political cabaret *Everybody Rise* was presented at many New York and Los Angeles venues including Birdland. His other books are *Putting On The Ritz*, which received a Lambda award, and *My Lucky Star*, which won the Thurber Prize for American Humor.

ROB BERMAN (*Guest Music Director*) is thrilled

to return to Encores! after conducting *Titanic* last season and, before that, serving as music director of the series for 15 years, which included over 35 productions and six cast recordings. On Broadway, he was music director of the revival of *Into the Woods* which originated at Encores! and for which he won a Grammy Award. Berman's other Broadway credits include *Bright Star*; *Tuck Everlasting*; *Dames at Sea*; *Finian's Rainbow*; *White Christmas*; *The Pajama Game*; *The Apple Tree*; *Wonderful Town*; and *Promises, Promises*. For nine years he was music director of the Kennedy Center Honors on CBS, for which he won an Emmy Award for outstanding musical direction. Other credits include *Sunday in the Park with George* (Kennedy Center, Helen Hayes Award), *Pacific Overtures*, and *Passion* (Classic Stage Company). Recordings include the complete restored score of Jerome Kern's *Roberta* for New World Records. He is so happy that *Love Life* is finally returning to the New York stage!

JoANN M. HUNTER (Choreographer) has over 30 Broadway, West End, and Australia credits. Directed and choreographed at Carnegie Hall and The Kennedy Center. So honored to be here at Encores with *Love Life*, five years later. Recently directed *Native Gardens* by Karen Zacarias. Early and infant stages: Director/Choreographer of *JO: The Little Women Musical*, *Yasuke - The Legend of The Black Samurai*, and *Birds of NY*. She has worked with some extraordinary creatives. In honing her craft, she keeps her mentors in her heart. She is proud to be a Japanese American woman, and is more than just that.

RYAN HOWELL (*Scenic Designer*) New York: *Pretty Hunger*, *Teenage Dick* (The Public Theater), *Atalanta* (Julliard), *Adoration of the Old Woman* (INTAR). Regional: *Lights Out: Nat King Cole* (Geffen Playhouse); *A Few Good Men*, *School Girls: Or The African Mean Girls Play* (Pittsburgh Public Theater); *The Magic Flute* (Opera Theatre St. Louis); *Ariadante* (Curtis Opera Institute); *Ariadne Aux Naxos* (Cincinnati Opera); *Thérèse* (Sarasota Opera); *Idomeneo* (WolfTrap Opera);



Loving vs. Virginia (Williamstown); *Evita*, *Newsies*, *Annie*, *The Little Mermaid* (Westport Country Playhouse); *Beautiful, Ain't Misbehavin'*, *Grease*, *Altar Boyz* (The Cape Playhouse); *Little Shop of Horrors* (ACT of CT); *Fiddler on the Roof* (North Shore Music Theater); *Sunday in the Park with George* (Axelrod Performing Arts); *A Gentleman's Guide...* (Drayton Entertainment). Film/TV: HBO: *Succession* – Seasons 3 and 4; Netflix: *Zero Day* – Season 1; Showtime: *Three Women* – Season 2; FX: *American Sports Story* – Season 1. ryanmhowell.com @ryanmhowell

TRACY CHRISTENSEN (*Costume Designer*) designed *Lady in the Dark* in 2019, starring Victoria Clark (MasterVoices), the Broadway revival of *Sunset Boulevard* starring Glenn Close, the recent 25th Anniversary reunion concert of *Ragtime*, *The Devil's Disciple* (Theater Row), and *Candide* at Carnegie Hall with John Lithgow. Recent premieres: *The Jonathan Larson Project* (Orpheum); *Beaches the Musical* at Theater Calgary (BroadwayWorld Calgary Award); *Scotland, PA* (Roundabout); *Passing Through* (Goodspeed); and Kate Hamill's Off-Broadway adaptation of *Pride & Prejudice*. Other projects: *Souvenir* (Broadway), *Love's Labour's Lost* at the Folger (Helen Hayes nomination), *Noises Off!* (Asolo), *Carousel* for London's English National Opera, and *Sweeney Todd* starring Emma Thompson. Faculty: SUNY Purchase and Southern Methodist University. tracychristensen.com

