



FROM: TIMES SQUARE NEW YEARS EVE

Contact: Rubenstein
Kristen Bothwell – 917-613-5434, KBothwell@Rubenstein.com
Kyle Sklerov – 212-380-3753, KSklerov@Rubenstein.com
TJ Witham – 212-452-5234, TJWitham@timesquarenyc.org

For Immediate Release

**TIMES SQUARE NEW YEAR’S EVE ANNOUNCES SPECIAL GUEST
“HEROES OF 2020”**

*Initial List of Selected Special Guests Includes First Responders, Frontline Workers,
Researchers, Artists, Teachers and Activists*

NEW YORK – December 30, 2020 – The Times Square Alliance and Countdown Entertainment – co-producers of Times Square New Year’s Eve - today announced an initial list of the evening’s Special Guests – **“Heroes of 2020”** whose courage, creativity and spirit – expressed in many ways, day in and day out -- helped the city and the surrounding area get through an unprecedented year.

The “Heroes of 2020” will be comprised of 39 individuals and their families, representing a sampling of first responders, frontline workers, researchers, artists and activists who sacrificed in 2020 to provide care and support for their communities. These stories are symbolic of family stories in every community in every state across the country and around the world.

The “Heroes of 2020” will be in Times Square on New Year’s Eve with their family or loved ones from their household unit, each group watching the festivities from a separate and physically distanced viewing area.

The “Heroes of 2020” are:

Frank Auriemma | Bethpage, NY | NYC Public School Teacher

Zaki Azam | Jericho, NY | Doctor

Samantha Belfon | Homeless Service Provider

Denny Brito | Sanitation Supervisor

Ardist Brown | Doorman at a Residential Building

Ivonne Caceres | Woodhaven, NY | Supporter of children in the Woodhaven community

Ling Chan | U.S. Postal Service Worker
Ronald Colbert | Staten Island Ferry Worker
Joseph Cuccurullo | Hotel Worker
Chris Davlantes | ER Doctor
Joanne Drenckhahn | ER Nurse
Baldwin Davis | Public Safety Worker at the Times Square Alliance
Denise Dillon | New York, NY | Grocery Store Clerk
Ceyenne Doroshow | BLM and Trans Activist
Juanita Erb | Vaccine Researcher
Felicia Fojas | Elmhurst Hospital Worker
Amy Freeman Ivanov | Acute Care Therapist
Annmarie Gajdos | Staten Island, NY | Mental Health Provider
Danny Haro | Montclair, NJ | Pizza Delivery Person
Shane Hathaway | Restaurant Row Restaurant Owner
Leah Jimenez | Bronx, NY | NYC Public School Teacher
Hye Jun Lee | Election Poll Worker
Jose Leiva | Street Vendor in Times Square
Travis Lewis | College Point, NY | Firefighter in Oregon / Christmas Tree Seller in NYC
Kristina Libby | New York, NY | Artist
Sandra Lindsay | Port Washington, NY | Nurse / First person vaccinated in the US
Jenny Liu | New York, NY | COVID Tester at CityMD
Shayna McClelland | *Pictures for Elmhurst* Photographer
Bernadette Murrell | Brooklyn, NY | Sanitation Worker at the Times Square Alliance
Paul Nebb | Marlboro, NY | EMT
Carol Porter | Teaneck, NJ | Musician/Piano Teacher
Jemi Puno | Richmond Hill, NY | Flight Attendant
Bridget Reid | Community Service Worker
Jeremy Richmond | Army Recruiter
Jen Sanchez | Broadway Musician
Artie Smarch | NYPD
Dustin Suanino | New York, NY | Palliative Care Physician
Louis Toigo | NYC Sanitation Worker
Wayne Tucker | Musician

(Subject to amendment)

See details and videos here: <https://www.timessquarenyc.org/times-square-new-years-eve/new-years-eve-special-guests>

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, the event 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**.

On New Year's Eve, more than 180 million Americans and more than one billion television viewers worldwide will ring in the New Year watching the historic Times Square New Year's Eve Ball Drop safely from their own home. For 116 years, Times Square has been the center of worldwide attention on New Year's Eve, ever since the owners of One Times Square began in 1904 to conduct rooftop celebrations to greet the New Year. The first Ball Lowering celebration occurred in 1907, and this tradition is now a universal symbol of welcoming the New Year.

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](https://www.timessquarenyc.org), [NewYearsEve.nyc](https://www.newyearsve.nyc), [Livestream.com/2021](https://www.livestream.com/2021) and [TimesSquareBall.net](https://www.timesquareball.net). Embedding codes and additional webcast info is available at: <https://www.timessquarenyc.org/events/new-years-eve/webcast/index.aspx> [Livestream.com/2021](https://www.livestream.com/2021) or [Livestream.com/2021](https://www.livestream.com/2021).

Jamestown will host a virtual New Year's Eve experience with a live broadcast from Times Square and augmented reality to bring the celebration to you. Visit www.VNYE.com for more information and download the **NYE app** to join the live celebration on New Year's Eve.

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>.

###