



For immediate release

**CENTER THEATRE GROUP  
ANNOUNCES  
SUTTON FOSTER IN  
“ONCE UPON A MATTRESS”  
AS ADDITIONAL AHMANSON MUSICAL  
FOR “ONE CTG. ONE LA.” 2024/25 SEASON**

**SUBSCRIPTION PACKAGES NOW AVAILABLE  
AT [CENTERTHEATREGROUP.ORG](http://CENTERTHEATREGROUP.ORG)**

LOS ANGELES (May 17, 2024) — Center Theatre Group Artistic Director Snehal Desai and Managing Director / CEO Meghan Pressman, along with Producing Director Douglas C. Baker, announce **Sutton Foster** starring in **“Once Upon a Mattress,”** which will come to the Ahmanson Theatre direct from a just announced Broadway run in December. "Once Upon a Mattress" completes programming at the Ahmanson for the **“One CTG. One LA.”** 2024/25 Season; the first full slate of programming under Desai’s leadership since joining the company in August.

“One CTG. One LA” represents unified programming at CTG’s three iconic spaces — the Mark Taper Forum, the Ahmanson Theatre, and the Kirk Douglas Theatre — into one comprehensive season. Subscription packages are now available at [centertheatregroup.org](http://centertheatregroup.org).

Foster, who just completed starring opposite Aaron Tveit in “Sweeney Todd” on Broadway, scored a personal triumph with her performance in “Once Upon a Mattress,” originally presented by New York City Center Encores!, which originated the current revival of “Chicago,” the longest running American musical in Broadway history, and the very recent “Into the Woods.” Center Theatre Group previously hosted both of those productions at the Ahmanson Theatre. “Once Upon a Mattress” is directed by Lear deBessonet, Artistic Director of Encores!, who also directed “Into the Woods.” “Once Upon a Mattress” has music by Mary Rodgers, the daughter of composer Richard Rodgers; lyrics by Marshall Barer; and book by Jay Thompson, Dean Fuller, and Marshall Barer.

“Our 2024/25 Season is proving to be one headlined by some of the biggest names in the American theatre,” said **CTG Artistic Director Snehal Desai**. “After already announcing that Broadway legends Bernadette Peters and Lea Salonga will be coming to town in ‘Stephen Sondheim’s Old Friends,’ we are beyond excited to now be able to announce that another Broadway superstar, Sutton Foster, will return to the Ahmanson in December for the City Center Encores! production of ‘Once Upon a Mattress’ in December.”

“Since the last time she appeared here in her star-making performance in ‘The Drowsy Chaperone’ back in 2005, Sutton Foster has become a singular name in the world of musical theatre,” added **CTG Producing Director Douglas C. Baker**. “We are absolutely delighted to welcome her back to the Ahmanson in this wonderful production from Lear and our friends at Encores! I simply can’t think of a better way to begin our 2024/25 subscription season at the Ahmanson.”

Desai continued, “As if that wasn’t enough, earlier this week we were able to give you a first glimpse at our 2025/26 Season by announcing that the Broadway powerhouse ‘**& Juliet**’ will kick things off for us in August of 2025. We love that the best of Broadway continues to find its home in LA with CTG and the Ahmanson!”

“Once Upon a Mattress” joins nine titles previously announced for the CTG 2024/25 Season. Artistic Director Snehal Desai launches the new season on October 2 with the reopening of the Mark Taper Forum and marks his CTG directorial debut with a new production of **Green Day’s “American Idiot,”** the Tony and GRAMMY® Award-Winning musical. It is produced in collaboration with Deaf West Theatre.

Two shows follow in the Mark Taper Forum, including the World Premiere of Larissa FastHorse’s **“Fake It Until You Make It,”** which then travels to Arena Stage in Washington, D.C., as well as an electrifying new adaptation of **“Hamlet”** from the revolutionary, Tony-Award nominated director Robert O’Hara, whose production of Jeremy O. Harris’ “Slave Play” was one of the most popular and critically acclaimed productions in the fifty-seven-year history of Center Theatre Group.

The “One CTG. One LA.” 2024/25 Season also includes four productions at the Ahmanson Theatre, beginning with “Once Upon a Mattress,” and followed by Cameron Mackintosh’s production of **“Stephen Sondheim’s Old Friends”** in its North American Premiere, starring Bernadette Peters and Lea Salonga. The production will then transfer to Broadway where it will be presented by Manhattan Theatre Club at the Samuel J. Friedman Theatre following its Los Angeles run. The season then continues with **“Parade,”** the winner of the 2023 Tony Award for Best Revival of a Musical; and the Tony, Drama Desk, and Olivier Award-Winning Play **“Life of Pi,”** which is based on the international best-selling novel.

2024/25 CTG:FWD programming includes The 7 Fingers production of **“Duel Reality,”** which pairs death-defying acrobatics with life-affirming theatricality and storytelling, as well as a continuation of CTG’s partnership with TheaterWorksUSA, whose smash hit, “Dog Man: The Musical,” was presented last year to sold-out audiences in Culver City, and will make its triumphant return with two shows at the Kirk Douglas Theatre—**“Cat Kid Comic Club: The Musical”** and a return engagement of **“El Otro Oz,”** a bilingual musical inspired by “The Wizard of Oz,” which had a limited run at the Douglas earlier this year.

