

NEW YORK CITY CENTER

AT THE CENTER OF THE ARTS FOR 75 YEARS

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New York City Center announces 2019 Encores! Off-Center season

***Working: A Musical*, June 26 – 29**

***Promenade*, July 10 & 11**

***Road Show*, July 24 – 27**

Popular summer series concludes landmark 75th Anniversary Season

**Advance access to tickets through new 3-Show Pack
starting January 14 for Members, January 18 for Access City Center Club**

December 18, 2018/NEW YORK, NY—Encores! Off-Center Artistic Director Anne Kauffman today announced programming for the 2019 season of New York City Center’s popular summer musical theater series which concludes the landmark 75th Anniversary Season. The Encores! Off-Center series begins, June 26 through 29, with an updated version of Nina Fasso and Stephen Schwartz’s ***Working: A Musical***, including songs by Craig Carnelia, Micki Grant, Lin-Manuel Miranda, Mary Rodgers and Susan Birkhead, and James Taylor. The production will be directed by **Kauffman**. The two-night-only presentation (July 10 & 11) will feature pillars of the experimental theater movement Al Carmines and Maria Irene Fornés’ ***Promenade***, directed by **Laurie Woolery**. Closing out the season is Stephen Sondheim and John Weidman’s ***Road Show***, July 24 through 27, directed and choreographed by **Will Davis**.

“These three shows represent a status update on the American Dream. How are we defining success and freedom these days and who in this country has access to them,” said Kauffman. “Off-Center is all about bringing the cutting-edge artists of today into contact with the groundbreaking works from the past. What is so vital about theater, whether we’re talking about a revival or a new work, is that it is a living, breathing thing that takes shape in the *exact* moment an audience sees it.”

2019 Encores! Off-Center Season



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An impassioned documentation of the people who make America run, ***Working*** (2019) explores the lives of working class men and women who are so often taken for granted. Based on the **Studs Terkel** best-selling book, the musical has gone through several updates—the latest of which adds two songs by **Lin-Manuel Miranda** to an already illustrious list of songwriters. ***Promenade*** (1965) follows two escaped prisoners, known only as 105 and 106, as they run through The City, mingling with an assortment of characters from the poor and homeless to the extremely wealthy—**Maria Irene Fornés'** absurdist look at the haves and have-nots features music by **Al Carmines** which ranges in style from rock to blues to Noel Coward and Puccini. **Stephen Sondheim** and **John Weidman's *Road Show*** (2003) tells the somewhat true story of two brothers who inherit a small fortune at the turn of the 20th Century and grab their piece of the American Dream in a country where anything seems possible.

The Civilians will once again team up with New York City Center as Artists-in-Residence for **The Lobby Project**, a series of free, pre-performance events presented in conjunction with Encores! Off-Center productions.

In keeping with City Center's founding mission to make the arts accessible to all New Yorkers, many Off-Center tickets are \$25.

Encores! Off-Center 3-Show Pack

New this season, Off-Center audiences will have advance access to prime seats by purchasing a **3-Show Pack**. The package offers all buyers the option to choose their seats for each production in advance of single ticket sales in March, as well as saving on handling fees.

City Center Members will have first access to the 3-Show Pack beginning January 14, followed by the Access City Center Club on January 18, and general public on January 22. **Access City Center Club** (previously Peer to Peer) is free and provides special ticket offers to City Center productions, including early access to Encores Off-Center's \$25 tickets. The program is newly expanded this season to include anyone 35 years of age or younger. The 3-Show Pack can only be purchased online at NYCityCenter.org or by calling 212.581.1212. **NO BOX OFFICE?**



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Single tickets for all three productions go on sale to Members March 25, followed by Access City Center Club on March 29, and general public on April 1. Tickets can be purchased online at NYCityCenter.org, by calling 212.581.1212, or in person at the City Center Box Office (131 West 55th Street between 6th and 7th Avenues).

New York City Center gratefully acknowledges 75th Anniversary Season Sponsors Stacey and Eric Mindich and the Howard Gilman Foundation; Encores! Off-Center Series Sponsors Stacy Bash-Polley, Luigi Caiola and Sean McGill, Elizabeth and Dean Kehler, Andrew Martin-Weber, the Stacey and Eric Mindich Fund for Musical Theater and Nathalie and Pablo Salame, with Major Support provided by Paula and Ira Resnick.

The Lobby Project is sponsored by The Frederick Loewe Foundation.

In addition, City Center thanks Lisa and Richard Witten for their generous support in establishing the Artistic Innovation Fund and The Jerome L. Greene Foundation and Blanchette Hooker Rockefeller Fund for their generous support of the Arts Access Fund.

Encores! Off-Center (Anne Kauffman, Artistic Director; Jeanine Tesori, Creative Advisor) was founded in 2013 with the mission of presenting 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 speak to audiences both new and old. *The New York Times* has called Encores! Off-Center "a summer theater highlight," with past productions including *Violet* with Sutton Foster; *tick, tick...BOOM!* with Lin-Manuel Miranda; *Little Shop of Horrors* with Ellen Greene and Jake Gyllenhaal; *The Bubbly Black Girl Sheds Her Chameleon Skin* with Nikki M. James; and Jason Robert Brown's *Songs for a New World*.

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



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founded by Mayor Fiorello La Guardia with the mission of making the best in music, theater, and dance accessible to all audiences. That mission continues today through robust education and community engagement programs which bring the performing arts to over 9,000 New York City students each year and the expansion of the theatrical experience to include art exhibitions, pre-show talks, and master classes that offer an up-close look at the work of the great theater and dance artists of our time. NYCityCenter.org

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