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## **John Behlmann, Nikki Renée Daniels, André De Shields, Santino Fontana, Alexander Gemignani, John Larroquette, Christiane Noll, Bryce Pinkham, Jubilant Sykes, and more will star in the *Encores!* production of *1776*, directed by Garry Hynes, Mar 30—Apr 3**

**February 29, 2016/New York, NY—***Encores!* Artistic Director **Jack Viertel** today announced casting for the *Encores!* production of *1776*, the classic Tony Award-winning musical about how the founding fathers drafted the Declaration of Independence and gave birth to a new nation. *1776* will star **Terence Archie, John Behlmann, Larry Bull, Nikki Renée Daniels, André De Shields, Macintyre Dixon, Santino Fontana, Alexander Gemignani, John Hickok, John Hillner, John Larroquette, Kevin Ligon, John-Michael Lyles, Laird Mackintosh, Michael McCormick, Michael Medeiros, Christiane Noll, Bryce Pinkham, Wayne Pretlow, Tom Alan Robbins, Robert Sella, Ric Stoneback, Jubilant Sykes, Vishal Vaidya, Nicholas Ward, and Jacob Keith Watson.**

A unique show that presents John Adams (Santino Fontana), Thomas Jefferson (John Behlmann), and Benjamin Franklin (John Larroquette) in all their fractious, fascinating complexity, *1776* features such beloved songs as “Sit Down, John,” “Cool, Cool, Considerate Men,” and “He Plays the Violin.” Written by Sherman Edwards and Peter Stone, *1776* opened on Broadway on March 16, 1969, and ran for 1217 performances. The *Encores!* production will be directed by **Garry Hynes**, and choreography by **Chris Bailey** and guest music direction by **Ben Whiteley**. *1776* will run for seven performances at City Center from March 30—April 3.

### ***1776***

**Mar 30—Apr 3, Wed and Thu at 7:30pm, Fri at 8pm, Sat at 2 & 8pm, Sun at 2 & 7pm**

**Music and Lyrics by** Sherman Edwards

**Book by** Peter Stone

**Based on a Concept by** Sherman Edwards

**Original Production Directed by** Peter Hunt

**Originally Produced on the Broadway Stage by** Stuart Ostrow

**Choreography by** Chris Bailey

**Featuring The *Encores!* Orchestra**

**Guest Music Director** Ben Whiteley

**Directed by** Garry Hynes

### **1776 ARTISTS**

**John Behlmann** (Thomas Jefferson) Broadway: *Journey's End*. Off-Broadway: *Important Hats...* (MTC); *Significant Other* (Roundabout); *Pretty Filthy* (The Civilians); *The 39 Steps* (New World Stages); *This Is Not J.A.W.S.* (Dixon Place); and *Wild Animals You Should Know* (MCC). Ars Nova: *Eager to Lose* and *Trapeze Hero!* (ANT Fest 2013). Regional: *Bull Durham* (Alliance). Film: *The Wolf of Wall Street* and *Revolutionary Road*. TV: "I Shudder" (upcoming), "Blue Bloods," "The Good Wife," and "3 lbs." Mr. Behlmann runs the trapeze theater company Fight or Flight. Training: NTC and Wesleyan.

**Nikki Renée Daniels** (Martha Jefferson) is currently appearing on Broadway as Nabulungi in *The Book of Mormon*. Other Broadway credits include *The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess* (Clara); *Les Misérables* (Fantine); *Promises, Promises*; and *Anything Goes*. TV/Film: "Chappelle's Show," *The Other Woman*, and "The Sound of Music Live!" City Center *Encores! The Apple Tree*. Ms. Daniels has performed as a soloist at Carnegie Hall and with symphony orchestras across the country. Her debut solo CD *Home* is available on iTunes and CDbaby.

**André De Shields** (Stephen Hopkins) has distinguished himself as an unparalleled actor, director, and educator in a career spanning 47 years. He has received the National Black Theatre Festival's Living Legend Award and the Obie Award for Sustained Excellence of Performance. A multiple Tony Award nominee, Mr. De Shields is best known for his show-stopping performances in six legendary Broadway productions: *Impressionism*, *Prymate*, *The Full Monty*, *Play On!*, *Ain't Misbehavin'*, and *The Wiz*.

