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**Brian Stokes Mitchell,
Tracey Ullman, Michael McKean, Tony Sheldon
and Laura Osnes**

in

THE BAND WAGON

Book by Douglas Carter Beane

From the screenplay by Betty Comden and Adolph Green

Music by Arthur Schwartz

Lyrics by Howard Dietz

Based on the classic MGM film

Produced by special arrangement with Warner Bros. Theatre Ventures

An Encores! Special Event

Music Direction by Todd Ellison

Directed and Choreographed by Kathleen Marshall

November 6 – 16 at New York City Center

New York, N.Y., October 16, 2014 – **New York City Center** will present *The Band Wagon*, an *Encores!* Special Event starring Tony Award winner **Brian Stokes Mitchell**, seven-time Emmy Award winner **Tracey Ullman**, Academy Award nominee **Michael McKean**, Tony Award nominee **Tony Sheldon**, Tony Award nominee **Laura Osnes**, Tony Award nominee **Michael Berresse** and **Don Stephenson**, **November 6 – 16. *The Band Wagon*** will open on Sunday, November 8.

Based on the classic MGM film of the same title, the show has a book by **Douglas Carter Beane** adapted from the screenplay by **Betty Comden** and **Adolph Green**, with music by **Arthur Schwartz** and lyrics by **Howard Dietz**. *The Band Wagon* will be directed and choreographed by three-time Tony Award winner **Kathleen Marshall** with music direction by **Todd Ellison**. *The Band Wagon* will run for 12 performances, by special arrangement with Warner Bros. Theatre Ventures.

The cast of *The Band Wagon* features Brian Stokes Mitchell, Tracey Ullman, Michael McKean, Tony Sheldon, Laura Osnes, Michael Berresse and Don Stephenson with Lawrence Alexander, John Carroll, Joyce Chittick, Jason Depinto, Ericka Hunter, Dionna Thomas Littleton, Gavin Lodge, Erica Mansfield,

Brittany Marcin, Paul McGill, Kaitlin Mesh, Jermaine R. Rembert, Brandon Rubendall, Jennifer Savelli, Eric Sciotto and Samantha Zack.

A classic backstage musical, *The Band Wagon* tells the story of a washed-up Hollywood star (Brian Stokes Mitchell) who attempts to make a comeback by doing a Broadway show, and encounters an assortment of colorful characters: a British director (Tony Sheldon) who is a genius but has no business directing a musical, a leading lady who's never done a show before (Laura Osnes), and a composer and a lyricist who are at each other's throats (Michael McKean and Tracey Ullman). All the things that could *never* happen in the New York theater today.

Written by Broadway's ultimate insiders, Betty Comden and Adolph Green, the 1953 film used Arthur Schwartz and Howard Dietz's wonderful songs to tell their story and took its title from the famed 1931 Broadway revue written by Schwartz, Dietz, and George S. Kaufman. Now five-time Tony Award nominee Douglas Carter Beane will use the original Comden and Green screenplay (including scenes never filmed) as a basis for this *Encores!* Special Event, with a glorious score that includes "Dancing in the Dark," "By Myself," "I Guess I'll Have to Change My Plan," "A Shine on My Shoes," and that great anthem for all of show business, "That's Entertainment."

The Band Wagon will feature sets by Tony Award winner **Derek McLane**, costumes by six-time Tony Award winner **William Ivey Long**, lighting by Tony Award winner **Peter Kaczorowski**, and sound design by two-time Tony Award winner **Brian Ronan**.

THE CAST

Brian Stokes Mitchell (Tony Hunter)'s many theater credits include the Broadway productions of *Man of La Mancha* (Tony nomination, Helen Hayes Award); *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown* (Drama Desk nomination); *Kiss Me, Kate* (Tony, Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle Awards); *Ragtime* (Tony nomination); August Wilson's *King Hedley II* (Tony nomination); *Kiss of the Spider Woman*; *Jelly's Last Jam*; David Merrick's *Oh, Kay!*; and *Mail*, which earned him a Theatre World Award for Outstanding Broadway Debut. He headlined the Carnegie Hall concert presentation of Rodgers and Hammerstein's *South Pacific* with Reba McEntire, which aired on PBS in the spring of 2006. This summer he was seen as Don Pedro in the Public Theater's *Much Ado About Nothing* at the Delacorte Theater in Central Park. His *Encores!* credits include *Do Re Mi*, *Carnival*, and *Kismet*. His album "Simply Broadway" was named one of *USA Today's* Best CDs of 2013. www.brianstokes.com

Tracey Ullman (Lily Martin) is perhaps best known in America for "The Tracey Ullman Show," which aired on Fox from 1987 to 1990 and established the English-born comedienne as one of prime time's major comic talents, earning several Emmy Awards, two for Ullman herself. Her many films include David Hare's *Plenty*, co-starring Meryl Streep; Robert Altman's *Pret-a-Porter*; *I Love You to Death*, opposite Kevin Kline; Mel Brooks's *Robin Hood: Men in Tights*; John Waters's *A Dirty Shame*; and Woody Allen's *Bullets Over Broadway* and *Small Time Crooks*. Her HBO specials include "Tracey Ullman Takes on New York," "Tracey Ullman: A Class Act," "Tracey Ullman in the Trailer Tales," "Tracey Ullman: Live and Exposed," and the spin-off series "Tracey Takes On...", which ran for four years. She starred as Kate opposite Morgan Freeman in the 1990 Shakespeare in the Park production of *The Taming of the Shrew*, and on Broadway in her one-woman show, *The Big Love*, in 1991. Tracey will play Jack's Mother in the upcoming film version of *Into the Woods*.

