NEW YORK – (June 1, 2021) – Little Island, New York City’s newest public park in Hudson River Park by W. 13th Street, announced today the 2021 inaugural special events, strengthening the revival of performing arts in New York City with in-person, outdoor performances. This first summer will feature special events with several renowned New York City arts institutions including concerts with the Grammy-nominated and Tony Award Winning Broadway Inspirational Voices, American Ballet Theatre’s return to live performance in New York City, an interactive introduction to percussion music with The Little Orchestra Society, and a weekend of musical performances and dance lessons curated by World Music Institute.

“New York City has always been the home of our nation’s leading artists. After a devastating year for the arts, we are thrilled to play a part in their revitalization,” said Julia Kraus, Producer. “This summer’s special events represent the true breadth and depth of New York’s performing arts. We hope that visitors come to see their longtime favorite performers and are introduced to what will quickly become their new favorites.”

This summer’s special events will kick off with two nights of performances with Broadway Inspirational Voices’ beloved program Broadway Our Way LIVE: On An Island In The River on Saturday, June 19 and Sunday, June 20 at 8:00 pm. Little Island Artist-in-Residence Michael McElroy celebrates Juneteenth and his farewell concert by showcasing Broadway showtunes with premiere gospel arrangements by incoming Artistic Director Allen René Louis. In addition to the already star-studded choir, the performances will feature guest appearances by Little Island Artist-in-Residence
Ayodele Casel, Tony Award nominee Norm Lewis, Sugarland’s Jennifer Nettles, Tony Award-winner Phylicia Rashad, Broadway Dancer Garen Scribner, and Tony Award nominee Daniel J. Watts under the direction of Co-Director and BIV Board Co-Chair Schele Williams.

On Saturday, July 3 at 5:00 pm and 8:00 pm, American Ballet Theatre will make their triumphant New York City stage return and Little Island debut. Six company dancers will perform three pas de deux followed by a discussion with the dancers and creative team to discuss the process of creating work during the pandemic.

The Little Orchestra Society will introduce children to the exciting world of percussion music with their kid-approved program Things That Go Bang on Saturday, July 10 and Sunday, July 11 at 2:00 pm and 4:00 pm. Professor Treblemaker and Conductor David Alan Miller will get Little Island’s tiniest audience members jamming out and making music in their seats from objects found in their own homes. Performed by musicians from The New York Percussion Group, Things That Go Bang teaches all ages about sounds and rhythms through an interactive, orchestral concert performance featuring four percussionists and a pianist.

On Saturday, July 17 and Sunday, July 18, the World Music Institute brings the islands to Little Island for a weekend long celebration. Island Music Weekend will feature performances of live music and dance from island nations and territories including Cape Verde, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Hawaii, Indonesia, Ireland, Puerto Rico, Sri Lanka, and St. Vincent. Both days will feature multiple free performances throughout the island and culminate with evening performances in The Amph on Saturday, July 17 and Sunday, July 18 at 8:00 pm. Saturday evening will feature the Cuban rhythms of Arturo O’Farrill & The Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra, plus special guests. Sunday night closes out the weekend with Jamaican dancehall legend Sister Nancy taking the stage with her classic reggae rhythms.

Health and Safety Protocols

In accordance with New York State and CDC guidelines, Little Island can host ticketed events at full capacity and without social distancing with fully vaccinated audiences. Masks are optional.

For entrance to ticketed performances, all audience members will be required to show proof of full vaccination. Vaccination can be proven through the Excelsior Pass along with an ID or by showing their vaccination card and along with an ID. Forms of ID must show full name and date of birth. Acceptable forms of ID include driver or non-driver ID, passport, government ID card, military ID card, student ID card, library Card, public housing ID card, and IDNYC. Audience members will also be asked to answer a Covid-19 health questionnaire when presenting proof of vaccination. The CDC defines "fully vaccinated" as two weeks after receiving a second jab of a two-dose vaccine, or two weeks after the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Children under the age of 16 who have not yet been vaccinated may attend but must be accompanied by a fully
vaccinated adult and wear a mask. Children under the age of 2 are not required to wear a mask. No exceptions will be made.

Little Island will also use the information collected during the ticket buying process for contact tracing purposes.

Ticketing

While the majority of programming can be experienced for free, these 10 special events hosted in The Amph will be ticketed. Through this distribution, we hope to make our shows as accessible to as many New Yorkers as possible—30% of tickets are distributed for free to Little Island’s non-profit partners including the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development, Greenwich House, Hudson Guild, PS 33, The Door, and Westbeth; 40% of tickets will be sold at $25 and distributed through the Theatre Development Fund; and 30% of tickets will be sold through Little Island’s website at $65 for regular price and $25 for seniors and children.

All tickets will be electronic/mobile-only and are available for purchase now by visiting www.littleisland.org or tomorrow, Wednesday, June 2 at 12pm by visiting tdf.org. There will be no tickets available to purchase on-site. Your ticket also serves as your timed entry reservation to the park.

Savory Hospitality will serve local and responsibly sourced food and beverage daily from 7:00 am to 11:00 pm. Little Island Food and Beverage is designed for all ages to explore the intersection between food and art in an environment that is welcoming, whimsical, playful, relaxing, and fun.

Sign-up for our mailing list at littleisland.org for park and programming updates.

About Little Island

Little Island is a new public park, primarily funded by the Diller-von Furstenberg Family Foundation with support from the City of New York, in Hudson River Park. The park features a lush, seasonal, landscape with rolling hills, walking paths and open lawns, and dazzling views of New York City. Little Island is one of the latest additions to the four-mile-long Hudson River Park, which runs from Chambers Street to W. 59th Street.

Little Island has a 687-seat amphitheater, an intimate stage for 200 visitors, and an open plaza, all designed to host a range of programming for all ages, from theater, dance, and music to food and beverage experiences to educational programs and community events. Little Island provides New Yorkers, and its visitors, with a unique urban oasis—a place for experiences that ignite imagination, foster spontaneity and play, and support camaraderie and connection. littleisland.org

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