**Santino Fontana** (John Adams) City Center *Encores! Zorba!* and *God Bless You, Mr. Rosewater* (upcoming). Broadway: *Act One*, *Cinderella* (Tony Award nomination), *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Clarence Derwent Award), *Billy Elliot*, *Brighton Beach Memoirs* (Drama Desk Award), and *Sunday in the Park with George*. New York theater: *Sons of the Prophet* (Lortel and Obie Awards), *The Fantasticks*, and *Perfect Harmony* (co-writer). Regional: *Six Degrees of Separation*, *Death of a Salesman*, *A Christmas Carol*, *As You Like It*, *Hamlet* (Guthrie); *Love's Labour's Lost*, *On the Verge*, *September 11th Project* (Chautauqua Theater Co.) Film: *Sisters*; *Frozen*; *Nancy, Please*; and *Jack Ryan: Shadow Hunter*. TV: "Crazy Ex-Girlfriend," "Shades of Blue," "The Good Wife," "The Money," "Royal Pains," "Nurse Jackie," and "Made in Jersey."

**Alexander Gemignani** (Edward Rutledge) Broadway: *Violet (Father)*, *Chicago* (Billy Flynn), *Les Misérables* (Valjean, Drama League Award nomination), *Sweeney Todd* (Beadle, Drama Desk Award nomination), *Assassins* (John Hinckley, Theatre World Award), *The People in the Picture* (Moishe), and *Sunday in the Park with George* (Boatman/Dennis). Off-Broadway: *Road Show* at The Public (Addison, Drama League Award nomination), *Headstrong* at Ensemble Studio Theatre (Nick), and *Avenue Q* at the Vineyard (Brian). As a composer/lyricist, he is currently developing three new musicals and has composed incidental music for a number of plays. Proud graduate of the University of Michigan.

**John Larroquette** (Benjamin Franklin), a five-time Emmy winner, has been a strong force in the television industry since 1975. Mr. Larroquette is best known for his role as Assistant District Attorney Dan Fielding on NBC's "Night Court," along with his comedic lead role in "The John Larroquette Show." On the big screen, Larroquette starred in *Richie Rich* opposite Macaulay Culkin. He has also appeared on Broadway in *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* (Tony Award, Drama Desk Award, Theatre World Award) and *Gore Vidal's The Best Man*.

**Christiane Noll** (Abigail Adams) received Tony Award and Drama Desk Award nominations for her performance as Mother in the 2009 Broadway revival of *Ragtime*. Broadway/tour: *Chaplin, Jekyll & Hyde, Urinetown, It Ain't Nothin' But the Blues, Miss Saigon, and City of Angels*. Film/TV: "The Sound of Music Live!" and *The King and I* (singing Anna). City Center *Encores!*: *Out Of This World* and *The New Moon*. Other theater: *Kid Victory* (Signature) and *Closer Than Ever* (The York). She has performed at the Washington National Opera with Placido Domingo; in symphony concerts internationally and in all 50 states; and in Lincoln Center's American Songbook series.

**Bryce Pinkham** (John Dickinson) Broadway: *A Gentleman's Guide to Love & Murder* (Tony, Drama Desk, and Outer Critics Circle Award nominations), *The Heidi Chronicles* (Drama League Award nomination), *Ghost*, and *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson*. Off-Broadway: *Love's Labour's Lost* (Shakespeare in the Park) and *The Orphans' Home Cycle* (Signature). TV: "The Good Wife" and "Person of Interest." Film: *The Comedian* (with Robert De Niro, upcoming). Bryce is a proud Annenberg Fellow and a graduate of the Yale School of Drama. He is the cofounder of Zara Aina, a charity for at-risk children in Madagascar.