PAUL MILLER (*Lighting Designer*) Previously for Encores!: *Hey, Look Me Over!*; *Big River*; *Irma LaDuce*; *Of Thee I Sing*; *Lost in the Stars*; *Music In The Air*; *Where's Charley?* On Broadway he's designed five musicals and been the Associate/Assistant on 22 others. Off-Broadway favorites: *Desperate Measures*, *Clinton!*, *Pageant*, *Vanities - the Musical*, *Waiting for Godot*, *Nonsense*, Encores! (nine shows). National Tours: *Hairspray*, *Elf*, *Wizard of Oz*, *Sweeney Todd*, *The Producers*, *Rent*, *Shrek*. Internationally, his work been seen

on stage at the Stratford Festival, London's West End, Vienna, Teatro alla Scala (Milan), South Africa, China, Manila, Iceland, and São Paulo. Regional: 40+ shows at the Benedum for Pittsburgh CLO, Arizona Theatre Company, The Old Globe, Dallas Theatre Center, Chicago Shakespeare, Idaho Shakespeare, Asolo Rep, ACT, Cleveland Playhouse, Pasadena Playhouse, Goodspeed, and others. Television: *Evil* (CBS & Paramount+), Live from Lincoln Center, 23 Netflix specials, and the internationally televised New Year's Eve Celebration from Time's Square (for 25 years).

SCOTT LEHRER (*Sound Designer*) designed sound for the inaugural Encores! *Fiorello* in 1994 and has done 60 since. His sound for over 200 productions on and off Broadway, at regional theatres, and internationally, includes the original Playwrights Horizons production of *Sunday in the Park with George*, *Angels in America*, Richard Nelson's *Rhinebeck Panorama*, and the long running revival of *Chicago* that began at Encores! He received the first sound Tony for Lincoln Center Theater's revival of *South Pacific*. Current work includes *Gypsy* on Broadway and *Ghosts* at LCT. Recent work: *Into the Woods* (Drama Desk Award), *Pictures from Home*, *The Piano Lesson*, *The Music Man*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and *Plaza Suite*. As a music producer/engineer, projects include the Broadway cast recording of *An American in Paris* (Grammy nomination), Loudon Wainwright III's *High Wide and Handsome* (Grammy Award), and Meredith Monk's *mercy*. A graduate of Sarah Lawrence College, Lehrer has taught at Bennington College, NYU and Hunter College.

J. JARED JANAS (*Hair & Wig Designer*) City Center: *Jelly's Last Jam*, *Once Upon a Mattress*, *Pal Joey*, *The Tap Dance Kid*, *Mack and Mabel*, *Me and My Girl*, *Brigadoon*, *Irma La Douce*. Broadway: *Buena Vista Social Club*; *Our Town*; *Once Upon a Mattress*; *Mary Jane*; *Prayer for the French Republic*; *Appropriate*; *Purlie Victorious*; *Good Night, Oscar*; *Sweeney Todd*; *Ohio State Murders*;



&Juliet; Kimberly Akimbo; Topdog/Underdog; How I Learned to Drive; American Buffalo; Jagged Little Pill; Frankie and Johnny in the Claire de Lune; Gettin' the Band Back Together; Bandstand; Indecent; Sunset Boulevard; The Visit; The Real Thing; Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill; Motown; Peter and the Starcatcher; The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess; All about Me. Recent Off-Broadway: The Jonathan Larson Project, Sally & Tom (Drama Desk nomination).

SKYLAR FOX (*Magic & Illusions*) is an Obie Award-winning director, writer, and designer, and the co-artistic director of Nightdrive, where he has directed, designed, and co-written *The Grown-Ups*; *Alien Nation*; *Providence, RI*; *Thank You Sorry*; and *Apathy Boy*. Other directing includes *Trisha Paytas's Big Broadway Dream*. He also creates magic for theater. Broadway: *BOOP!*, *Once Upon a Mattress*, *Fat Ham*; associate designer for *Harry Potter & the Cursed Child*, *Back to the Future*, and *A Beautiful Noise*. Off-Broadway/International: *Cats: "The Jellicle Ball"* (PAC), *The Preacher's Wife* (Alliance Theater), *The Comeuppance* (Signature Theatre, Almeida), *You Will Get Sick* (Roundabout Theatre Company), *Wicked*, *Matilda* (São Paulo), and *Damn Yankees* (Shaw Festival). skylarfox.com & nightdrive.org

THE TELSEY OFFICE (*Casting*) With offices in both New York and Los Angeles, The Telsey Office casts for theater, film, television, and commercials. The Telsey Office is dedicated to creating safe, equitable, and anti-racist spaces through collaboration, artistry, heart, accountability, and advocacy. thetelseyoffice.com

