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NEW 42 GALA “CELEBRATING TIMES SQUARE: EVERY CORNER TELLS A STORY” TO BE HELD MONDAY, JUNE 3 AT THE PLAZA HOTEL



Tony Award-winning Actor Brian Stokes Mitchell To Host This Year’s Gala

May 23, 2024 - Today, New 42 announced the return of their annual gala at the Plaza Hotel, which will be taking place on **Monday, June 3 at 6PM**. This year’s gala, titled ***Celebrating Times Square: Every Corner Tells a Story***, will recognize the vital role that exposure to the performing arts for young people plays in the cultural and economic vibrancy of Times Square and New York City. Hosted by Tony Award-winning actor **Brian Stokes Mitchell**, the event will honor the **Times Square Alliance** and its president, **Tom Harris**, as well as choreographer and founder of Rennie Harris Puremovement, **Rennie Harris**.

The event will also feature special performances by the 2023-2024 National Youth Poet Laureate of the United States **Salome Agbaroji**, winner of Season 14 of *The Voice* **Brynn Cartelli**,

Ladies of Hip-Hop Dance Collective, Broadway artists **Aisha Jackson, Jacob Gutierrez** and **Nic Rouleau**.

The Marian Heiskell Award will be presented to **Times Square Alliance** and its President **Tom Harris** for their exceptional dedication to keeping Times Square safe, clean and welcoming since its founding in 1992.

The New Victory Arts Award will be presented to **Rennie Harris** for his contributions as a global hip-hop ambassador and a sought-after choreographer, and as the artist whose work has been performed on the New Victory stage more than any other artist in its 29-year history.

“New 42 recognizes the immense responsibility we have in engaging young people in the performing arts,” said **Russell Granet, President & CEO of New 42**. “We acknowledge these outstanding honorees for their contributions to our mission, and to the cultural fabric of Times Square and New York City.”

Since 1995, New 42’s signature project, the New Victory Theater, has welcomed generations of families to experience the magic of theater together: the New 42 family includes 150 partner schools and 40,000 NYC school kids, whose education is enriched each year by the New Victory’s performances and resources as well as the Youth Corps employment program.

“We are so grateful to be able to celebrate Times Square Alliance, Tom Harris, and Rennie Harris at this year’s gala,” said **Fiona Rudin, Chairman of the Board at New 42**. “We are especially looking forward to powerhouse performances from Salome Agbaroji, Ladies of Hip-Hop, and Aisha Jackson - what an extraordinary way to celebrate New 42’s mission and its role in the cultural center of New York.”

Proceeds from ***Celebrating Times Square: Every Corner Tells a Story*** will support the innovative artistic, arts education, and engagement programs of New 42 and New Victory.

Celebrating Times Square: Every Corner Tells a Story leadership includes Fiona and Eric Rudin, Jody and John Arnhold, Emily and Len Blavatnik, Kelly and William Galanis, Diane and Marc Spilker, and Chairs Shahara Ahmad-Llewellyn, Kitty Patterson Kempner and Tom Kempner, Vinnie and Rohit Kumar, May and Samuel Rudin Family Foundation, Gerri and Andy Sommers, and Ann Unterberg.

GFP Real Estate & Benenson Capital Partners, LLC, are Silver Sponsors of the event.

Gala Vice Chairs are Leigh Bishop, Amy Jacobs, Dr. Edward Kwak and Ms. Ji Park Kwak, Kate and Brad Peck, and Henry Tisch; and Committee Members include Yemi Benedict-Vatel and

Patrick Vatel, Lynne Biggar, Caryn and Jonathan Bilzin, Susan and David Edelstein, Russell Granet and David Beach, Neil Gupta and Seema Dhar, Kasirer, LLC, Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund, Kim and Greg Lippmann, John Lithgow, Margaret and Daniel Loeb, Sarah Long and David Solomon, Sammy Lopez, Mr. James L. and Mrs. Margo M. Nederlander, Clifford Ross, Stefanie Katz Rothman and James Rothman, Meredith and Eliot Rubenzahl, John Tiedemann Incorporated, Christina Zagarino and Tyler Horan, and Lucinda Zilkha and Andrew Francis.

Additional gala sponsorship is provided by Disney Theatrical Group, Hilton New York Times Square, New York Marriott Marquis, Voya Financial, Citi Private Bank and Nickelodeon.

The evening will begin at 6:00 PM with a festive cocktail reception, after which guests will be treated to a night of tributes and performances beginning at 7:00 PM. To purchase tickets, visit <https://www.new42.org/gala2024/> or call **646-223-3082**.

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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.

More information about New 42 Gala honorees, hosts, and performers can be found [HERE](#).