

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**Casting announced for Encores! production of *Mack & Mabel*, Feb 19 - 23**

**Directed and choreographed by Josh Rhodes with music direction by Rob Berman**

**Tickets start at \$35**

**January 10, 2020/NEW YORK, NY**—New York City Center today announced complete casting for the Encores! production of *Mack & Mabel*. Joining previously announced cast members **Douglas Sills** as Mack Sennett and **Alexandra Socha** as Mabel Normand are **Major Attaway** (Fatty Arbuckle), **Michael Berresse** (William Desmond Taylor), **Lilli Cooper** (Lottie Ames), **Ben Fankhauser** (Frank Wyman), **Jordan Gelber** (Mr. Kessel), **Evan Kasprzak** (Freddy), **Raymond J. Lee** (Andy), **Kevin Ligon** (Eddie), **Janet Noh** (Ella), and **Allen Lewis Rickman** (Mr. Bauman).

The ensemble includes **Alex Julian Aquilino**, **Matt Bauman**, **Maria Briggs**, **Julian R. Decker**, **Sara Esty**, **Paige Faure**, **Haley Fish**, **Leslie Donna Flesner**, **Garett Hawe**, **Leah Horowitz**, **Matt Moisey**, **Madison Stratton**, **Diana Vaden**, **Jacob Keith Watson**, **Kristen Beth Williams**, **Darius Wright**, **Joy Woods**, and **Richard Riaz Yoder**.

A love letter to the silent film era, *Mack & Mabel* tells the story of Mack Sennett (Sills) and his first great discovery and muse, the comedienne Mabel Normand (Socha). Mack makes Mabel a star, but Mack's insatiable drive to succeed coupled with Mabel's natural vulnerability—the key to her audience appeal—turns their love affair into a high wire act with no net. The long-cherished score by **Jerry Herman** includes standards “Time Heals Everything” and “I Won't Send Roses,” as well as numbers like “Look What Happened to Mabel” and “Movies Were Movies”—performed by Sills and Socha in *Hey, Look Me Over!* as part of the Encores! 2018 season—which showcase the sunny, irresistible melodies for which the composer of *Hello, Dolly!* and *Mame* is so justly celebrated. Directed and choreographed by **Josh Rhodes** with Encores! Music Director **Rob Berman** leading The Encores! Orchestra, *Mack & Mabel* is dedicated to the memory of Jerry Herman.



The production runs for seven performances at New York City Center from Feb 19 – 23. Tickets start at \$35 and can be purchased online at NYCityCenter.org, by calling 212.581.1212, or in person at the City Center Box Office (131 West 55th Street between 6th and 7th Avenues).

**Encores!**

***Mack & Mabel***

**February 19 – 23, 2020**

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

Book by **Michael Stewart**

Music and Lyrics by **Jerry Herman**

Revised version by **Francine Pascal**

Based on an idea by **Leonard Spigelgass**

Original New York production Directed and Choreographed by **Gower Champion**

Featuring **The Encores! Orchestra**

Music Director **Rob Berman**

Directed and Choreographed by **Josh Rhodes**

Major support for the 2020 Encores! 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! Additional support is provided by The Frederick Loewe Foundation, The SHS Foundation, The Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation, Inc., and The Ted Snowdon Foundation. Support for *Mack & Mabel* is provided by Margot and John Ernst, the Marta Heflin Foundation and the Leo Shull Foundation for the Arts.

**NEW YORK CITY CENTER** (Arlene Shuler, President & CEO) has played a defining role in the cultural life of the city since 1943. 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, and Barbara Cook made their mark. Its landmark 75th Anniversary Season (2018 – 2019) paid tribute to this rich history and celebrated the institution’s singular role in the arts today. City Center’s Tony-honored Encores! series has celebrated the tradition of American musical theater for over 25 years. In 2013, City Center launched the Encores! Off-Center series, which brings today’s innovative artists into contact with groundbreaking musicals from the more recent past. 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 is Manhattan’s first performing



arts center, founded by Mayor Fiorello La Guardia with the mission of making the best in music, theater, and dance accessible to all audiences. That mission continues today through its dynamic programming, art exhibitions, studio events, and master classes, which 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](http://NYCityCenter.org)

**PRESS CONTACT:**

Joe Guttridge, Director of Communications

[JGuttridge@NYCityCenter.org](mailto:JGuttridge@NYCityCenter.org)

212.763.1279

Sara Garcia, Publicity Assistant

[SGarcia@NYCityCenter.org](mailto:SGarcia@NYCityCenter.org)

212.763.1288

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