ARC (*Original 2020 Casting*): In dedication to the life/legacy of Casting Director, JAY BINDER. 170+ Broadway, Off-Broadway, Touring Productions. 1000+ Film/TV, Commercial Projects. 40+ Years Casting: *Othello*, *Real Women Have Curves*, *Wonderful World*, *Lion King*, *Chicago*, *Hadestown*, *Life of Pi*, *Great Comet*, *Pippin*, *Chorus Line*, & beyond. 14 Artios Awards

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KIMBERLEE WERTZ (*Music Coordinator*) Delighted to be part of another Encores! season. Broadway: *Good Night, and Good Luck*; *Maybe Happy Ending*; *Once Upon a Mattress*; *Stereophonic*; *The Notebook*; *Parade*; *Bob Fosse's Dancin'*; *KPOP*; *Almost Famous*; *Into The Woods*; *Funny Girl*; *The Music Man*; *The Lehman Trilogy*; *West Side Story*; *King Lear*; *Carousel*; *Hello, Dolly!*; *A Year With Frog and Toad*. Off Broadway: *Here We Are*, *The Gardens of Anuncia*. TV: *The Academy Awards*, *The Tony Awards*, *The Kennedy Center Honors*, *The Emmy Awards*, *A Capitol Fourth*, *Disney Holiday*, *Mozart in the Jungle*, *Jimmy Carter 100: A Celebration In Song*, *SNL50: The Homecoming Concert*, and six Democratic National Conventions. Thank you to all our wonderful Encores! musicians and the late Red Press, beloved music coordinator and friend.

ANN JAMES (*Sensitivity Specialist*) OBIE Award. Broadway: *Sunset Boulevard*, *A Wonderful World*, *Eureka Day*, *Lempicka*, *The Outsiders*, *Hamilton*, *Parade*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Illinoise*, and others. Off-Broadway: *3 Summers of Lincoln*, *Jonah*, *How to Defend Yourself*, and others.

RICK SORDELET (*Fight Director*) and his two sons, Christian and Collin Kelly-Sordelet created Sordelet Inc., a Native American-owned action movement company for stage, film and TV. 85 Broadway productions, loads of films and TV and a ton of operas. Learn more at sordeletinc.com, follow on Instagram @Sordeletinc. They also run a publishing company Sordeletink.com.

NOAM SHAPIRO (*Dramaturg*) is a Harold Prince/Kurt Weill Directing Fellow on *Love Life*. He is Artistic Director of Three Hares. Recent directing: *On This Side of the World* (East West Players). Affiliations: Drama League Next-Stage Directing Residency, Lincoln Center Directors Lab, MTC's Directing Fellowship. Winner of OPERA-America's Director-Designer Prize. noamshapiro.com



MICHAEL MCGOFF (*Production Stage Manager*)
Encores! debut. Eight Broadway shows, Five National Tours, Five productions at the Delacorte, and many Off-Broadway and regional productions are part of a career blessed with incredible experiences. He spent Covid-19 supervising film and television productions and often works in corporate productions with great teams. Speaking of teams, thanks to Clint and Jenny for asking, Joanne and Christopher for coming aboard, and to Don for saying yes, always; well maybe not always. Enjoy *Love Life*.

JOANNE PAN (*Stage Manager*) she/her;
Encores!: *The Tap Dance Kid*; *Songs for a New World*; *Don't Bother Me, I Can't Cope*. Broadway: *Water for Elephants*, *Tammy Faye*, *Moulin Rouge! The Musical*, *Ohio State Murders*, *SIX*. Proud first-generation Taiwanese-American.

CHRISTOPHER KEE ANAYA-GORMAN (*Assistant Stage Manager*)'s work spans Broadway, Off-Broadway, National Tours, Regional Theaters, and TV. He is thrilled to add Encores! now. Select credits Broadway: *Harmony, MJ, Camelot, Paradise Square, Hadestown, Jagged Little Pill, The Father, The Gin Game* w/ James Earl Jones. Off-Broadway: *Drag the Musical, Skintight* with Idina Menzel, *72 Miles to Go...*, National Tours: *Kimberly Akimbo, MJ, Aladdin*. Netflix: *Rachel Bloom's Death Let Me Do My Show*. Love to Mom, Anthony, and Michael! Ahéhee'

SARA BRIANS (*Associate Director*) is a New York City based director, choreographer and educator. Broadway: *The Hills of California, 42nd Street, Billy Elliot, Matilda, White Christmas, The Terms of My Surrender*, and *After the Night and the Music*. Recently choreographed *Anything Goes* at Gulfshore Playhouse and upcoming will direct and choreograph *Waitress* at ACT of CT. Encores! *Of Thee I Sing, Face The Music*, and *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*. SaraBrians.com

