

NEW YORK CITY CENTER

AT THE CENTER OF THE ARTS FOR 75 YEARS

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New York City Center announces landmark 75th Anniversary Season, October 2018 – July 2019

**Programming highlights include 15th Fall for Dance Festival,
Balanchine: The City Center Years, Encores!, Dorrance Dance,
and Natalia Osipova and David Hallberg**

Gala Presentation of *A Chorus Line* will honor Stacy Bash-Polley

Two special archival exhibitions at NYPL for the Performing Arts and City Center

First-ever visual art commissioning program

Two-week tour of the five boroughs bringing performances and classes to local communities

MAY 16, 2018/NEW YORK, NY – New York City Center President & CEO **Arlene Shuler** today announced programming and a series of artistic and community initiatives for the 2018 – 2019 season in celebration of New York City Center’s **75th Anniversary Season**.

Originally built in 1923 by the Ancient Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine (The Shriners) as a meeting hall called Mecca Temple, the distinctive neo-Moorish theater in Midtown Manhattan known as New York City Center was saved from the wrecking ball by Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia and City Council President Newbold Morris, reopening in 1943 as Manhattan’s first performing arts center. Charged with the civic mission to present the best in the performing arts for all audiences, “the people’s theater” served as a place where dance, theater, opera, and music could all be enjoyed under one roof. In the years that followed, luminaries like Leonard Bernstein, Barbara Cook, José Ferrer, Helen Hayes, Marcel Marceau, Paul Robeson, Beverly Sills, and Orson Welles would all perform on the City Center stage. George Balanchine and Lincoln Kirstein famously established New York City Ballet, Laszlo Halasz founded New York City Opera, the Joffrey Ballet began a thirty-year residency, and the list continues. Seventy-five years on, City Center remains at the center of the arts in New York.



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This rich history will be celebrated in two striking archival exhibitions—one at the **New York Public Library for the Performing Arts at Lincoln Center**, on view October 23 – March 2, and the other in a revolving installation at City Center itself, on view for the duration of the season. The exhibits will bring together a wide range of archival materials—many of which will be exhibited for the first time—providing a broad perspective on City Center’s first 75 years. Highlights of the Library’s exhibit, titled *The People’s Theater: Celebrating 75 years of New York City Center*, include a 35-foot, three-dimensional wall of the great dancers who have performed at City Center from the very first—The Ballet Russe of Monte Carlo—to recent standouts from the Fall for Dance Festival and cases filled with treasures from the building’s construction and original interior decoration to props from twenty-five years of Encores! productions. A special gallery of nearly 20 Hirschfeld drawings and prints documenting virtually the entire history of theater, dance, music, and opera at City Center will be exhibited on the Library’s second floor. In addition, the Library will host two talks in connection with the exhibit.

2018 Fall Season Programming

The landmark season will pay tribute to the institution’s past and celebrate its singular role in the arts today beginning with the **15th Fall for Dance Festival** (Oct 1 – 13), showcasing an international array of dance artists and companies in five unique programs. The first Fall for Dance was held in 2004 with the goal of building a new audience for dance. In his closing night review of that inaugural season, Jack Anderson wrote in *The New York Times*, “Fall for Dance has proved to be the brightest idea to light up the New York dance scene in a long time.” In celebration of the milestone year, the ten-day festival will feature six world premiere commissions from **Gemma Bond, Annabelle Lopez Ochoa, Justin Peck, Sonya Tayeh, Caleb Teicher, and Jennifer Weber**. In keeping with City Center’s founding mission to make the arts accessible to the widest possible audience, all tickets for Fall for Dance are \$15. City Center will kick-off the celebratory season by opening its doors early on October 1—inviting audience members for a champagne toast while touring the archive exhibit and taking in pop-up dance performances from **MOVE(NYC), Caleb Teicher**, and others.

Beginning on October 31 (through Nov 4), City Center will celebrate choreographer George Balanchine and the historic work he created for New York City Ballet while the company was in residence. Over six programs, an international roster of eight prestigious companies will represent ballets both made at City Center and popular works performed as part of New York City Ballet’s regular seasons at the historic theater from 1948 – 1964.

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The monumental festival titled **Balanchine: The City Center Years** will feature performances by **American Ballet Theatre, Joffrey Ballet, Mariinsky Ballet, Miami City Ballet, New York City Ballet, Paris Opera Ballet, The Royal Ballet, and San Francisco Ballet**, accompanied by the **New York City Ballet Orchestra**. The festival will be complemented by two special Studio 5 programs on October 25 and 29.

