

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

New York City Center announces re-opening for in-person performances with full calendar of programs for 2021 – 2022 season

**Dance programming highlights include
Fall for Dance Festival, TWYLA NOW,
and the launch of two new annual dance series**

Additional artistic team members for Encores! 2022 season include choreographers Camille A. Brown for *The Life* and Jamal Sims for *Into the Woods*

**Tickets start at \$35 or less and go on sale for most performances
Sep 8 for members; Sep 21 for general public**

July 13, 2021 (New York, NY) – New York City Center President & CEO **Arlene Shuler** today announced a full calendar of programming for the **2021 – 2022 season**, reopening the landmark theater to the public in October 2021. This momentous return to in-person live performances includes the popular dance and musical theater series audiences have loved throughout the years and new programs featuring iconic artists of today. Manhattan’s first performing arts center, New York City Center has presented the best in music, theater, and dance to generations of New Yorkers for over seventy-five years.

“I am delighted to announce a robust schedule of performances for our 2021 – 2022 season and once again welcome audiences to our historic theater on 55th Street,” said Arlene Shuler, President & CEO. “We have all been through so much in the past sixteen months, but with the support of the entire City Center community of artists, staff, and supporters, we have upheld our legacy of resilience and



innovation, and we continue to be here for our loyal audience and the city for which we are proudly named. We are committed to supporting artists and providing opportunities for them to create and perform and to engage with our audience. It is in this spirit that we are launching two new annual dance programs this season and commissioning new works for the Fall for Dance Festival, led by Stanford Makishi, VP and Artistic Director, Dance Programs. We are also beginning the next chapter of our beloved Encores! series under the leadership of Artistic Director Lear deBessonet, Music Director Rob Berman, and Creative Producing Director Clint Ramos.”

New York City Center has been closed to the public since March 12, 2020—days before it was to open the second production of the Encores! 2020 series. The institution shifted its programming to digital presentations starting in summer 2020 and began bringing artists back to the stage in the fall to film dance and music theater concerts, which reached a global audience on City Center’s digital platform. As the organization prepares for a return to in-person performances, City Center is closely monitoring the guidelines established by public health authorities to welcome back audiences feeling safe, comfortable, and secure knowing what is expected upon their return. Updates to City Center's ventilation systems are being implemented, as well as a comprehensive slate of new cleaning protocols. City Center is also launching mobile ticketing this season, making arrival to the theater a seamless and touchless experience.

2021 Fall Season

The 2021 – 2022 season opens with the popular **Fall for Dance Festival**, October 13 – 24, which annually signals the start of the fall dance season in New York City. The Festival will consist of the usual five programs each featuring three different groups of artists and companies, presented this year without intermissions. Continuing to provide artists with the valuable opportunity to create new work, four New York City Center commissions will be presented by tap dance superstar **Ayodele Casel**, modern dance legend **Lar Lubovitch** for **Adrian Danchig-Waring** and **Joseph Gordon**, **The Verdon Fosse Legacy** reconstruction of a trio of dances featuring **Georgina Pazcoguin** that were originally created for Tony Award-winning actor and dancer Gwen Verdon, and a co-commission with Vail Dance Festival by sought-after choreographer **Justin Peck**. In keeping with City Center’s mission of accessibility, all the tickets for Fall for Dance are \$15. Tickets go on sale on September 19 at 11am.



The **Annual Gala Presentation** will open with a benefit performance followed by a gala dinner on November 10, with performances through November 14. Funds raised by all seven performances allow City Center to continue to provide access to the performing arts by subsidizing education programs and affordable tickets throughout the year. Program details will be announced shortly.

The world's most iconic living choreographer **Twyla Tharp** is celebrating her 80th birthday at City Center on November 17 – 21 with **TWYLA NOW**—a program of signature works and two world premieres. Stars including Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's **James Gilmer** and **Jacquelin Harris**; American Ballet Theatre's **Aran Bell** and **Catherine Hurlin**; Tony-nominated actor and dancer **Robert Fairchild**; and New York City Ballet's **Sara Mearns**, **Roman Mejia**, and **Tiler Peck** are joined by an ensemble of young performers for this once-in-a-lifetime celebration.