DAVID HANCOCK TURNER (*Associate Music*

Director) *High Button Shoes, Irma La Douce, Zorba, Do I Hear a Waltz?* (Encores! at City Center). *The Butcher Boy, A Child's Christmas in Wales* (Irish Repertory Theatre). *Desperate Measures, Golden Rainbow, Penelope, Cheek to Cheek, Carmelina, The Day Before Spring, Subways are for Sleeping, Hallelujah Baby* (York Theatre). All the love to Stacey, Adrian, and Markus.

BRANDON BIEBER (*Associate Choreographer*) served as the co-choreographer for the upcoming musical film *Kiss of the Spider Woman*. Other TV/film choreography and associate choreography include: *Little America, Fosse/Verdon, Feud: Capote vs The Swans, American Horror Stories, Halston, Younger*, and *The Bad Guys*. Off-Broadway: *Felix Starro*. Thanks to Paul, the fam, and fabulous JoAnn!

DANIEL ALLEN (*Associate Scenic Designer*)
Previous Encores!: *High Button Shoes, Call Me Madam*. Selected designs: *The Boy who Loved Batman* (The Straz), *Room 1214* (New Light, Off Broadway), *The Witness Room* (AMT, Off Broadway), *Post Mortem* (Mosaic), *Black Bear Island* (Alleyway), *Radiant Vermin* (5th Wall Theater), *Torch Song* (RTP). USA 829.
(@danj.allen. danielallendesign.com)

SOMIE PAK (*Associate Costume Designer*) is a NYC-based costume designer. Recent select design credits: *Burning Man: The Musical, Estella Scrooge* (Silver Telly), *Mary Stuart* (Henry Hewes Nominee), *Mélange* (MTV/Logo). Select Assistant/Associate Credits: *Beaches the Musical, Chopped* on Food Network, *Pay the Writer, Love All* at La Jolla Playhouse, *A Beautiful Noise*. somiepak.com

WHEELER MOON (*Associate Lighting Designer*)
City Center: *Pal Joey* (Assistant). National tours: *Cowboy* (LD), *Annie* (Assistant), *Elf* (Associate), *Hairspray* (Associate), *Jersey Boys Vegas* (Assistant). TV: *Etoile* (Asst, Amazon Prime). Wheeler has also worked on shows at Buck's County Playhouse, The Joyce, Forestburgh Playhouse, Barrington Stage, Two River Theatre,



Smith Street Stage, and Theaterlab.

TONY LAURO (*Associate Hair & Wig Designer*) *Gun & Powder* (Co Designer). Tours: *100 days*. (As Associate Wig & makeup design). Broadway: *Buena Vista Social Club, Once Upon a Mattress, & Juliet, Sweeney Todd, Kimberly Akimbo, Good Night Oscar*.

THE ENCORES! ORCHESTRA Chosen for their versatility and virtuosity, the musicians of The Encores! Orchestra are experts in all eras and styles of theater music, from the operettas of Sigmund Romberg to the jazz-inflected scores of Harold Arlen to the classic 1960s Broadway sound of John Kander and Fred Ebb.

JACK VIERTEL (*Consulting Producer*) was the Artistic Director of the Encores! series for two decades, supervising almost 70 musicals, including the original attempt to present *Love Life*, which was halted by Covid in 2020. He was Creative Director of Jujamcyn Theaters for three decades identifying and supervising new projects for the company's five theaters, including five of August Wilson's plays, *Angels in America* and several plays by David Henry Hwang including *M. Butterfly*, as well as many musicals. His book *The Secret Life of the American Musical* was a New York Times bestseller and his acclaimed novel *Broadway Melody* was published in 2024. His new novel, *The Glass Eel* will be published in September. His new musical *Let the Good Times Roll* will have its premiere in August. He began his career playing steel-bodied National guitar behind Bonnie Raitt, Son House and The Pointer Sister; he is a Memphis-in-May Barbecue Judge.