Michael McKean (Lester Martin) is a multi-talented actor, writer, and director who is associated with some of the most iconic film and television shows of the last three decades. His many New York credits include the role of J. Edgar Hoover in *All The Way*; *Gore Vidal's The Best Man*; *Superior Donuts*; *The Homecoming*; *The Pajama Game*; *Hairspray*; *Accomplice* (Theatre World Award); *Our Town*; and *A*

Second Hand Memory. His Los Angeles stage credits include *Yes, Prime Minister* and *Randy Newman's Harps & Angels*. Michael played Lenny on "Laverne and Shirley," and was a regular cast member on "Saturday Night Live." His many film credits include *This is Spinal Tap*, *Clue*, *Best in Show*, and *A Mighty Wind* (Grammy Award for title track, written with Christopher Guest and Eugene Levy). He received an Oscar nomination for "A Kiss at the End of the Rainbow" (written with Annette O'Toole) from the same film. Michael will star in the new AMC series "Better Call Saul."

Tony Sheldon (Jeffrey Cordoba) is a native of Australia, where his many starring roles include *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *The Producers*, *Private Lives*, *I Hate Hamlet*, *Noises Off*, *Into The Woods* and *Torch Song Trilogy*. Tony won a Theatre World Award and was nominated for Tony and Drama Desk Awards for his Broadway debut in *Priscilla, Queen Of The Desert*. He recently appeared as Pickering in *My Fair Lady* at the Guthrie, as Horace Vandergelder in *Hello Dolly!* at the Goodspeed Opera House, as Toddy in *Victor Victoria* at TUTS and as Merlyn and Pellinore in *Camelot* at the Kennedy Center with Brian Stokes Mitchell.

Laura Osnes (Gabrielle Gerard) recently starred the *Encores! Off-Center* production of *Randy Newman's Faust: The Concert*, and in the off-Broadway revival of *The Threepenny Opera*, directed by Martha Clarke. Her Broadway credits include the title role in *Rogers + Hammerstein's Cinderella* (Drama Desk Award), Bonnie in *Bonnie and Clyde*, Hope Harcourt in the Tony-winning revival of *Anything Goes*, Nellie Forbush in Lincoln Center's *South Pacific*, and Sandy in the most recent revival of *Grease*. Other New York credits include the *Encores!* production of *Pipe Dream* and a one-night-only concert of *The Sound of Music* at Carnegie Hall. Laura made her cabaret debut at the Café Carlyle in 2012, resulting in her first solo CD, *Dream A Little Dream: Live at The Carlyle*. She followed that appearance with an evening of Maury Yeston's music at 54 Below, which led to her second solo CD, *If I Tell You: The Songs Of Maury Yeston*. www.laura-osnes.com

Michael Berresse (Paul Byrd)'s Broadway credits include *Kiss Me, Kate* (Tony, Astaire, Olivier nominations), *The Light in the Piazza*, *A Chorus Line*, *Chicago*, *Damn Yankees*, *Carousel*, *Guys & Dolls*, *Fascinating Rhythm*, and *Fiddler on the Roof*. Off-Broadway, he was seen in *Forever Plaid* and *The Coconuts*. Regionally, he was seen in *The Normal Heart* (Arena/ACT), *Parade* (Taper), and *The Dybbuk*. Michael's director-choreographer credits include the Broadway and Off-Broadway productions of [title of show] (OBIE Award) and *Now. Here. This*. His *Encores!* credits include *No, No, Nanette*; *Chicago*; *One Touch of Venus*; and *Call Me Madam*.

Don Stephenson (Hal Meadows) starred as Leo Bloom in the Broadway production of *The Producers*. Other Broadway credits: *A Gentleman's Guide to Love & Murder*, *Rock of Ages*, *Dracula*, *Private Lives*, *Titanic*, *Parade*, and *By Jeeves*. Off-Broadway: *Death Takes a Holiday*, *Take Me Along*, and *Two Gentlemen of Verona*. Don appeared in the *Encores!* production of *Pardon My English*. Television: "The Good Wife," "30 Rock," "Glee," "Ugly Betty," "Curb Your Enthusiasm," "Law & Order." Directing credits: Kennedy Center, Paper Mill Playhouse, Bay Street Theatre, Bucks County Playhouse, MUNY, Syracuse Stage, and Flat Rock Playhouse.

