DISCOVER THE BIG BOOM OVER THE HUDSON

FROM NAUTICAL SHELLS TO SILVER MILES AND EVEN GHOSTS,
SPECTATORS ARE SURE TO DISCOVER A NEW FAVORITE AT THE
33RD ANNUAL MACY’S 4TH OF JULY FIREWORKS®

New York, NY - June 2009 - The course is set for America’s premiere pyrotechnic spectacle as the 33rd Annual Macy’s 4th of July Fireworks® returns to the Hudson River for the nation’s best Independence Day celebration. On Saturday, July 4th at approximately 9:20pm, millions of New Yorkers will make a new discovery over the Hudson, as they witness never-before-seen shells and effects in the nation’s largest display of 4th of July pyrotechnics.

This year’s showstopper will see the addition of new shells with awe-inspiring effects that will dazzle and mesmerize spectators young and old. From the mysterious “Ghost” shells that appear, disappear and reappear in plain sight, new “Nautical” shells that float over the water to the shape-shifting Saturn shells with its interlocking loops and rings; Macy’s Fireworks continue to evolve with the latest pyrotechnic innovations.

Celebrating the return to the Hudson River where the show was last staged in 2000, Macy’s Fireworks are paying special tribute this year to the 400th Anniversary of Henry Hudson’s historic voyage aboard the Dutch ship, The Half Moon. American River, the theme of this year’s show features a stirring score of patriotic standards, classic river-themed works and original music performed by the legendary New York Pops, under the direction of Steve Reineke. The centerpiece of the musical blueprint for the firepower is the original composition, American River Suite written by Macy’s creative director Bill Schermerhorn and Broadway composer Stephen Flaherty. The marvelous tribute piece features the vocal talents of stage and screen superstars Audra McDonald and Idina Menzel, as well as the Choir Academy of Harlem.
“This year’s score takes the listener on a musical journey up the Hudson River throughout its history,” said Bill Schermerhorn, director of Macy’s Fireworks. “From Henry Hudson’s first view of the river to the dynamic energy that you can feel along the river’s banks today. This river tells a story, it’s our story and our nation’s story.” He added, “I hope the stirring, playful and grand music of Stephen Flaherty honors those courageous explorers of old as well as those Americans who continue to seek new discoveries in our own time.”

The magic of the show comes together thanks to the biggest star of them all - the digital firing system. This system allows the show to be expertly synchronized and precisely timed to the musical score, allowing the shells to explode at the perfect beat of the music. To create this perfect union of creative design and technical wizardry, Bill Schermerhorn and show designer Gary Souza of SOUSA Fireworks, have worked on the show for months to merge the creative elements, pyrotechnics and synchronization of the show via the digital firing system to create the final product - a seamless explosion of color, light and sound that dances in the sky to its own beat.

Below is each musical performance in the score and some brief oohs, ahhs and wows of Macy’s pyrotechnic magic to look for during this year’s spectacle.

### 33rd annual Macy’s 4th of July Fireworks - American River

**God Bless America**

- The show begins with a bang as digitally synchronized Gold Comets dance to the beat of the patriotic standard.
- 180-degree fans are followed by White Spangled Chrysanthemums as Rumbling Thunder Introduction shells bring the loud revelry to the forefront.
- Red Comets with White Star Mine barrages lead to the conclusion of the musical interlude as walls of Silver Glittering Chrysanthemums cascade from 1,000 feet to the water’s edge leading to a rumbling Floral Thunder finale.

**River Medley**

**Proud Mary**

- The popular song begins with a brilliant Rainbow fan featuring Red, Orange, Green, Sea Blue, and Violet Peonies. Multi-colored panels of Stained Glass, Poinsettias and Variegated Kaleidoscope shells keep the color wheel rolling.
- It’s all about being happy during the song’s chorus as the ever-popular Happy Faces return creating a Mile of Smile down the river.
- Double Cubes of Dice lead to the song’s finale, which arrives with a barrage of Colorful Comet shells.
**Shenandoah**

- Slowing down the pace for the river classic, a series of Red and White Stars and Shimmering Waterfalls hang high above the river.
- The Hudson becomes part of the show as the new nautical Red Illumination shells glow from the surface of the water, as the returning Silver Dancing Fountain nautical shells hover just above.
- Igniting from the water’s edge and reaching mid-sky, colorful bouquets of blooming Flowers will fill they sky for the song’s end while new Falling Leaves in a variety of colors shimmer above.

**Ol’ Man River**

- This particular river may be hundreds of years old, but this classic river anthem begins with new gusto as Brocade Golden Water shells burst upward to create a giant golden fan of light.
- The multi-tiered spectacle shimmers with Gold and Silver Waterfalls cascading from 1,000 feet in the air to 300 feet until the light reaches the water.
- Ol’ Man River ends with hundreds of Gold and Silver Waterfalls filling a mile-long stretch of the Hudson.