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, New York City Center's Principal Dance Company and America's beloved cultural ambassador to the world, returns to the stage for a much-anticipated annual season in their "home" theater from December 1 through December 19. Visionary Artistic Director **Robert Battle** marks a decade of leading the Company forward and will present Ailey's renowned dancers in a diverse repertory of premieres, new productions, and favorites featuring the original work of Ailey Resident Choreographer Jamar Roberts and classics by Alvin Ailey. The season celebrates the 50th anniversary of the tour-de-force solo *Cry* which premiered at City Center in 1971. Alvin Ailey created this solo on his stunning muse Judith Jamison as a birthday present for his mother and dedicated to "all Black women everywhere, especially our mothers."

2022 Winter | Spring Season

The **Encores! 2022** series launches **Lear deBessonnet**'s first season as Encores! Artistic Director, alongside Encores! Music Director **Rob Berman** and Encores! Producing Creative Director **Clint Ramos**. The Tony-honored series opens February 2 – 6 with *The Tap Dance Kid*, music by **Henry Krieger**, lyrics by **Robert Lorick**, and book by **Charles Blackwell**. Tony Award-winning director **Kenny Leon** (*A Raisin in the Sun*) leads this revival, bringing a fresh take to the production with new tap sequences by choreographer



Jared Grimes (*After Midnight*) and concert adaptation by **Lydia Diamond** (*Stick Fly*). Broadway's **Joseph Joubert** (*Motown the Musical*) will music direct *The Tap Dance Kid*.

Following is twelve-time Tony-nominated musical (including Best Musical) ***The Life***, March 16 – 20, with music by **Cy Coleman**, lyrics by **Ira Gasman**, and book by **David Newman**, Ira Gasman, and Cy Coleman. Emmy and Tony Award-winning artist **Billy Porter** reclaims this musical as the production's adapter and director to bring forth the gritty, dangerous, and exciting decadence of 1980s New York City and an authenticity to the lives of sex workers. The production features choreography by Tony-nominated choreographer and Encores! Creative Advisor **Camille A. Brown** (*Choir Boy*).

Into the Woods, the third show in the series, ushers in a new annual tradition at Encores! which celebrates an iconic American musical and the ways theater connects us across generations. From May 4 – 15, a special two-week run of **Stephen Sondheim** (music and lyrics) and **James Lapine's** (book) Tony Award-winning musical, directed by **Lear deBessonnet**, will be the first of these celebrations to bring together Broadway's brightest talents with a multi-generational group including New York City public school students. The production will feature choreography by film and television's **Jamal Sims** (film: *Aladdin*) and Encores! Music Director **Rob Berman**.

Two New Annual Spring Dance Series

City Center will also launch two new dance series in spring 2022. **Artists at the Center**, March 3 – 6, gives City Center's extraordinary family of artists the platform to conceive and curate their own programs. Award-winning New York City Ballet principal dancer **Tiler Peck** will launch this annual event with a program of her design, performing alongside a variety of dancers and musicians. The program includes the world premiere of a New York City Center commission set to music composed by jazz legend and recent Academy Award-winner **Jon Batiste**, alongside works by **William Forsythe**, **Alonzo King**, **Jennifer Weber**, and Peck herself. The new annual **City Center Dance Festival** will be presented from March 24 through April 10. The inaugural Festival showcases New York companies making their triumphant return to the City Center stage after more than a year away: **Ballet Hispánico**, **Dance Theatre of Harlem**, **Martha Graham Dance Company**, and **Paul Taylor Dance Company**. Continuing to



grow an audience of dance lovers, accessible tickets are available through the Access City Center Club, which provides exclusive ticket offers for anyone 35 and under.

