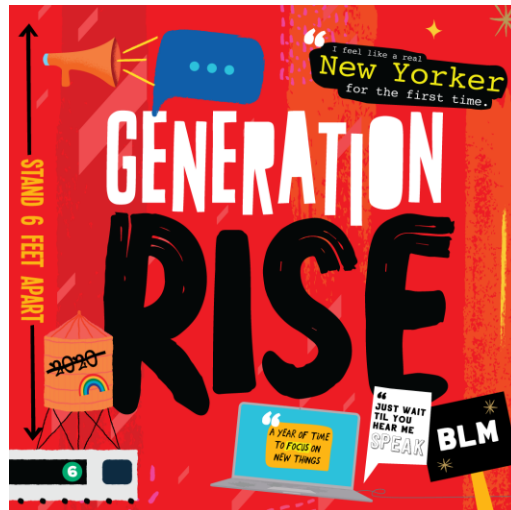




CONTACT:

new42@rubenstein.com

PHOTOS AND VIDEO NOW AVAILABLE FOR THE RE-OPENING OF THE NEW VICTORY THEATER AND OPENING NIGHT OF *GENERATION RISE*



November 8, 2021 - On Friday, November 5, the New Victory Theater celebrated re-opening their doors to the public once again with the onstage world premiere of Ping Chong and Company's *Generation Rise*. Before the curtain rose, New 42 hosted a celebration on 42nd Street congratulating members of the New 42 Youth Corps on their first day of work, and entertaining audience members as they entered the theater with a performance from **Fogo Azul**, NYC's all-women Brazilian Samba Reggae drum line. **Gonzalo Casals**, the Commissioner of Cultural Affairs at NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, also took the stage to welcome audiences with remarks.

"Being back at the New Victory is like a homecoming. Tonight, and in the infinite nights ahead, I promise you this: we will keep the light on--for you, for educators, for families, and most of all, for New York City youth," said **New 42 President & CEO Russell Granet** in his pre-curtain speech.

"Tonight, we celebrate New Victory as the place where young people are invited in and where young people are embraced for who they are," added **Artistic Director Mary Rose Lloyd**.

"I am so excited to help welcome audiences back to the New Victory Theater for the amazing Ping Chong and Company's *Generation Rise*," said **Cultural Affairs Commissioner Gonzalo Casals**. "This production captures everything we've missed about live performances by local artists: elevating voices that help us to better understand and feel connected to our fellow New Yorkers, and the thrill of sitting in a darkened theater with a real live audience. Thank you to the team at New 42, and the artists, arts workers, and audiences who made this possible. Participating in cultural activities like this that bring joy and energy to our lives, while also working together to keep each other safe, demonstrate how we can drive New York's recovery through creative collaboration and mutual support."

Video of *Generation Rise* Opening Night & Reopening Of New Victory Theater be downloaded [HERE](#).

Photos of *Generation Rise* Opening Night & Reopening Of New Victory Theater be downloaded [HERE](#). (Credit: Photo By Bruce Glikas)

Production photos from *Generation Rise* can be downloaded [HERE](#). (Credit: Alexis Buatti-Ramos, Courtesy of New 42)

Generation Rise, written and directed by Sara Zatz and Kirya Traber, is an interview-based production featuring Black, Latinx and Asian American teens from New York City telling their own stories and reflecting on their lives before, during and after 2020 — a year of crisis and transformation. This show highlights the lived experiences of a diverse group of New York teens, and uplifts the voices of those that are usually underrepresented in theater and in media at large.

Performances will continue at New Victory Theater through November 14, and a virtual version of the production is available to stream through November 28 at NewVictory.org/OnDemand.

Part of the "Undesirable Elements" series, *Generation Rise* originated as a filmed virtual theater work in Spring 2021, sharing real-life stories of six New York City teenagers, and the significance of a year of growing up during a global pandemic and renewed calls for racial justice.

Generation Rise is produced by Ping Chong and Company in association with New 42/New Victory, developed in collaboration with Urban Word NYC, and inspired by the critically acclaimed *Generation NYZ* (New Victory 2018). This show is recommended for ages 11 and up.

Tickets for ***Generation Rise*** and ***Jim Henson's Emmet Otter's Jug-Band Christmas*** are on sale now at NewVictory.org. Tickets for the rest of the exciting season at New Victory, including

Air Play, Jabari Dreams of Freedom, Step Afrika! and ***Leonardo! A Wonderful Show about a Terrible Monster*** will go on sale December 8.

COVID-19 Safety Protocols

At New Victory, the health and comfort of audiences, artists and staff is of highest priority. New Victory performances will play at a reduced capacity with social distancing. All productions will be performed without an intermission to avoid crowding in common spaces. New Victory will also offer the opportunity for audiences to stream the season in their homes.

In addition to upgraded air-filtration and increased sanitation, all New Victory staff will be fully vaccinated and wearing masks at all times. Masks are required for everyone, regardless of vaccination status, and must be worn at all times.

Guests ages 12 and older must provide proof of full vaccination to attend a performance at the New Victory Theater. Guests under the age of 12 must provide proof of a negative Covid-19 PCR test taken within 72 hours of your performance start time or a negative Covid-19 antigen test taken within six hours of your performance start time and must be accompanied by an adult who meets the above requirements.

The nonprofit continues to monitor and follow guidelines and recommendations from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and New York State Department of Health for the venue's development and refinement of Covid-19 safety practices and policies. The latest on safety guidelines are detailed at NewVictory.org/Covid-19.

About New Victory Theater

The New Victory opens new worlds to young people and families through extraordinary performances, education and engagement programs. Bringing kids to the arts and the arts to kids since 1995, this nonprofit theater has become a standard-bearer of quality performing arts for young audiences in the United States. Reflecting and serving the multicultural city it calls home, The New Victory is committed to arts access for all communities of New York to experience and engage with the exemplary international shows on its stages. A global leader in arts education, youth development and audience engagement, the New Victory Theater has been honored by the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities with the National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award, by Americans for the Arts with a national Arts Education Award, and by the Drama Desk for "providing enchanting, sophisticated children's theater that appeals to the child in all of us, and for nurturing a love of theater in young people."

About New 42

Under the leadership of President & CEO Russell Granet, New 42 is a cultural nonprofit whose mission is to make extraordinary performing arts a vital part of everyone's life from the earliest years onward. Driven by a deep commitment to performing arts access, New 42 connects people to world-class performances, essential education and employment programs, and creative communities that push culture forward. Through New Victory and New 42 Studios, the

nonprofit serves artists, educators and New Yorkers of all ages with invaluable arts engagement and resources in and beyond the performing arts. Together with our supporters, New 42 opens new perspectives, incubates new works and creates new opportunities to move us all.

About Ping Chong and Company

Ping Chong and Company creates theater and art that reveal beauty, invention, precision, and a commitment to social justice. Founded in New York City in 1975 by leading theatrical innovator and National Medal of Arts recipient Ping Chong, the company's work centers innovation, collaboration and community engagement, and amplifies underrepresented voices. Since 1975, PCC has created over 100 original works for the stage ranging from intimate interview-based works to large-scale multidisciplinary projects featuring puppets, performers, and full sound and projection scores. The company has previously been seen at the New Victory with *Kwaidan* (2000), *Cathay: Three Tales of China* (2005), and *Generation NYZ* (2018). In 2022, Ping Chong and Company will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Ping's artistic career with a season of new works, as well as the 30th anniversary of the *Undesirable Elements* series.