

THE CITY OF NEW YORK

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**TRANSCRIPT: MAYOR DE BLASIO, COMMISSIONER DEL CASTILLO DELIVER  
REMARKS AT THE FIRST BROADWAY VACCINATION SITE**

**Commissioner Anne del Castillo, Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment:** Good afternoon, everyone. I'm Anne del Castillo, Commissioner of the New York City Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment. And it is my absolute honor and privilege to welcome all of you on this beautiful day, where we're celebrating a great day in New York City. Today, we're opening the Broadway vaccination site for New Yorkers who work in entertainment on stage and on screen. But before we hear from our Mayor, to start off with festivities we want to kick off with a performance from our very own New York City talents, to remind us that we are standing in the heart of the creative capital of the world.

[...]

Let's thank our singers, Charl Brown, Joel Perez, Kris Coleman, Matt Amira. And our musicians, Jacob Yates, Aurelien Budynek, Elena Bonomo, Winston Royce, and Emily Pecoraro.

[Applause]

Now, please join me in welcoming the 109th Mayor of the City of New York, Bill de Blasio.

[Applause]

**Mayor Bill de Blasio:** Weren't they amazing, everybody. Let's give them another round of applause, wonderful performers.

[Applause]

I don't know about you, but I was feeling that New York feeling as they sang that, because this is us. This is New York City coming back before your very eyes, right here in Times Square. This is what we are about. We are not letting anything hold us back.

[Applause]

And this city, even the sound of the jack hammers is poetry to my ears, because it means we're coming back. Everybody, we've been through a lot. We've been through a lot together, but if there's any place in the world that understands it doesn't matter how many times you've been knocked down, what matters is how many times you get back up, it's New York City.

[Applause]

13 months ago, the theaters went dark, and we felt something in our hearts – we felt a loss. And you didn't see the TV productions and the film productions on the streets, which we love even if sometimes we curse them a little bit. We lost something and now we are finding it again, and it's coming back to life right here. And there's a beautiful saying in the theater, the show must go on. And here in New York City, the show is going on again. Broadway is coming back. Film and TV is coming back.

[Applause]

I want to thank everyone who's helping to make it possible. Our Health Commissioner, Dr. Dave Chokshi, who has done so much to keep the city safe. Our Media and Entertainment Commissioner, you just heard from, Anne del Castillo, who's doing so much to bring film and TV and theater back.

[Applause]

I want to thank the elected officials who have really been giving their all to protect the people of our communities. Congress Member Carolyn Maloney, thank you.

[Applause]

Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer, thank you.

[Applause]

Council Member Keith Powers, thank you.

[Applause]

And I want to introduce our special guest in a moment, but I want to give some credit. Our special guest is an amazing human being, but he wouldn't be here if it wasn't for Luis Miranda. So, Luis, thank you for all you have done for New York City.

[Applause]

Everybody to bring this city back, we need arts and culture. Let's be clear why. Some of you might say, it's a big part of our economy. That's true. That's not the reason though that's most important. Yes, it's part of our economy, much more importantly, it's part of our identity. It's part of who we are. It's part of our hearts. What it means in this city, the theater, the music, the dance, the film and TV, it is our expression of everything that is New York City. It's our creativity. It's our heart and soul. We do something here that does not exist anywhere in the world, quite like this. And for us to be whole, it has to come back.

That's why this vaccination center is so exciting to bring back Broadway, to bring back off Broadway, to bring back film and TV. One place where the community knows it can go and be guaranteed they will get a vaccine, and they'll be able to come back and be safe. That's what we've created, working with our union partners. I've been handed a note. I love when they bring in a note. We want to welcome State Senator Brad Hoylman. Thank you for joining us. Thanks for all you're doing.

[Applause]

I want to thank all our union partners who have been part of creating this vaccination center. I want to say – don't for a moment, if you hear anyone doubting our comeback, if you hear anyone talking about gloom and doom in New York City, stare them in the face and tell them New York City will be back because we have come back from the most extraordinary challenges time and time again. My brother, Luis, will remember after the 60s and 70s, after 9/11, after Hurricane Sandy – time after time we come back because it's who we are. It's who we are. It's in us.

Now, for our special guest, no one tells the New York story better. Literally no one. And he has had a lot of company down through the ages telling the New York story, but his version of the New York story, whether it goes back to the 1700s or today in Washington Heights, it's authentic and it's powerful and it's from the heart and it's from a passion for this place. And that enough would make him great.

But I want to thank Lin-Manuel because in a country that needed to be shown a different way, no one more than he proved that we could represent our true selves, all of us and express our history from truth. Not from some hazy revision, but the truth of who we are, the totality of who we are. And because he dared to do it when it was not easy, now everyone else has followed and we're finally starting to see in our arts and culture, all of us. And he deserves tremendous credit for blazing that trail. My great honor to introduce a great New Yorker, one of the greatest, Lin-Manuel Miranda.

[Applause]

[...]

Okay, so we conclude with a very simple point. We need Broadway back. We need off Broadway back. We need film and TV back. So, everyone, if you're a part of this amazing

cultural community, come here and get vaccinated. We are ready for you. Every day we'll be here. Let's bring it back. Thank you, everyone.

[Applause]

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