The **Studio 5** series of conversations and performances is an opportunity to hear from today's great dance artists in the intimate setting of City Center's historic studios. Events throughout the season feature artists from the mainstage programs—**Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Artists at the Center | Tiler Peck, Fall for Dance Festival**, and more. A special program with **Dance Lab New York** focuses on female ballet choreographers of color.

Tickets and General Information

Tickets start at \$35 and go on sale September 8 for members and September 20 for the general public for Artists at the Center, City Center Dance Festival, Studio 5, and TWYLA NOW. Fall for Dance Festival tickets go on sale Sunday, September 18 at 11am. Tickets for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater go on sale October 12 for the general public.

Current subscribers may renew their Encores! subscriptions now through August 15. New Encores! subscriptions for members are available starting August 16 and for the general public starting August 23. Single tickets go on sale for members October 4 and for the general public on October 18.

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

Leadership Support for TWYLA NOW, Artists at the Center | Tiler Peck, City Center Dance Festival, and Education Programming is provided by The Lynne and Richard Pasculano Fund for Programming and Education.

Major Support for New York City Center is provided by the Ford Foundation and the Howard Gilman Foundation.

Additional Support for Artists at the Center is provided by Denise R. Sobel. We are grateful to the Charina Endowment Fund for its early support of this initiative.

New York City Center thanks Lisa and Richard Witten for their generous support of the Artistic Innovation Fund.



Support for the Arts Access Fund is provided by the JLGreene Arts Access Fund in the New York Community Trust, the Blanchette Hooker Rockefeller Fund, and the William and Dewey Edelman Charitable Trust.

New York City Center gratefully acknowledges Fall for Dance Festival Lead Sponsor Bloomberg Philanthropies. Major Support for Fall for Dance is provided by Jody and John Arnhold. City Center is also grateful to Presenting Partners Perry and Marty Granoff, Caroline Howard Hyman, Denise R. Sobel, and Barbara and David Zalaznick. Additional support for Fall for Dance Festival is provided by The Shubert Foundation, Joyce F. Menschel, The Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation, Inc., and The SHS Foundation.

Leadership support for the Encores! 2022 Season is made possible by the Stacey and Eric Mindich Fund for Musical Theater. Season Sponsors include Roz and Jerry Meyer, The Shubert Foundation, and the Stephanie and Fred Shuman Fund for Encores!, and the Joseph S. and Diane H. Steinberg Charitable Trust. Additional support is provided by John and Margo Ernst, the Marta Heflin Foundation, The Kaplen Brothers Fund, The Frederick Loewe Foundation, Daryl and Steven Roth, The Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation, Inc., The SHS Foundation, The Ted Snowdon Foundation, and the New York State Council on the Arts.

Support for new dance works at New York City Center is provided by the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation.

New York City Center is a city-owned facility and is supported by funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the New York City Council and the National Endowment for the Arts. Musical Theater and Dance at New York City Center, as well as the Arts Administration Apprentice Program, are made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

NEW YORK CITY CENTER (Arlene Shuler, President & CEO) has played a defining role in the cultural life of the city since 1943. Manhattan's first performing arts center, City Center was founded by Mayor Fiorello La Guardia with the mission of making the best in music, theater, and dance accessible to all audiences. This commitment continues today through celebrated dance and musical theater series including the Fall for Dance Festival, the Tony-honored Encores! and Encores! Off-Center, and the newest series Artists at the Center and the City Center Dance Festival. The distinctive neo-Moorish theater welcomes over 300,000 annual visitors to experience internationally acclaimed artists on the same stage where legends like George Balanchine, Leonard Bernstein, Barbara Cook, José Ferrer, Martha Graham, and Paul Robeson made their mark. 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, City Center's dynamic programming, art exhibitions, studio events, and master classes, are complemented by education and community engagement programs that bring the performing arts to over 11,000 New York City students, teachers, and families each year. [NYCityCenter.org](https://www.nycitycenter.org)



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NEW YORK CITY CENTER 2021 – 2022 SEASON SCHEDULE

