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NEW YORK, NY 10019  
NYCITYCENTER.ORG

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**New York City Center announces additional casting for  
Annual Gala Presentation  
*Ragtime*  
directed by Lear deBessonet**

**Colin Donnell, Ben Levi Ross, Shaina Taub, and Joy Woods  
join Joshua Henry, Caissie Levy, and Brandon Uranowitz**

**Oct 30 – Nov 10; Tickets from \$45 (fees included) on sale now**

**JULY 24, 2024 (NEW YORK, NY)**—NEW YORK CITY CENTER today announced additional casting for the Annual Gala Presentation *Ragtime*, directed by Tony nominated Encores! Artistic Director **Lear deBessonet**.

Joining the cast are **Colin Donnell** (*The Shark is Broken*) as Father, **Ben Levi Ross** (*Dear Evan Hansen*) as Younger Brother, recent Tony winner **Shaina Taub** (*Suffs*) as Emma Goldman, and **Joy Woods** (*The Notebook*) as Sarah.

Winner of four Tony Awards in 1998, *Ragtime* follows three fictional families in pursuit of the American Dream at the turn of the 20th century: Black pianist Coalhouse Walker Jr. (**Joshua Henry**) and his sweetheart Sarah; a wealthy white family led by Mother (**Caissie Levy**); and Latvian immigrant Tateh (**Brandon Uranowitz**) along with his Little Girl. This sweeping, powerful musical adaptation of E.L. Doctorow's novel of the same name features music by **Stephen Flaherty**, lyrics by **Lynn Ahrens**, and a book by **Terrence McNally**. Directed by Lear deBessonet, *Ragtime* features music direction by **James Moore** and choreography by **Ellenore Scott**.

Casting for *Ragtime* is by **The Telsey Office/Craig Burns**, CSA.

*Ragtime* opens October 30 with a benefit performance followed by a gala dinner at the Ziegfeld Ballroom honoring original *Ragtime* Broadway cast member and City Center alum **Brian Stokes Mitchell**

and **Denise Littlefield Sobel**, philanthropist and generous longtime supporter of City Center. Presented in a special two-week run through November 10, funds raised from all performances help ensure the future of City Center's founding mission: to provide all New Yorkers affordable access to world-class performing arts.

Expanding City Center's mission to make the arts accessible to everyone, the run of *Ragtime* includes a **Lynne & Richard Pasculano Student Matinee** for Grades 6 – 12 (Nov 7), a post-show **Community Night** (Nov 8, 7:30pm), and a performance offering **ASL Interpretation** (Nov 7 at 7:30pm). For additional information visit [NYCityCenter.org](https://nycitycenter.org). **City Center Access Club** is available to those 40 years of age and under and offers a limited number of \$28 tickets (fees included) to City Center productions. For more information and to sign up, visit [NYCityCenter.org/Access](https://nycitycenter.org/Access).

### **Tickets and General Information**

Tickets from \$45 (fees included) can be purchased online at [NYCityCenter.org](https://nycitycenter.org), by calling 212.581.1212, or in person at the City Center Box Office (reopening Aug 19). Gala packages start at \$2,500. For more details, contact [SpecialEvents@NYCityCenter.org](mailto:SpecialEvents@NYCityCenter.org) or call 212.763.1205. New York City Center is located at 131 W 55th St between Sixth and Seventh avenues.

Casting subject to change.

### **Annual Gala Presentation**

#### ***Ragtime***

**Oct 30 – Nov 10, 2024**

Week One:

Wed 6pm *Gala Performance*, Thu & Fri 7:30pm, Sat 2 & 7:30pm, Sun 2 & 7pm

Week Two:

Wed – Fri 7:30pm, Sat 2 & 7:30pm, Sun 2 & 7pm

Book by **Terrence McNally**

Music by **Stephen Flaherty**

Lyrics by **Lynn Ahrens**

Based on the novel *Ragtime* by **E.L. Doctorow**

Choreographer **Ellenore Scott**

Music Director **James Moore**

Director **Lear deBessonnet**

Featuring **Colin Donnell, Joshua Henry, Caissie Levy, Ben Levi Ross, Shaina Taub, Brandon Uranowitz,** and **Joy Woods**

*Ragtime* is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. [www.mtishows.com](http://www.mtishows.com)



Major support for New York City Center is provided by the Howard Gilman Foundation.

Support for the Ann Reinking Encores! Choreography Fellowship is provided by Bloomberg Philanthropies and Peter Talbert in honor of Ann Reinking.

Community Nights are made possible by the Jerome L. Greene Foundation Fund in the New York Community Trust.

**NEW YORK CITY CENTER** (Michael S. Rosenberg, President & CEO) has played a defining role in the cultural life of the city for more than 80 years. The distinctive Neo-Moorish building was founded by Mayor Fiorello La Guardia in 1943 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, Artists at the Center, the Tony-honored Encores! series, and the annual season by Principal Dance Company Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. City Center welcomes audiences to experience internationally acclaimed artists including Kyle Abraham, Matthew Bourne, Ayodele Casel, Manhattan Theatre Club, Nederlands Dans Theater, and Twyla Tharp, 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 a full slate of education and community engagement programs that bring the performing arts to thousands of New York City students, teachers, and families every year. [NYCityCenter.org](http://NYCityCenter.org)

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