**American River Suite**

**Prologue: Through the Mist**

- Silver Fishes and White Fireflies dance through the pyrotechnic mist for the beginning of the American River Suite.
- The nautical Silver Dancing Fountains hover and swirl just above the water as schools of Red, Green and Silver “Kiddie Fishes” bustle around the sky.

**Half Moon**

- Celebrating the iconic ship Henry Hudson took on his voyage, Half Moon brings the bold look of Spanish pyrotechnics to the show that are known for their distinctive Gold Stars and vivid Fuchsia and Green Pixie Dust.
- During the song’s chorus the new “Ghost” Shells will make their debut. This mysterious shell explodes into stars that appear, disappear, and then reappear before a stunned audience. The Purple Ghost with Green strobbing effects will be the first to cause a sensation, followed by Red and Orange Ghosts that will swirl to the music.
- This song is jam-packed with new shells as the Aqua, Orange, Green and Pink Saturn shaped shells made of interlocking loops and rings make their debut. The interlocking rings transitioning into falling Golden Space Dust follow this awe-inspiring shape display.
- Half Moon will end with Macy’s first-ever Silver Mile! This mile-long horizontal and vertical display of Silver is made using Japanese Nishiki style White Strobbing Kamuro shells.
Majestic Valley

- The bold fanfare begins with multiple color changing Chrysanthemums that can transform color up to four times. A mile of Golden Tiger Tails with Purple Willow flower bursts follows the kaleidoscope. To finish the fanfare, new Double Palm Trees with Rising Purple Flower shells will build to the song’s finale as the new Nishiki-style Crowns in Red and Green shimmer high above.
- A majestic gem sequence begins following the mighty fanfare as Gold, Red and Green Crowns strobe for an extended length while Red and Green “X-Patterns” of Comet shells rise to meet them.

Sparks & Smoke: The Clermont

- New York City becomes even more buzz-worthy as a hive of Green, Red and Silver Hornet shells scamper wildly above the sky.
- Double swirling “Farfalles,” a USA-made velvety swirl of silver sparks will add to the frenzy, while Silver Bees with Silver Stars burst and swirl.

River at Play

- The Hudson is having a giant jam session at the start of this song. The splendor begins with the beautiful magenta and lime colored Palm fronds of the Margarita shell, which kicks off the musical dance.
- As the playful tempo of the music changes to a swaying beat, the fireworks begin a side-to-side dance with Gold Brocade bursts in the shape of an Oriental Fan (red-tipped fan-shaped shells).
- Next, the popular UFO’s shells return to slowly climb up and fall, only to resume their flights before bursting into strobbing bouquets of Yellow Diamonds.
- The party is in full swing by the end of the musical recreation when the new nautical Red shells cover the river then burst upward in the shape of an “M,” while the new Triple Ring Shells in the shape of an Atomic Symbol erupt above.

American River

- The theme song to the night’s festivities begins with a colorful barrage of shells from around the world to illustrate the American melting pot. Crossing fans of Patterned Bombettes in Green and Orange ignite from below as Green and Orange Sun Rays burst above.
- Red, white and blue are the dominant colors during the mid-point of the Hudson River tribute song as Crossettes and Falling stars with Red Strobes, Blue Peonies with Red Hearts, and Red Peonies with Blue Hearts are presented.
- As the music builds to its most bold orchestration, Macy’s famed Golden Mile begins. Thousands of Golden fireworks from around the world stretch across the night canvas to create a breathtaking display of brilliance. In honor of the 400th Anniversary of Henry Hudson’s voyage, this year’s Golden Mile will be the longest in the history of Macy’s Fireworks. The display will reach 1,000 feet in the air and “hang” in the sky more than 7 seconds longer than the traditional Golden Mile as it reaches the water’s edge.
The Battle Hymn of the Republic, This Land Is Your Land, America the Beautiful, and Stars & Stripes Forever

• The finale to the 33rd annual Macy’s 4th of July Fireworks features a patriotic tribute like no other. Red, White and Blue Dahlias begin to fill the lower part of the sky above the barges as Patriotic Flowers burst high above. As Rising Silver Tails climb, the new Blue and White Ball with a Red Ring that surrounds it named a “Patriotic Tulip” will make its debut.
• The stripes of Old Glory are represented by Red and Blue shells that rise from below while the very unique Amber Glittering shells with tips of either Blue or Red burst above.
• The Grand Finale of America’s largest 4th of July Fireworks will consist of Cascades of Silver and Golden Crowns with a final 2,000 shot wall of Rockin’ Rumble Thunder shells.

For revelers watching the spectacular in person, the show’s score can be heard live by bringing your radios and tuning in to 1010 WINS for the simulcast of the show.

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