Equally rooted in the institution's history, the life of the Broadway dancer will be celebrated in the Annual Gala Presentation of ***A Chorus Line*** (Nov 14 – 18), led by **Bob Avian** (original co-choreographer) and **Baayork Lee** (Connie, original cast) with music direction by **Patrick Vaccariello**. The first performance, on November 14, will honor City Center Board Member **Stacy Bash-Polley**, a longtime partner at Goldman Sachs and founding supporter of Encores! Off-Center. Funds raised at all seven performances of *A Chorus Line* will allow City Center to make the performing arts accessible to the widest possible audience by subsidizing affordable tickets throughout the year.

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater first brought the City Center audience to its feet during the 1971 season, returning the following year as City Center's first resident modern dance company. Their annual season, opening November 28 (through Dec 30), will feature repertory from a wide range of choreographers, including premieres, new productions, repertory favorites, and Alvin Ailey's must-see American masterpiece *Revelations* (with live music on select programs). A special program on December 11 will be presented in celebration of City Center's opening performance in 1943.

2019 Winter – Spring Programming

Musical theater played an integral role in the institution's success in the early years with productions of classics like *Carousel*, *Oklahoma!*, and *Show Boat* all gracing the stage. City Center's influence on American musical theater was galvanized when the first season on the Tony-honored Encores! series was presented in 1994. Led by Artistic Director Jack Viertel and Music Director Rob Berman, the 2019 season will revisit Irving Berlin's ***Call Me Madam*** (1950), originally mounted for the second Encores! season in 1995. The series will also pay tribute to two titans of the dance world whose careers are profoundly linked to City Center and made a name for themselves on Broadway: George Balanchine and Jerome Robbins. The 1938 Rodgers and Hart musical comedy ***Married an Angel*** featured choreography by Balanchine and starred his then wife Vera Zorina in the title role.

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For the Encores! production, **Joshua Bergasse** will direct and choreograph for his soon-to-be wife NYCB principal dancer **Sara Mearns** as the Angel. The third Encores! show will be **High Button Shoes** (1947), music by Jule

Styne, lyrics by Sammy Cahn, and book by Stephen Longstreet, which features a ten-minute dance number, choreographed by Robbins, known as “The Bathing Beauty Ballet.” **MasterVoices** will also celebrate City Center’s rich musical theater history with a special tribute concert performance featuring Victoria Clark in Kurt Weill and Ira Gershwin’s **Lady in the Dark** (Apr 25 & 26), last presented in New York City as part of the inaugural Encores! season.

The spring season will host a series of limited engagements showcasing the leading dancers of today and offering a glimpse at City Center’s next seventy-five years. Tap sensation **Michelle Dorrance** and her company **Dorrance Dance** return to City Center (Mar 28 – 30) for their largest solo engagement to date. The program includes a re-imaging of her 2013 piece, *SOUNDspace*, and world premieres by Dorrance and **Bill Irwin**, commissioned by New York City Center. In April, international ballet stars **Natalia Osipova** and **David Hallberg** will appear in a US premiere by Alexei Ratmansky, co-commissioned by New York City Center and Sadler’s Wells. Appearing alongside the legendary partners will be Jonathan Goddard and Jason Kittelberger in a repertory evening of classic and contemporary works by Anthony Tudor, Roy Assaf, and a second US premiere by Ivan Pérez (commissioned by Sadler’s Wells). **Nederlands Dans Theater 2** and **Dance Theatre of Harlem** will also appear during the spring, and Flamenco superstar **Sara Baras** returns as part of the annual Flamenco Festival (Mar 7 – 10).

The acclaimed **Encores! Off-Center** series returns in summer 2019. Programming for the Off-Center season will be announced at a later date.

Visual Art Commissions

In honor of the 75th Anniversary Season, City Center will mount a program of visual art commissions for the first time in its history. The first of these commissions will be by conceptual artist and native New Yorker **Lawrence Weiner**, whose language-based work has been widely exhibited around the world. Weiner’s piece will be his response to the City Center building and installed in the east and west stair landings connecting the main



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auditorium's Orchestra-level and Grand Tier lobbies. The work will be on view to all who enter the theater. Notepads that incorporate the design will be distributed free of charge to audiences throughout the season. During his initial site visit, Weiner mentioned that he was not, in fact, taking on new projects but was inspired to change his mind and create this work for City Center after walking through the theater and recalling fond memories of attending performances as a young man.

