



“THE BIRTHPLACE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK”
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

THOMAS M. ROACH
MAYOR

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For Immediate Release:

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**Broadway Star Headlines 50th Anniversary of the Kickoff
Celebration of the White Plains Youth Bureau
Annual Performing Arts Benefit**

Broadway Star from The Lion King Headlines the Kickoff Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the White Plains Youth Bureau at their 15th Annual Performing Arts Benefit. The focus of the show will be Roaring to New Heights: Today's Performers, Tomorrow's Stars! Both will be on stage showcasing a diverse balance of song and dance on Saturday, March 7th at 7pm at the White Plains Performing Arts Center.

Tickets for this not-to-miss evening, Roaring to New Heights: Today's Performers, Tomorrow's Stars, are available at the White Plains Performing Arts Center, wppac.com.

White Plains, NY – February 10, 2020. After Broadway star Alton Fitzgerald White completed a record-breaking 4,308 performances as King Mufasa in Disney's *The Lion King* on Broadway, he has added Author and in-demand Keynote Speaker to his growing list of titles. His book, *My Pride: Mastering The Challenge of Daily Performance*, an inspirational biography filled with secrets to fulfillment and joy in work and life was published by Disney Editions and has been nominated for several major national book awards. Mr. White's other Broadway starring roles include Mister in *The Color Purple*, Coalhouse Walker Jr. in *Ragtime*, Ken in *Smokey Joe's Cafe*, John in *Miss Saigon* and the Hawker in *The Who's Tommy*. He made his West End debut as Ken in *Smokey Joe's Cafe* in London. Alton will share his singing talents onstage as the Artistic Honoree of this year's program.

He has performed concert dates all over the world, including music from his best-selling CD, *Disney My Way!* which is full of re-imagined Disney on Broadway classics. Alton has also had Guest Star roles on the hit TV series "Law and Order," "Bull," "The Blacklist," "The Good



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Fight,” “Code Black,” “FBI” “Elementary,” “Mindhunter,” and “Madam Secretary”. He had featured roles in four films in 2019 including the highly anticipated *The Goldfinch*, as a social worker opposite Oscar Winner Nicole Kidman. He was also featured in the Pulitzer Prize and Emmy Award winning RENT LIVE which was performed on FOX television. Alton has written for several magazines including a cover story about his detailed experience with racial profiling for THE NATION MAGAZINE titled RAGTIME MY TIME that has since appeared in publications all over the world and in dozens of college textbooks where it’s studied for its structure and content. Alton’s popular TEDx Talk-Redefining Service to Dream the Impossible Dream can be found on YouTube.

Also onstage and equally experienced in the performing arts will be Ingrid Silva. Silva attended the Dance Theatre of Harlem Summer Program on full scholarship in 2007, joined the Professional Training Program and Dancing Through Barriers Ensemble in 2008 and became a member of the professional Company in 2013.

As guest artist, Silva performed with Dançando Para Não Dançar in Brasil, Armitage Gone! Dance, and The Francesca Harper Project. Silva’s work with choreographers includes Arthur Mitchell, Donald Byrd, John Alleyne, Darrel Grand Moltrie, Francesca Harper, Robert Garland, David Fernandez, Carol Armitage, Deborah Colker, Rodrigo Pederneiras, Annabelle Lopes Ochoa and many others. With Dance Theatre of Harlem Silva has danced Principal roles in George Balanchine's *Glinka Pas de Trois, Agon and Valse Fantaisie*, Robert Garland’s *Return*, Ulysses Dove’s *Dancing on the Front Porch of Heaven* and John Alleyne’s *Far but Close*. Soloist roles include Alvin Ailey's *Lark Ascending*, Donald Byrd’s *Contested Space*, and Darrel Grand Moltrie’s *Vessels and Harlem on my mind*.

As a cultural ambassador for the U.S State Department Silva has performed and provided community outreach in Jamaica, Honduras and Israel. She performed at the Brasil Foundation’s Lincoln Center 2014 Gala and was featured in the Brazilian film *Mare Nossa Historia de Amor*. She has been featured recently in Vogue, Glamor and Marie Claire magazines in Brasil and abroad. In 2016 Silva was part of Activia campaign and was also nominated the brand's Global Ambassador embracing Women's Empowerment. In 2017 Silva was on the cover of Pointe Magazine (June/July Issue), being the first African Brazilian to be on the cover.



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She is the Founder of EmpowHer New York is a collaborative platform created to share stories and give a voice to real women who are determined to achieve their goals, regardless of any challenges they face. The idea of the project is to create a safe environment for all women to discuss their experiences, difficulties, and achievements without judgment, while always encouraging sorority and dialogue.

Other performers in Roaring to New Heights: Today’s Performers Tomorrow’s Stars include youth from the Harlem School of the Arts, led by Aubrey Lynch II, a former Benefit Artistic Honoree, and youth from the Nellie Thornton High School of Performing and Visual Arts. This Mount Vernon Magnet School was founded in 2015 by Dr. Evelyn Collins. The Swapna Dance Academy will showcase Indian Fusion dance representing the voice of freedom. Youth Bureau and White Plains High School songstress, Selah Nicollette Armstrong.

Rebecca Solomon of WPIX 11 News and formerly of News 12 and the Westchester Alumnae Chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. will also be honored for their civic contributions to the community.

Tickets for Roaring to New Heights: Today’s Performers, Tomorrow’s Stars, are available at the White Plains Performing Arts Center, wppac.com.

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