



Contact:

Joe Guttridge, Director, Communications

jguttridge@nycitycenter.org

212.763.1279

James Earl Jones joins previously announced cast members Skylar Astin and Santino Fontana for the *Encores! Off-Center* production of *Kurt Vonnegut's God Bless You, Mr. Rosewater*

Directed by Michael Mayer, performances run July 27-30 at New York City Center

June 27, 2016/New York, NY—New York City Center today announced casting for the *Encores! Off-Center* production of *Kurt Vonnegut's God Bless You, Mr. Rosewater*. The first musical written by the blockbuster team of Howard Ashman and **Alan Menken**, the *Off-Center* production will star **Skylar Astin, Derrick Baskin, Jeff Blumenkrantz, Nick Choksi, Eddie Cooper, Kevin Del Aguila, Santino Fontana, Clark Johnson, James Earl Jones, Rebecca Naomi Jones, Eddie Korbich, Marla Louissaint, Liz McCartney, Bonnie Milligan, Brynn O'Malley, and Kate Wetherhead.**

The 1979 musical tells the story of Eliot Rosewater (Santino Fontana), a millionaire who drunkenly decides to blow his fortune on the inhabitants of an impoverished town after being inspired by the utopian vision of novelist Kilgore Trout (James Earl Jones). But there are forces who want to put the kibosh on Eliot's philanthropy—like Norman Mushari (Skylar Astin), a lawyer plotting to have Eliot declared insane. With an irresistible crazy-quilt score that volleys between pop, ragtime, Gilbert & Sullivan, and proto-Disney ballads, *Kurt Vonnegut's God Bless You, Mr. Rosewater* deserves to be part of our world again. The *Encores! Off-Center* production will feature orchestrations by **Danny Troob**, which will be heard for the first time. *Kurt Vonnegut's God Bless You, Mr. Rosewater* will run for five performances at City Center from July 27—30.

Tickets starting at \$25 can be purchased online at NYCityCenter.org, by calling CityTix at 212.581.1212, or in person at the City Center Box Office. New York City Center is located at 131 West 55th Street between 6th and 7th Avenues.

Kurt Vonnegut's God Bless You, Mr. Rosewater

July 27—30, Wed and Thu at 7:30pm, Fri at 8pm, and Sat at 2 and 8pm

Book and Lyrics by Howard Ashman

Music by Alan Menken

Additional lyrics by Dennis Green
Originally presented by The WPA Theatre
Originally directed by Howard Ashman
Choreography by Lorin Latarro
Music Director Chris Fenwick
Directed by Michael Mayer

KURT VONNEGUT'S GOD BLESS YOU, MR. ROSEWATER ARTISTS

Skylar Astin (Norman Mushari) originated the role of Georg in the Tony- and Grammy Award-winning musical *Spring Awakening*. He recently appeared as Tony in Carnegie Hall's special production of *West Side Story* at the Knockdown Center. In film, Skylar is best known for his breakout role as Jesse in *Pitch Perfect* and its sequel *Pitch Perfect 2*. His other film credits include Ang Lee's *Taking Woodstock*, the Sundance favorite *Hamlet 2*, the Disney animated feature *Wreck-It Ralph*, and *21 and Over*, in which he starred opposite Miles Teller. Skylar will next appear opposite Nick Nolte in the EPIX TV series *Graves*. Previous television credits include the lead in the Bill Lawrence-created sitcom *Ground Floor* and memorable roles on *Girls*, *House M.D.*, *Glee*, and *Halt and Catch Fire*.

Santino Fontana (Eliot Rosewater) starred in the *Encores!* production of *1776* and *Zorba*. 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*, and *Jack Ryan: Shadow Hunter*. TV: "Crazy Ex-Girlfriend," "Shades of Blue," "The Good Wife," "The Money," "Nurse Jackie," and "Made in Jersey."

Clark Johnson (Senator Rosewater) is an actor and an Emmy Award-nominated director; he has worked in both capacities on *Homeland*, *The Shield*, *The Wire*, and *Homicide: Life on the Street*. Other TV/Film: *Alpha House*, *Law & Order: SVU*, *S.W.A.T.*, *The Sentinel*, *The Walking Dead*, and *Magnum Opus* (upcoming). He began his professional theatrical career at the age of nine; at 15, he found girls and baseball and took a 35-year break from musicals. This is his New York stage debut.

James Earl Jones (Kilgore Trout) made his Broadway debut in 1957 and most recently starred on Broadway in *The Gin Game* and *You Can't Take It with You*. He won Tony Awards for *The Great White Hope* and *Fences* and received Tony Award nominations for *On Golden Pond* and *The Best Man*. He received Drama Desk Awards for *Othello*, *Les Blancs*, *Hamlet*, *The Cherry Orchard*, and *Fences*; Obie Awards for *Clandestine on the Morning Line*, *The Apple*, *Moon on a Rainbow Shawl*; the LA Drama Critics Circle Award for *Fences*; and an Olivier Award nomination for *Cat on the Hot Tin Roof*. Other theater credits include *Driving Miss Daisy* (Broadway, London, Australia). He is an award-winning film and TV actor and recipient of three Emmy Awards, a Grammy Award, and a Lifetime Achievement Oscar.