The second commission will be by photographer **Nina Robinson**, who focuses on portraiture and documentary work. Based in Arkansas and New York, Robinson's photography has been exhibited at the Bronx Documentary Center, the Bronx Museum, and Mosaic Templars Cultural Center. Robinson will capture theater and dance artists throughout the historic building and in the spaces in which they live and create. The life-size photographs will be on view to the general public beginning TK in the through-block passage adjacent to City Center (between 55th and 56th streets,) inviting our community to appreciate Robinson's work free of charge.

The third commission will be by Spanish-born architect, professor, and artist **Jorge Otero-Pailos**, who will create an immersive installation in The Harkness Studio at City Center. Otero-Pailos has been commissioned by and exhibited at several major art institutions including the 53rd Venice Art Biennial and the Louis Vuitton Galerie Museum, and received the 2012 UNESCO Eminent Professional Award. His piece will evoke concepts of history, memory, and impermanence through the fabrication of latex casts of the studio's surfaces, which will be illuminated by light boxes placed throughout the large rehearsal room. The latex casts will lift the dust and other residue left on the surfaces of the studio by those who use it as a creative space. The accompanying sound score will be a collage of choreographer Merce Cunningham's voice and sounds from rehearsals. The installation will be on view for three week-long exhibitions— in October 2018, March 2019, and April/May 2019—and will be free to the public.

Community Programs

Expanding its mission to make the best in the performing arts accessible to all, City Center will embark on a two-week tour of the five boroughs, bringing the extraordinary artists from its stage directly to New Yorkers in their neighborhoods. The inaugural tour will engage communities with world-class dance without boundaries through a series of free performances and interactive classes featuring Bronx-born choreographer, teacher, and tap artist **Ayodele Casel**. A frequent City Center collaborator and 2017 recipient of the "Hooper Award," Casel will be



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joined by two dancers and two musicians for an electric presentation. City Center has partnered with the **NYC Parks Department** to select five tour stops from among their 64 recreation centers—sharing Casel’s singular style with the broadest possible cross-section of New Yorkers.

The **Museum of the City of New York** will celebrate City Center’s milestone anniversary with a series of talks and live performances centered around the institution’s history of musical theater performances, curated by and featuring Encores! Artistic Director Jack Viertel.

Throughout the season, City Center will continue to bring the backstage center stage with talks and master classes offering audiences an intimate exchange with today’s leading artists. The popular **Studio 5** series will offer behind-the-scenes conversations and performances featuring today’s great dance artists, with a special focus on the institution’s historic impact on the New York dance community. The series will be expanded to twice the number of events starting on Thursday, October 25, with former NYCB principal dancer and “Balanchine ballerina” **Heather Watts**, who will explore the repertory being presented during *Balanchine: The City Center Years* with excerpts performed by NYCB principal dancers **Tiler Peck** and **Jared Angle**, accompanied by pianist **Cameron Grant**. On October 29, a Studio 5 event showing the specialized training that goes into the making of a Balanchine dancer will be presented in partnership with the School of American Ballet. Full programming will be announced later. Offering a unique opportunity for emerging musical theater artists to explore everything from composition and auditioning to vocal technique with Broadway luminaries, the master class series **Front & Center** returns for its third season with sessions led by **Stephanie J. Block** on February 4 and **Lea Salonga** on May 6. A third master class will be announced at a later date.

Tickets and General Information

Performance-only tickets for *A Chorus Line* go on sale June 4 for Members and June 18 for the General Public. *Balanchine: The City Center Years* will go on sale to Members on June 25 and to the General Public on July 9. All remaining performances will go on sale Tuesday, September 4 (Members August 27), except for the 15th Fall for Dance Festival, which will go on sale Sunday, September 9 at 11am. Current subscribers may renew their Encores! subscriptions now through June 22. New Encores! subscriptions for Members are available starting July 30 and for the General Public starting August 6.

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Tickets can be purchased online at NYCityCenter.org, by calling 212.581.1212, or in person at the City Center Box Office. The City Center Box Office will be closed July 29 through September 3. New York City Center is located at 131 W 55th St between Sixth and Seventh avenues.

NEW YORK CITY CENTER (Arlene Shuler, President & CEO) has played a defining role in the cultural life of the city since 1943. 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, founded 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.