FALL FOR DANCE FESTIVAL

Oct 13 – 24, 2021

Week 1: Wed – Sat 8pm

Week 2: Tues – Sat 8pm; Sun 3pm

All tickets \$15

Welcoming an audience of newcomers and seasoned enthusiasts to experience an eclectic mix of choreographers and performers since 2004, **Fall for Dance** is a highlight of the fall dance season in New York City and accessible to everyone with all tickets \$15. This year's line-up consists of five programs each featuring three different collections of artists and companies. City Center commissions will be presented by tap dance superstar **Ayodele Casel**, modern dance legend **Lar Lubovitch** for **Adrian Danchig-Waring** and **Joseph Gordon**, **The Verdon Fosse Legacy** reconstruction of a trio of dances featuring **Georgina Pazcoguin** that were originally created for Tony Award-winning actor and dancer Gwen Verdon, and a co-commission with Vail Dance Festival by sought-after choreographer **Justin Peck**. Full programming details will be announced later.

ANNUAL GALA PRESENTATION

Nov 10 – 14, 2021

Wed – Fri 7:30pm, Sat 2pm & 8pm, Sun 2pm & 7pm

Tickets (performance only) start at \$35

The annual gala production has come to be known as the fall event that showcases some of Broadway's brightest talents. Funds raised by all performances support our founding mission to make the performing arts accessible to the widest possible audience by subsidizing affordable tickets throughout the year. Program details will be announced shortly.



TWYLA NOW

Nov 17 – 21, 2021

Wed – Fri 8pm, Sat 2pm & 8pm, Sun 2pm

Tickets start at \$35

Pioneering choreographer **Twyla Tharp** turns 80 and she's celebrating on the City Center stage. Stars including Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's **James Gilmer** and **Jacquelin Harris**; American Ballet Theatre's **Aran Bell** and **Catherine Hurlin**; Tony-nominated actor and dancer **Robert Fairchild**; and New York City Ballet's **Sara Mearns**, **Roman Mejia**, and **Tiler Peck** perform signature works alongside two world premieres including a group piece featuring the principal dancers and an ensemble of young performers in this once-in-a-lifetime event.

Cornbread

Choreography by Twyla Tharp

Music by Carolina Chocolate Drops

World Premiere I

Choreography by Twyla Tharp

Music by Thomas Larcher

Pergolesi

Choreography by Twyla Tharp

Music by Giovanni Pergolesi

World Premiere II

Choreography by Twyla Tharp

Music by Johannes Brahms

Featuring the principal dancers and an ensemble of young performers

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

Dec 1 – 19

Tickets start at \$29

On sale Oct 12

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, New York City Center's Principal Dance Company and America's beloved cultural ambassador to the world, returns to the stage for a much-anticipated annual season in their "home" theater. Visionary Artistic Director **Robert Battle** marks a decade of leading the Company forward and will present Ailey's renowned dancers in a diverse repertory of premieres, new productions, and favorites featuring the original work of Ailey Resident Choreographer Jamar Roberts and classics by Alvin Ailey. The season celebrates the 50th anniversary of the tour-de-force solo *Cry* which premiered at City Center in 1971. Alvin Ailey created this solo on his stunning muse Judith Jamison as a birthday present for his mother and dedicated to "all Black women everywhere, especially our mothers." Full programming details will be announced later.

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

For photos, visit pressroom.alvinailey.org



ENCORES!

THE TAP DANCE KID

Feb 2 – 6, 2022

Wed – Fri 7:30pm, Sat 2pm & 8pm, Sun 2pm & 7pm

Tickets start at \$35

Music by **Henry Krieger**

Lyrics by **Robert Lorick**

Book by **Charles Blackwell**

Based on the novel *Nobody's Family is Going to Change* by **Louise Fitzhugh**

Concert Adaptation by **Lydia Diamond**

Choreography by **Jared Grimes**

Music Director **Joseph Joubert**

Directed by **Kenny Leon**

A 10-year-old boy from an upper-middle-class Black family dreams of becoming a professional tap dancer. Director **Kenny Leon** leads this revival, bringing a fresh take to the production with new tap sequences by choreographer **Jared Grimes** and a concert adaptation by **Lydia Diamond**, reminding us of the power of family and dance as a force of healing.