**A seven-show “One CTG” subscription package** is on sale now at [CenterTheatreGroup.org](https://CenterTheatreGroup.org), and includes “American Idiot,” “Fake It Until You Make It,” and “Hamlet” at the Taper; plus “Once Upon a Mattress,” “Stephen Sondheim’s Old Friends,” “Life of Pi,” and “Parade” at the Ahmanson. CTG:FWD programming is also available to purchase as add-on performances.

To make a donation and learn about ways you can support live theatre in Los Angeles, please visit [CenterTheatreGroup.org/Give](https://CenterTheatreGroup.org/Give).

**"ONE CTG"  
2024/25 SEASON  
SUBSCRIPTION PACKAGE**

**Sutton Foster in**  
**“Once Upon a Mattress”**  
Music by Mary Rodgers  
Lyrics by Marshall Barer  
Book by Jay Thompson, Dean Fuller, and Marshall Barer  
Choreography by Lorin Latarro  
Directed by Lear deBessonet  
A City Center Encores! Production

Ahmanson Theatre  
December 10, 2024–January 5, 2025

“Once Upon a Mattress” is led by Encores! Artistic Director Lear deBessonet (“Into the Woods,” “Lionel Bart’s Oliver!”) with a new adaptation by Amy Sherman-Palladino (“The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel”), and starring musical theatre legend and Tony Award winner Sutton Foster (“The Music Man,” “Sweeney Todd,” “Shrek The Musical”). The comedic romp sets Princess Winifred the Woebegone — or “Fred” to her friends — an unapologetic free spirit, loose in a repressed kingdom, reveling in her ability to charm and transform with willpower, honesty, and a little bit of help from her friends. Full of gloriously catchy melodies like “Shy” and “In a Little While,” this uproarious update of Hans Christian Andersen’s “The Princess and the Pea” promises both classic charms and new delights.

Elisabeth Vincentelli in *The New York Times* said, “While Foster has displayed range over the course of her musical-theater career — [she immediately followed ‘Mattress’ to appear as Mrs. Lovett in the current ‘Sweeney Todd’ Broadway revival] — many of Foster’s best roles, like Janet Van De Graaff in ‘The Drowsy Chaperone’ and Reno Sweeney in ‘Anything Goes,’ are imprinted with an ebullient, joyful relish in the very act of performance. And Winnifred, described by another character as ‘a strangely energetic swamp girl,’ is an ideal outlet for that sensibility.”

Steven Suskin in *New York Stage Review* said, “If it’s 2,000 beaming faces aglow with musical comedy pleasure you’re looking for, head over to ‘Once Upon a Mattress.’ Several minutes and three songs in, a pair of bright young lovers launch into a gently upbeat ballad duet called ‘In a Little While,’ and all’s right in the world — or at least for the two hours. The score by composer Mary Rodgers [daughter of Richard Rodgers] and lyricist Marshall Barer alternates between sunny and plain old funny.”

Jackson McHenry in *Vulture* said, “The director Lear deBessonet, who also directed Encores!’s storybook version of ‘Into the Woods,’ encourages the feeling of a pantomime, putting the cast in primary colors like Medieval Times waitstaff and encouraging them to gnaw at whatever scenery they please. She has set them all loose to be as goofy and sophomoric as possible, with results that feel appropriately like the work of adults on theatrical vacation.”

**Center Theatre Group**, one of the nation’s preeminent arts and cultural organizations, is Los Angeles’ leading not-for-profit theatre company, which, under the leadership of Artistic Director Snehal Desai, Managing Director / CEO Meghan Pressman, and Producing Director Douglas C. Baker, programs seasons at the Mark Taper Forum and Ahmanson Theatre at The Music Center in Downtown Los Angeles, and the Kirk Douglas Theatre in Culver City. In addition to presenting and producing the broadest range of theatrical entertainment in the country, Center Theatre Group is one of the country’s leading producers of ambitious new works through commissions and world premiere productions and a leader in interactive community engagement and education programs

that reach across generations, demographics, and circumstances to serve Los Angeles. Center Theatre Group has produced more than 700 productions across its three stages, including such iconic shows as “Zoot Suit;” “Angels in America;” “The Kentucky Cycle;” “Biloxi Blues;” “Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992;” “Children of a Lesser God;” “Curtains;” “The Drowsy Chaperone;” “9 to 5: The Musical;” and “Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo.” [CenterTheatreGroup.org](http://CenterTheatreGroup.org)

**Bank of America** is Center Theatre Group’s 2024/25 “One CTG” Season Sponsor. Bank of America believes in the power of the arts to help economies thrive, to educate and enrich societies, and to create greater cultural understanding. For over 20 years, the company has supported Center Theatre Group’s innovative Education and Community Partnerships programs and world-class productions.

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May 17, 2024