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Lincoln Center Out of Doors Opens With Celebration of Street Theater Roots 7/28

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Inaugurated in 1971 under director of community programming [Leonard Depaur](#), Out of Doors began as a small festival of street theater, in collaboration with Everyman Theater (co-founded by actress [Geraldine Fitzgerald](#).) Former Lincoln Center President John Mazzola's vision was "to bring the community to Lincoln Center and bring Lincoln Center to the community." Gradually expanding to include music and dance performances, the re-christened Lincoln Center Out of Doors has grown into one of the

largest free performance festivals in the U.S. Over its 40-year history, Out of Doors has commissioned some 90 works from composers and choreographers and presented hundreds of major dance companies, renowned world-music artists, and legendary jazz, folk, gospel, blues and rock musicians, many under the auspices of its popular "Roots of American Music" mini-festival, and poets and storytellers as part of the annual "La Casita." It has highlighted the rich cultural diversity of New York City with performances by established ensembles and up-and-coming groups and has partnered with dozens of community and cultural organizations including the Caribbean Cultural Center African [Diaspora Institute](#), Lincoln Square Neighborhood Center, Brooklyn [Arts Council](#), [Bronx Council on the Arts](#), Center for Traditional Music and Dance, the Chinese American [Arts Council](#), Americas Society, and Dancing in the Streets.

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