THE CREATIVE TEAM

Douglas Carter Beane (Book)'s credits on Broadway include *Rodgers + Hammerstein's Cinderella* (Tony Award nomination), *The Nance* (nominated for five Tony Awards and two Drama Desk Awards), *Lysistrata Jones* (Tony Award nomination), *Sister Act* (Tony Award nomination), the stage adaptation of the film *Xanadu* (Outer Critics Circle & HX Awards for Best Musical, Drama Desk Award for Best Book, and four Tony nominations including Best Musical), and *The Little Dog Laughed* (Tony Award, Olivier Award nomination). His other plays include *As Bees in Honey Drown* (Outer Critics Circle John Gassner Award), *Mr. and Mrs. Fitch*, *Music From a Sparkling Planet*, *The Country Club*, *Advice From a Caterpillar*, *The Cartells*, and *Mondo Drama*. He has written the libretto for the Metropolitan Opera's *Die Fledermaus*, and his ballet *Artists and Models, 1929* is a part of the dance show *In Your Arms*. He wrote

the film adaptation of his play *Advice From a Caterpillar* as well as the screenplay of *To Wong Foo, Thanks For Everything, Julie Newmar*. Douglas is currently writing a movie for Fox Searchlight and creating a series for HBO. His next play, *Shows For Days*, will be produced this spring by Lincoln Center Theater, and he is developing a play in verse, *Fairycakes*, which he will both write and direct.

Arthur Schwartz and Howard Dietz (Music and Lyrics), one of the greatest American songwriting teams, wrote some of Broadway and Hollywood's biggest hits of the 1930s, '40s, and '50s, including "Dancing in the Dark," "That's Entertainment," "You and the Night and the Music," "I Guess I'll Have To Change My Plan," "I See Your Face Before Me," "Alone Together," and "Love Is a Dancing Thing." Dietz and Schwartz collaborated on 11 Broadway shows over the course of 34 years; their many credits include *The Little Show* (1929), *Three's a Crowd* (1930), *The Band Wagon* (1931), *Flying Colors* (1932), *At Home Abroad* (1935), *Between the Devil* (1937), *The Gay Life* (1961), and *Jenny* (1963).

Todd Ellison (Music Director)'s many Broadway credits include the recent revival of *Annie*, *Monty Python's Spamalot*, *La Cage Aux Folles*, *42nd Street*, Elton John's *Lestat*, Michel Legrand's *Amour*, *The Wild Party*, *On the Town*, *Once Upon a Mattress* (starring Sarah Jessica Parker), *How To Succeed...* (starring Matthew Broderick), *She Loves Me*, *Taller Than a Dwarf*, and *A Class Act*. He was the music director of the *Radio City Christmas Spectacular* for several seasons. As Marvin Hamlisch's music director, he worked on *The Nutty Professor* (directed by Jerry Lewis) and *Ballroom*. As a Pops conductor he has conducted The Pittsburgh Symphony, as well as Long Beach, New Haven, and York Symphonies. Todd conducted the *Encores!* production of *On the Town* and was a guest pianist for *No, No, Nanette*.
toddelisonmusic.com

Kathleen Marshall (Director/Choreographer) returns to City Center, where she directed and choreographed the *Encores! Off-Center* production of *Getting My Act Together...* and the *Encores!* productions of *Bells Are Ringing*, *Applause*, *Carnival*, and *Hair*, among others, and served as artistic director for four seasons. Her Broadway credits include *Nice Work If You Can Get It*, *Anything Goes*, *The Pajama Game*, *Wonderful Town*, *Grease*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Follies*, and *Kiss Me, Kate*. She recently directed Joe DiPietro's *Living on Love* at the Williamstown Theatre Festival starring Renée Fleming. She has received three Tony Awards (out of nine nominations), three Drama Desk Awards, and three Outer Critics Circle Awards.

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 is dedicated to providing educational opportunities to New York City students and teachers through programs such as *Encores! In Schools* and the Young People's Dance Series. Special workshops cater to families, seniors, and other groups, while events such as the *Fall for Dance* DanceTalk series offer learning opportunities to the general public. In October 2011, City Center completed an extensive renovation project to revitalize and modernize its historic theater.

The Band Wagon will run for 12 performances, November 6 – 16 (see full schedule below). Tickets are available at the New York City Center Box Office (West 55th Street between 6th and 7th Avenues), through CityTix® at 212-581-1212, and online at www.NYCityCenter.org. Further information is available at www.NYCityCenter.org.

***The Band Wagon* Running Schedule:**

Thursday, November 6 at 7:30 pm
Friday, November 7 at 8 pm
Saturday, November 8 at 8 pm
Sunday, November 9 at 2 pm (OPENING)
Tuesday, November 11 at 7:30 pm
Wednesday, November 12 at 7:30 pm
Thursday, November 13 at 7:30 pm
Friday, November 14 at 8 pm
Saturday, November 15 at 2 & 8 pm
Sunday, November 16 at 2 & 7 pm

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