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75th Anniversary Season October 2018 – July 2019

15th Fall for Dance Festival

October 1 – 13, 2018

All tickets \$15

The 15th annual Fall for Dance Festival will feature 20 acclaimed international dance companies and artists in five unique programs, including six world premiere commissions from Gemma Bond, Annabelle Lopez Ochoa, Justin Peck, Sonya Tayeh, Caleb Teicher, and Jennifer Weber. In keeping with the Festival's founding mission to make dance accessible to everyone, all tickets are \$15.

The international ten-day Festival will include performances by Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Ballet Hispánico, Boston Ballet, Compagnie Hervé KOUBI, Dance Theatre of Harlem, Introdans, Lil Buck, National Ballet of China, Pam Tanowitz Dance, Paul Taylor Dance Company, Sara Mearns, Tiler Peck, and more.

Full program details will be announced in August.

Balanchine: The City Center Years

October 31 – November 4, 2018

Tickets start at \$35

The brilliance and exhilaration of George Balanchine's City Center years is presented in this unprecedented celebration with six different programs featuring eight of the world's great ballet companies – American Ballet Theatre, Joffrey Ballet, Mariinsky Ballet, Miami City Ballet, New York City Ballet, Paris Opera Ballet, The Royal Ballet, and San Francisco Ballet.

In 1948 George Balanchine and Lincoln Kirstein founded New York City Ballet at City Center. A time of incendiary creative revolution and experimentation, it was here that Balanchine continued to develop his definitive style, which remains at the pinnacle of modern ballet. Many of Balanchine's iconic ballets from that time had world or US premieres at City Center. The repertoire chosen for City Center's Balanchine tribute (four companies perform to live music by the New York City Ballet Orchestra on each slate) ranges from early seminal works and monuments of modernism to essentials of classicism.

Full program details, Studio 5 events, and special archive exhibit will be announced in June.

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Annual Gala Presentation

A Chorus Line

Conceived and Originally Directed and Choreographed by Michael Bennett

Book by James Kirkwood and Nicholas Dante

Music by Marvin Hamlisch

Lyrics by Edward Kleban

Co-Choreographed by Bob Avian

Original Broadway production produced by the New York Shakespeare Festival, Joseph Papp, Producer, in association with Plum Productions, Inc.

November 14 – 18, 2018

Tickets* start at \$50

(*Performance only)

In 1975, the stories of seventeen Broadway dancers were brought to life when *A Chorus Line* opened Off-Broadway. Directed and choreographed by Michael Bennett, with book by James Kirkwood and Nicholas Dante, music by Marvin Hamlisch and lyrics by Edward Kleban, the musical was born of workshop sessions with actual Broadway dancers (eight of whom appeared in the original cast) who laid bare their personal stories and the challenges they faced in pursuit of their dreams. This ultimate tribute to the life of the Broadway dancer received twelve Tony Award nominations, winning nine—in addition to the 1976 Pulitzer Prize for Drama. Following a Broadway run of 6,137 performances (holding the title of longest-running Broadway production until 1997), national tours, and international productions, *A Chorus Line* continues to be a platform for fresh talent which will be showcased in this Annual Gala Presentation led by Bob Avian (original co-choreographer) and Baayork Lee (Connie, original cast) with music direction by Patrick Vaccariello. The performance on November 14 will honor City Center Board Member Stacy Bash-Polley.

Funds raised at all seven performances of *A Chorus Line* will allow City Center to make the performing arts accessible to the widest possible audience by subsidizing affordable tickets throughout the year. Gala tickets are available at \$2,500, \$5,000, \$7,500, and \$10,000. Tables of ten are available at \$25,000, \$50,000, \$75,000, and \$100,000. For further information, please contact SStrebel@NYCityCenter.org or call 212.763.1205.

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Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

November 28 – December 30, 2018

Tickets start at \$29

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, New York City Center's Principal Dance Company and America's beloved cultural ambassador to the world, returns with exciting performances that have become a joyous holiday tradition. Visionary Artistic Director Robert Battle leads the Company forward sixty years after its founding by the pioneering founder Alvin Ailey, a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom—the nation's highest civilian honor. Ailey's renowned dancers will inspire audiences with a diverse repertory featuring a wide range of choreographers, including premieres, new productions, repertory favorites, and Alvin Ailey's must-see American masterpiece *Revelations* (with live music on select programs). A special program on December 11 will be presented in celebration of City Center's opening performance in 1943. www.alvinailey.org