NEW SERIES

ARTISTS AT THE CENTER | TILER PECK

Mar 3 – 6, 2022

Tickets start at \$35

Artists at the Center is City Center's new dance series that gives artists opportunities to conceive and curate their own programs for the City Center stage. **Tiler Peck**, award-winning New York City Ballet principal dancer, will launch this annual event with a program of her design, performing alongside a variety of dancers and musicians. A City Center-commissioned world premiere set to music composed by jazz legend and recent Academy Award-winner **Jon Batiste** is presented alongside works by **William Forsythe**, **Alonzo King**, **Jennifer Weber**, and Peck herself. Program details to be announced later.

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ENCORES!

THE LIFE

Mar 16 – 20, 2022

Wed – Fri 7:30pm, Sat 2pm & 8pm, Sun 2pm & 7pm

Tickets start at \$35

Music by **Cy Coleman**

Lyrics by **Ira Gasman**

Book by **David Newman, Ira Gasman, and Cy Coleman**

Choreography by **Camille A. Brown**

Adapted and directed by **Billy Porter**

This story of the complex lives in post-disco Times Square centers around Queen, a prostitute who strives for a better life against all oppressive forces. **Billy Porter** reclaims this musical as director and adaptor to bring forth the gritty, dangerous, and exciting decadence of New York City in the 1980s.

NEW SERIES

CITY CENTER DANCE FESTIVAL

BALLET HISPÁNICO

DANCE THEATRE OF HARLEM

MARTHA GRAHAM DANCE COMPANY

PAUL TAYLOR DANCE COMPANY

Mar 24 – Apr 10, 2022

Tickets start at \$35

The inaugural **City Center Dance Festival** showcases New York companies making their triumphant return to the City Center stage: **Ballet Hispánico, Dance Theatre of Harlem, Martha Graham Dance Company, and Paul Taylor Dance Company**. Programming details to be announced later. Accessible tickets are available through **Access City Center Club** which provides exclusive ticket offers for anyone 35 and under. Full programming details will be announced later.

PAUL TAYLOR DANCE COMPANY

Thu Mar 24 – Sat Mar 26 8pm, Sun Mar 27 3pm,

Tue Mar 29 – Thu Mar 31 7:30pm

BALLET HISPÁNICO

Fri Apr 1 8pm, Sat Apr 2 2pm & 8pm, Sun Apr 3 3pm

DANCE THEATRE OF HARLEM

Tue Apr 5 8pm, Fri Apr 8 8pm, Sat Apr 9 2pm, Sun Apr 10 5pm

MARTHA GRAHAM DANCE COMPANY

Wed Apr 6, Thu Apr 7, & Sat Apr 9 8pm, Sun Apr 10 1pm



ENCORES!

INTO THE WOODS

Special two-week run

May 4 – 15, 2022

Week 1: Wed – Fri 7pm, Sat 2 & 8pm, Sun 2 & 7pm

Week 2: Tue – Fri 7pm, Sat 2 & 8pm, Sun 2pm

Tickets start at \$35

Music and lyrics by **Stephen Sondheim**

Book by **James Lapine**

Choreography by **Jamal Sims**

Music Director **Rob Berman**

Directed by **Lear deBessonnet**

Directed by Encores! Artistic Director **Lear deBessonnet**, this production ushers in a new annual tradition that brings together Broadway's brightest stars with a multi-generational group including New York City public school students, to celebrate an iconic American musical and inspire all New Yorkers to find their own way into the work.

STUDIO 5

The Barbara and David Zalaznick Studio

Tickets: \$35

This Monday evening series of conversations and performances is an opportunity to hear from today's great dance artists in the intimate setting of our historic studios.