**Jubilant Sykes** (Richard Henry Lee) is an American baritone whose career has taken him from the Apollo Theater to the Met, from the New Orleans Jazz Festival to Carnegie Hall, and to theaters across the United States and Europe, where he has appeared with such artists as Julie Andrews and Renée Fleming. He starred in Daniel Beaty's play *Breath & Imagination* (dir. Darko Tresnjak) at Hartford Stage, and was featured in the Cuba Gooding, Jr. film *Freedom*. Mr. Sykes is a Grammy Award nominee for his 2008 recording of Leonard Bernstein's *Mass* with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra.

**Garry Hynes** (Director) was a co-founder of the award-winning Druid Theatre Company. She was Druid's artistic director from 1975 to 1991, and again from 1995 to present. Ms. Hynes was the artistic director of Abbey Theatre from 1991 to 1994. She has also worked with the Royal Shakespeare Company, The Royal Court, Second Stage, Manhattan Theatre Club, The Kennedy Center, the Center Theatre Group, and the Spoleto Festival. Ms. Hynes holds the distinction of being the first female to win a Tony Award for direction of a play.

**Ben Whiteley** (Guest Music Director) Broadway/national tours: *The Addams Family, A Christmas Story, Spamalot, The Full Monty, Cats, Grand Hotel, Falsettos, and Big*. Carnegie Hall: *Sail Away* with Elaine Stritch and *Carnegie Hall Salutes Comden and Green*. New York Philharmonic: Choral Direction for *Carousel* (PBS), *My Fair Lady*. Regional credits include the MUNY, Paper Mill Playhouse, and 5th Avenue Theatre. He has served as Associate Music Director and/or done choral preparation for over 25 *Encores!* productions, including *The Most Happy Fella, Paint Your Wagon, and Merrily We Roll Along*. Recordings: *Allegro* and *Boardwalk Empire* (Grammy Award).

**Chris Bailey** (Choreographer) Credits as a choreographer include *Assassins* (Menier Chocolate Factory), *Cyrano de Bergerac* (Roundabout), and *Dancing Shadows* (Seoul Arts Center). He was associate choreographer for Broadway productions of *Promises, Promises; How to Succeed...; Evita; and Cry Baby;* and for West End productions of *Guys and Dolls, Evita, and Once in a Lifetime*. He has been associate Choreographer for the Academy Awards for the last three years, and co-choreographed the 2013 Tony Awards. Film credits include Kenneth Branagh's *Cinderella, A Million Ways to Die in the West, and Ted 2*.

The 2016 *Encores!* season is made possible, in part, by Stacey and Eric Mindich, Nathalie and Pablo Salame, The Shubert Foundation, and The Stephanie and Fred Shuman Fund for *Encores!*.

**NEW YORK CITY CENTER** (Arlene Shuler, President & CEO) has played a defining role in the cultural life of the city since 1943. It was Manhattan's first performing arts center, dedicated by Mayor Fiorello La Guardia

with a mission to make the best in music, theater, and dance accessible to all audiences. Today, City Center is home to many distinguished companies, including Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, City Center's Principal Dance Company, as well as Manhattan Theatre Club; a roster of renowned national and international visiting artists; and its own critically acclaimed and popular programs. The Tony-honored *Encores!* musical theater series has been hailed as "one of the very best reasons to be alive in New York." In summer 2013, City Center launched *Encores! Off-Center*, a series that features landmark Off-Broadway musicals filtered through the lens of today's most innovative artists. Dance has been integral to the theater's mission from the start — and dance programs, including the annual *Fall for Dance* Festival, remain central to City Center's identity. Vital partnerships with arts organizations including Jazz at Lincoln Center and London's Sadler's Wells Theatre enhance City Center's programmatic offerings. City Center brings dance and musical theater to over 9,000 New York City students each year through its robust education program, and other learning opportunities are offered to seniors, families, and the general public. City Center is expanding its programming beyond the proscenium and activating its alternative spaces with pre-show talks, master classes, exhibitions of visual art, and intimate performances that give an up-close look at the work of the great theater and dance artists of our time. In October 2011, City Center completed an extensive renovation project to revitalize and modernize its historic theater.

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