LEAR DEBESSONET (*Encores! Artistic Director*) is a Tony-nominated director and the Artistic Director of Encores! Directing credits include *Ragtime* (City Center), *Once Upon a Mattress* (Broadway, Encores!), *Into the Woods* (Broadway, Encores!, National Tour), *Lionel Bart's Oliver!* (Encores!), *Annie Live!* (NBC), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Shakespeare in the Park), *The*

Odyssey (Public Theater), and *Good Person of Szechwan* (Public Theater/Foundry). She is the Founder of Public Works at The Public Theater, where she served as the Resident Director from 2012-2020, and the Founder and Co-Artistic Director of Arts for Everybody. She received the Drama League Founders Award and Best Director of a Musical 2023, Obie Award, Ammerman Award, Lilly Award, and multiple Drama Desk and OCC nominations.

CLINT RAMOS (*Encores! Producing Creative Director*) is a producer and designer. Prior to joining the Encores! leadership team, he was one of the principal designers for Encores! Off-Center, having designed 22 shows. He has designed over 200 plays, operas, musicals, films, and environments. Honors include a Tony award and six nominations, two Obie Awards including one for Sustained Achievement in Design, Drama Desk, three Lucille Lortels, two American Theatre Wing Henry Hewes, Helen Hayes, USA Fellowship, and Ani Ng Dangal Philippine Presidential Medals for the Arts. He is the Visual Director for Lincoln Center's Summer for the City. He sits on the American Theatre Wing advisory board and is one of the founders of Design Action, advocating for a more equitable landscape for American theater design. @clinramos

MARY-MITCHELL CAMPBELL (*Encores! Music Director*) has served as the music supervisor or director for many Broadway shows including *Some Like It Hot, The Prom, Mean Girls, Tuck Everlasting, Finding Neverland, Big Fish, The Addams Family, Company, and Sweeney Todd*. She has conducted the Chicago Symphony, the Cincinnati Symphony, the Dallas Symphony, the Nashville Symphony, and was recently named an Imagination Artist for the Colorado Symphony. Campbell is passionate about arts education and access to arts education for marginalized communities. She is the Founder of Arts Ignite (artsignite.org) which recruits and trains high-level artists to teach young people health education and life skills through the arts. She is very active in Maestra (maestramusic.org)



and MUSE - Musicians United for Social Equity.
Museonline.org

JENNY GERSTEN (*VP & Producer, Musical Theater*) also serves as Line Producer for the *Beetlejuice* National Tour and with Half Zip Productions was one of the partners for City Center's production of *Once Upon a Mattress* on Broadway (also produced cast album). Previously she produced Alex Edelman's acclaimed *Just For Us* on Broadway, the Off Broadway "pie shop" production of *Sweeney Todd*, and Gavin Creel's musical, *Walk on Through* with MCC. Upcoming: *Downstate*. Formerly the Artistic Director of the Williamstown Theatre Festival, Executive Director of Friends of the High Line, Associate Producer of The Public Theater, and Creative Producer for Virgin Voyages.

MICHAEL S. ROSENBERG (*President & CEO*) has a long and distinguished career of leading performing arts institutions to nurture artists, expand audiences, and engage communities. Beginning with Drama Dept. (the Greenwich Village artist collective he co-founded in the '90s) and carrying through to the present, he has helped develop works by playwrights, songwriters, choreographers, directors, authors, designers, visual artists, and students. As Managing Director of La Jolla Playhouse, Rosenberg worked with Artistic Director Christopher Ashley and the staff to oversee the development and production of a host of acclaimed productions, many of which transferred to Broadway, Off-Broadway, and the West End—including the international smash hit *Come from Away*. More recently, as Managing Director of McCarter Theatre Center, Rosenberg was part of the evolution of the historic theater, expanding programming to include family-friendly performances and multidisciplinary events. His work in building diversity, equity, and inclusion encompasses artists, audiences, and administrators alike.

NEW YORK CITY CENTER has played a defining role in the cultural life of the city since 1943. The distinctive Neo-Moorish building was founded by Mayor Fiorello La Guardia as Manhattan's first performing arts center with the mission of making the best in theater, dance, and music accessible to all audiences. This commitment continues today through celebrated dance and musical theater series like the Fall for Dance Festival and the Tony-honored Encores! series; the annual season by Principal Dance Company Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater; and the artist-curated Artists at the Center series. City Center welcomes audiences to experience internationally acclaimed artists on the same stage where legends made their mark. Dedicated to a culture built on the values of curiosity, collaboration, accessibility, and inclusivity, City Center's dynamic programming, art exhibitions, and studio events are complemented by education and community engagement programs that bring the performing arts to thousands of New York City students, teachers, and families every year.



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Sutton Foster in Encores! *Once Upon a Mattress*, Tiffany Mann in Encores! *Jelly's Last Jam*; photos by Joan Marcus