Press contact: Christopher Zunner, CZunner@AlvinAiley.org or 212.405.9028

For photos, visit pressroom.alvinailey.org

Nederlands Dans Theatre 2 (NDT 2)

Sleight of Hand Choreography by Sol León & Paul Lightfoot

Wir sagen uns Dunkles Choreography by Marco Goecke

SH-BOOM! Choreography by Sol León & Paul Lightfoot

January 16 – 19, 2019

Tickets start at \$25

Nederlands Dans Theater (NDT) is one of the world's leading contemporary dance companies. In 1978, the second division of the company, NDT 2, was founded to develop young talent for the main company. In the meantime, NDT 2 has developed into an independent company with its very own repertory, under the artistic direction of Nancy Euverink. Following the success of NDT's 2016 engagement at City Center, NDT 2 will kick-off their US tour with a program of established repertory. *Sleight of Hand* choreographed by NDT's house choreographers Sol León and Paul Lightfoot was created in 2007. The atmospheric ballet for eight dancers marked a new, more theatrical direction for the choreographic duo in which a dark world full of sinister characters and strange perspectives in time and space are set to music by Philip Glass. The overwhelmingly explosive *Wir sagen uns Dunkles* (2017), from NDT associate choreographer Marco Goecke, dramatizes the complexities of the encounters between dancers and choreographer, and *SH-BOOM!* (1994) by León & Lightfoot as well commenced the choreographic duo's successful, long-term collaboration with a work that expresses how people from different backgrounds relate to one another.

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Encores!

Call Me Madam

Music and Lyrics by Irving Berlin

Book by Howard Lindsay and Russel Crouse

February 6 – 10, 2019

Tickets start at \$35

Call Me Madam was the highlight of the second season of Encores! (1995) and the show that put the series on the map for the first time. With a memorable score by Irving Berlin, and a book by Howard Lindsay and Russell Crouse, *Call Me Madam* centers around a brassy ambassador to the fictional European nation of Lichtenberg. The show pokes fun at a far more polite and benign political world than the one we live in today and features standards including “It’s a Lovely Day Today” and “Something to Dance About,” along with Berlin’s most famous counterpoint duet, “You’re Just in Love.”

Presented by New York City Center and Flamenco Festival

Ballet Flamenco Sara Baras

Shadows

Choreography by Sara Baras

Guest artist and choreographer José Serrano

Music by Keko Baldomero

Set paintings by Andrés Mérida

Text by Santana de Yepes

Lighting Design by Óscar Gómez de los Reyes

Costume Design by Luis F. Dos Santos

In collaboration with Ara Malikian and featuring guest artist

March 7 – 10, 2019

Tickets start at \$35

Celebrated for her brilliant footwork and captivating stage presence, Flamenco superstar Sara Baras (2015 Flamenco Festival) has attained international fame and earned dozens of prestigious awards for a career spanning more than 20 years. Baras returns to City Center with her company, Ballet Flamenco Sara Baras, in her latest work, *Shadows*. Set to a score by music director and guitarist Keko Baldomero, *Shadows* combines both traditional and modern flamenco with Baras’ trademark take on La Farruca—traditionally danced by male flamenco dancers—and features guest artist José Serrano.

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Encores!

Rodgers & Hart's

I Married an Angel

Music by Richard Rodgers

Lyrics by Lorenz Hart

Book by Richard Rodgers and Lorenz Hart

Adapted from the play by Janos Vaszary

March 20 – 24, 2019

Tickets start at \$35

Rodgers and Hart's third major collaboration with choreographer George Balanchine, *I Married an Angel*, is one of a handful of shows from the 1930s that was yearning to find the key to a new kind of musical—more sophisticated and innately theatrical than the average vaudeville-inspired productions of the Jazz Age. The originality of this show consists of blending a drawing room comedy with serious and extended dance sequences. The angel of the title is just that—an angel—and she descends from heaven to save an unhappy, and

rather unscrupulous, banker from his sins. Balanchine cast his then wife, Vera Zorina, as the Angel and created a series of spectacular dances to show her off. In a happy bit of symmetry, the Encores! production will be directed and choreographed by Joshua Bergasse for his soon-to-be wife, New York City Ballet principal dancer Sara Mearns.

