

FROM: Times Square New Year's Eve

For Immediate Release

TIMES SQUARE NEW YEAR'S EVE ANNOUNCES SELECT MUSICAL PERFORMANCES AND HONORED SPECIAL GUESTS

GLORIA GAYNOR ("*I Will Survive*") TO PERFORM LIVE IN TIMES SQUARE

JONATHAN BENNETT RETURNS TO HOST TIMES SQUARE NEW YEAR'S EVE

EVENING TO RECOGNIZE "HEROES OF 2020" AND THEIR FAMILIES

Event Will Take Place Without a Public Audience Due to COVID-19; Heroes of 2020, Musical Performances, and Ball Drop Will be Viewable on Broadcast Channels (ABC, CNN, FOX, NBC, and Univision), Official Event Webcast, and Mobile App

NEW YORK – December 15, 2020 – The Times Square Alliance and Countdown Entertainment – the co-producers of Times Square New Year's Eve – today announced details of the highly anticipated December 31 celebration, which will be broadcast for television and internet audiences without public revelers in attendance.

2X GRAMMY® Winner and Global Music Legend, **Gloria Gaynor**, will perform her global anthem of encouragement and inspiration, "I Will Survive," along with, "Joy Comes In The Morning," from her 2020 GRAMMY® Award winning roots gospel album, "TESTIMONY," as well as her hit song, "Never Can Say Goodbye."

Actor and beloved TV personality **Jonathan Bennett**, star of the Hallmark Holiday film "The Christmas House," and "Mean Girls," and host of the *Food Network's* top-rated "Halloween Wars" and "Holiday Wars," will return to the celebration as Times Square New Year's Eve Host.

As the event's official Special Guests, Times Square New Year's Eve will recognize the "**Heroes of 2020**," those that show the courage and creativity to help us through this year - first responders, frontline and essential workers and their families who sacrificed so much in 2020 to provide care and support for their communities. The Heroes of 2020 will be represented onsite by New York families of first responders, frontline and essential workers, whose personal stories from the past year inspire all of us and reflect the best of the human spirit. These New York stories of sacrifice and public service are representative of family stories in every community in every state across our country and around the world.

The Special Guest designation is an annual tradition for Times Square New Year's Eve that dates back to the mid-1990s. Each year since, by selecting a Special Guest, producers honor an inspiring individual/s who represents public service, resiliency, and the human spirit. Past

Special Guests include former **President Bill Clinton** and former **Secretary of State Hillary Clinton**, former **Secretary of State Colin Powell**, **Supreme Court Justice Sonya Sotomayor**, former **UN Secretary General Secretary Ban Ki-Moon**, **Muhammad Ali**, **Lady Gaga**, **Christopher Reeve**, **Medal of Honor winner Salvatore Giunta**, and **#MeToo founder Tarana Burke**.

“The Special Guest plays a pivotal role in the Times Square New Year’s Eve celebration, most notably by representing resounding resolve and a determined spirit, at a time when the world collectively awaits a renewed beginning,” said Tim Tompkins, President, Times Square Alliance. “This year, it feels most appropriate to shine a spotlight on the individuals who are tirelessly leading our nation through hard times with unshakable strength, determination and poise, as well as their families, who deal with their own set of sacrifices.”

“This year, undoubtedly more than any other in recent memory, we recognize the need to celebrate our local heroes,” said Jeffrey Straus, President, Countdown Entertainment. “As we join together to ring in the new year, the families celebrating in Times Square mirror families across the globe celebrating safely from their own homes.”

Historically, the Special Guest/s joins the Mayor of New York City on the mainstage just before midnight to lead the sixty-second countdown to midnight and press the Waterford Crystal button that signals the Ball Drop. This year, due to onsite social distancing protocols, the Special Guests will not appear on stage. Instead, each Special Guest will watch the event from a private, physically distanced viewing area.

Safety of New Yorkers and participants is the priority of Times Square New Year’s Eve 2021. In addition to producing the event solely for television with no public audience allowing New Yorkers and the world to safely experience it from home, all New Year's Eve broadcast activities will follow the State of New York’s Interim Guidance for Media Production during the CoVid-19 Public Health Emergency. Times Square New Year’s Eve 2021 has secured medical experts to consult on all health protocols and to ensure that every individual with access to the permitted areas follow the state established testing protocol, screenings, and safety guidelines.

All participants will remain masked at all times except when performing and will adhere to distancing regulations throughout the production site. Additionally, all Special Guest household groups, who are included in the capacity limits for the production, will be staged within an individual household sealed zones to proper distance from other guests, performers and crew.

How to Watch

The Times Square New Year’s Eve commercial-free webcast will cover the action and festivities in Times Square, beginning with the Ball Raising at 6 p.m. EST, plus live musical performances, hourly countdowns, behind-the-scenes stories, and star-studded interviews as anticipation builds

towards the midnight countdown and the famous Ball Drop. The webcast will be streamed live on multiple websites, including TimesSquareNYC.org, NewYearsEve.nyc, Livestream.com/2021 and TimesSquareBall.net. Embedding codes and additional webcast info is available at: timessquarenyc.org/events/new-years-eve/webcast/index.aspx Livestream.com/2021 or Livestream.com/2021.

Additionally, Jamestown Properties will host a virtual New Year's Eve through a multi-media, experiential technology platform. Details will be announced at a later date.

A number of broadcast networks will be airing elements of the Times Square celebration, including ABC ("Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve with Ryan Seacrest"), CNN ("New Year's Eve Live with Anderson Cooper and Andy Cohen), FOX (*New Year's Eve Toast & Roast of 2021*), NBC ("New Year's Eve with Carson Daly"), and Univision ("¡Feliz 2021!").

Info for the Times Square New Year's Eve television broadcast pool feed is available at <https://www.timessquarenyc.org/times-square-new-years-eve/media-press/new-years-eve-pool-feed-information>

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Media Information:

To read a history of Times Square New Year's Eve and access images of past events or the New Year's Eve Ball, please click [here](#).

A list of Special Guests will be made available in advance of the event. To request interviews, please contact:

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