Brynn O'Malley (Sylvia Rosewater) Broadway: *Honeymoon in Vegas*, *Annie* (revival), *Wicked*, *Sunday in the Park with George* (revival), *Hairspray*, and *Beauty and the Beast*. Regional: Las Vegas: *Avenue Q*; Paper Mill Playhouse: *Boeing-Boeing* (Gabriela), *Oklahoma!*, *Meet Me in St. Louis*; Signature Theatre: *Sunday in the Park with George*; Arena Stage: *She Loves Me* (Helen Hayes nom.); Baltimore Center Stage: *Arsenic and Old Lace*; Kansas City Rep: *Into the Woods*. Television: *Mysteries of Laura*, *Smash*, *A Gifted Man*, *Royal Pains*, and *The Big C*. Education: University of Michigan.

Michael Mayer (Director) Currently: *Funny Girl* at the Menier Chocolate Factory in London. New York credits include *Hedwig And the Angry Inch*; *Whorl Inside A Loop*; *Brooklynite*; *Spring Awakening*; *American Idiot*; *Side Man*; *Thoroughly Modern Millie*; *A View from the Bridge*; *Everyday Rapture*; *On A Clear Day You Can See Forever*; *Uncle Vanya*; *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*; and *Triumph of Love*. National tours: *Angels in America*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Spring Awakening*, *Charlie Brown*, and *American Idiot*. Michael has received Tony, Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle, Drama League, and Jefferson awards, as well as fellowships from the Drama League, Fox Foundation, TCG/NEA, and Juilliard. Feature films: *The Seagull* (in post-production), *A Home at the End of the World*, and *Flicka*. TV: *Smash* (Season One) and *Alpha House* for Amazon Prime. He made his Metropolitan Opera debut with a celebrated new production of *Rigoletto*. He serves on the Board of New York Stage and Film.

Lorin Latarro (Choreography) Broadway credits include *Waitress* and *Waiting For Godot* starring Patrick Stewart and Ian McKellen. Lorin served as the Associate Choreographer of *The Curious Incident of the Dog In The Night-Time* and *American Idiot*. She choreographed *Queen Of The Night* (Drama Desk Award), The Public Theater's *The Odyssey* at the Delacorte, Ira Glass and Lin-Manuel Miranda's *21 Chump Street*, *Fanny* at City Center *Encores!*, *Beaches The Musical* at the Drury Lane, *Best Is Yet To Come* (Drama Desk Award), and *Kiss Me Kate* at Barrington. Select opera work includes The Met's *Rigoletto* (associate), *Die Zauberflote*, and *Love for Three Oranges*. As an Artistic Associate at Bucks County Playhouse, she has choreographed *Company*, *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, and *A Taste of Things to Come*. Lorin performed in 14 Broadway shows and is a graduate and adjunct professor at The Juilliard School. Upcoming: *Twelfth Night* at The Delacorte.

Chris Fenwick (*Encores! Off-Center* Music Director) is currently the music director of *Fun Home* on Broadway. He music directed the original productions of Michael John LaChiusa's *Giant*, *Los Otros*, *Queen of the Mist*, and *See What I Wanna See*. Broadway credits include *Rocky*, *Grease*, *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, *The Pajama Game*, *Wonderful Town*, and *Elaine Stritch at Liberty*. Other credits include the Off-Broadway productions of *Hello Again*, *Here Lies Jenny*, *Road Show*, *Happiness*, and *Mother Courage*, and concerts with Patti LuPone at Carnegie Hall, Ravinia Festival, and many more. Chris was music director of the *Encores! Off-Center* productions of *The Wild Party*; *Little Shop of Horrors*; *A New Brain*; *Pump Boys and Dinettes*; *Faust*; *tick, tick...BOOM!*; *I'm Getting My Act Together...*; and *The Cradle Will Rock*.

New York City Center gratefully acknowledges the *Encores! Off-Center* Founding Sponsors, Stacey and Eric Mindich and Stacy Bash-Polley; Leadership Sponsor, Nathalie and Pablo Salame; Series Sponsors, American Express, Luigi Caiola and Sean McGill, Andrew Martin-Weber, and the Stephanie and Fred Shuman Fund for *Encores!*; with additional support provided by The Frederick Loewe Foundation, Paula and Ira Resnick and Alec Stais and Elissa Burke. In addition, City Center thanks The Howard Gilman Foundation and Lisa and Richard Witten for their generous support in establishing the Artistic Innovation Fund.

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.

###