FALL FOR DANCE FESTIVAL: The Verdon Fosse Legacy

Mon Oct 4 at 6:30pm

DANCE LAB NEW YORK

Mon Nov 15 at 6:30pm

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

Mon Nov 22 at 6:30pm

ARTISTS AT THE CENTER | TILER PECK

Mon Feb 7 at 6:30pm

CITY CENTER DANCE FESTIVAL

Mon Feb 14 at 6:30pm

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ST. PETERSBURG EIFMAN BALLET

Jun 10 – 12, 2022

Fri 8pm, Sat 2pm & 8pm, Sun 2pm

Tickets start at \$35

Award-winning choreographer **Boris Eifman** explores the life and artistic universe of the famous comedy dramatist Molière in his latest production ***Molière Passion, or The Mask of Don Juan***. Like the 2001 production of *Don Juan & Molière*, the new ballet draws its dramatic energy from the contradictory unity of theater and reality, and the paradoxical relationship between the author and his characters.

Molière Passion, or The Mask of Don Juan

A ballet by Boris Eifman

Music by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Hector Berlioz, and Jean-Baptiste Lully

MANHATTAN THEATRE CLUB

New York City Center Stage I

MORNING SUN

Previews begin Oct 12, 2021

Opening Nov 3, 2021

Tickets on sale Sep 8

By **Simon Stephens**

Directed by **Lila Neugebauer**

With **Blair Brown, Edie Falco, Marin Ireland**

Tony Award winner **Blair Brown** (*Copenhagen, Orange Is the New Black*), Four-time Emmy Award winner **Edie Falco** (*The Sopranos, Frankie and Johnny...*), and Tony nominee **Marin Ireland** (*Reasons to Be Pretty*) form a powerhouse trio of stars in this deeply felt, gorgeously imagined new play by Tony winner **Simon Stephens** (*Heisenberg, The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*).

In Greenwich Village a generation or so ago, the city is alive. Joni Mitchell sings, friends and lovers come and go, and the regulars change at the White Horse Tavern. As 50 years pass, one woman's life is revealed in all its complexity, mystery, and possibility in this enthralling world premiere about mothers and daughters, beginnings and endings in New York City. Directing is **Lila Neugebauer** (*The Waverly Gallery*).

Morning Sun was commissioned by MTC through the Bank of America New Play Program.

-more-



PRAYER FOR THE FRENCH REPUBLIC

Previews begin Jan 11, 2022

Opening Feb 1, 2022

By **Joshua Harmon**

Directed by **David Cromer**

In 1944, a Jewish couple in Paris desperately awaits news of their missing family. More than 70 years later, the couple's great-grandchildren find themselves facing the same question as their ancestors: "Are we safe?" Following five generations of a French Jewish family, *Prayer for the French Republic* is a sweeping look at history, home, and the effects of an ancient hatred.

This powerful world premiere comes from acclaimed playwright **Joshua Harmon** (*Bad Jews*, *Significant Other*) and director **David Cromer**, a Tony Award winner for *The Band's Visit*.

Prayer for the French Republic is sponsored by The Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation's Theatre Visions Fund program. Special thanks to The Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust for supporting Manhattan Theatre Club. *Prayer for the French Republic* is a recipient of an Edgerton Foundation New Play Award and was commissioned by MTC through the Bank of America New Play Program.

GOLDEN SHIELD

Previews begin Apr 26, 2022

Opening May 17, 2022

By **Anchuli Felicia King**

Directed by **Danya Taymor**

From international playwright **Anchuli Felicia King** comes a riveting new play about loyalties, intrigue, and the delicate art of translation. When enterprising American lawyer Julie Chen files a class-action lawsuit involving a multinational technology corporation and the Chinese government, she hires her strong-minded sister Eva as her translator. But what compromises will they make in order to win? And can they put aside their past differences to speak the same language? Directing this fast-paced production is **Danya Taymor** (*Heroes of the Fourth Turning*).

Support for *Golden Shield* is provided by the National Endowment for the Arts.

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