Dorrance Dance

March 28 – 30, 2019

Tickets start at \$35

Founded in 2011 by artistic director and 2015 MacArthur Fellow Michelle Dorrance (2016 – 2017 City Center Choreography Fellow), Dorrance Dance has received countless accolades and performed to packed houses all over the world. A highlight of the Fall for Dance Festival (2013, 2015, and 2017), the company returns to City Center for the 75th Anniversary Season with world premieres by Dorrance and Bill Irwin, commissioned by New York City Center, classic Dorrance Dance repertory with live music, and a re-imaging of her 2013 piece *SOUNDspace*—a site-specific work originally created as an exploration of the unique acoustics of New York City's St. Mark's Church.

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Natalia Osipova, David Hallberg & Artists

US Premiere Choreography by Alexei Ratmansky

US Premiere Choreography by Ivan Pérez

Leaves are Fading Choreography by Antony Tudor

Six Years Later Choreography by Roy Assaf

April 4 – 7, 2019

Tickets start at \$35

For this special evening of classic and contemporary works, award-winning ballerina Natalia Osipova reunites with ballet star David Hallberg in a US premiere by choreographer Alexei Ratmansky, co-commissioned by New York City Center and Sadler's Wells. Appearing alongside the legendary partners will be Jonathan Goddard and Jason Kittelberger in repertory by Antony Tudor, Roy Assaf, and a second US premiere by Ivan Pérez (commissioned by Sadler's Wells).

Dance Theatre of Harlem

April 10 – 13, 2019

Tickets start at \$35

Dance Theatre of Harlem is a ballet company of diverse artists who perform an eclectic, demanding repertoire that defines the range of classical ballet. The company celebrates its 50th Anniversary during the 2019 City Center engagement with programming that reflects its historic past and lays the groundwork for the next 50 years. Full program details to be announced.

Press contact: Keyana K. Patterson, KPatterson@dancetheatreofharlem.org or 212.690.2800

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MasterVoices

Lady in the Dark

Music by Kurt Weill

Lyrics by Ira Gershwin

Book by Moss Hart

April 25 & 26, 2019

Tickets start at \$30

This groundbreaking 1941 musical has become a cult classic, with music by Kurt Weill, lyrics by Ira Gershwin, and a libretto by Moss Hart. Considered startlingly avant-garde for its structure and content, *Lady in the Dark* is a psychological probing of the balancing act required to be happy in both our personal and professional lives – to “have it all.” Presented in tribute to City Center’s Encores! series, this world premiere concert version, conceived by MasterVoices’ Tony Award-winning Artistic Director Ted Sperling (*Light in the Piazza*, *My Fair Lady*), is based on a newly-released critical edition by the Kurt Weill Foundation. Starring the inimitable Victoria Clark (*Gigi*, *Cinderella*), supported by the 100+ voice MasterVoices chorus, Doug Varone and Dancers, and Orchestra of St. Luke’s, *Lady in the Dark* has not been seen in New York since it was presented as part of the inaugural Encores! season in 1994.

Press contact: MasterVoices, info@mastervoices.org or 646.202.9623

Encores!

High Button Shoes

Music by Jule Styne

Lyrics by Sammy Cahn

Book by Stephen Longstreet

May 8 – 12, 2019

Tickets start at \$35

The rarely seen *High Button Shoes* contains, among other treasures, Jerome Robbins’ Mack Sennett-style ballet, set to the Jule Styne-Sammy Cahn song “On a Sunday by the Sea,” which delivered ten minutes of complete mayhem including bathing beauties, Keystone Kops, mustachioed crooks, and, for no particular reason, a dancing gorilla. All this and more—yes, even the Rutgers football team—feature in this adventure of a traveling con-man caught up in rural, small town New Jersey. The Styne and Cahn score produced two big hits from its day, “Papa, Won’t You Dance with Me” and “I Still Get Jealous.”

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Eifman Ballet of St. Petersburg

Pygmalion (NY Premiere)

Boris Eifman, Artistic Director

June 7 – 9, 2019

Tickets start at \$60

For 40 years, across a shifting political climate for artists in his native Russia, the defiantly controversial choreographer Boris Eifman has created “works that hinge on extreme theatricality, acrobatic pas de deux, and spectacular effects” (*The New Yorker*) for his St. Petersburg company. In Eifman’s productions, the costumes are sumptuous, the dancing is exquisite, and the drama is riveting—here, the company dances a brand-new ballet inspired by the Greek myth *Pygmalion*, set to a score by Johan Strauss, Jr. “...this Russian dancemaker and his dancers are among the most fascinating artists before the public today” (*San Francisco Chronicle*).

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