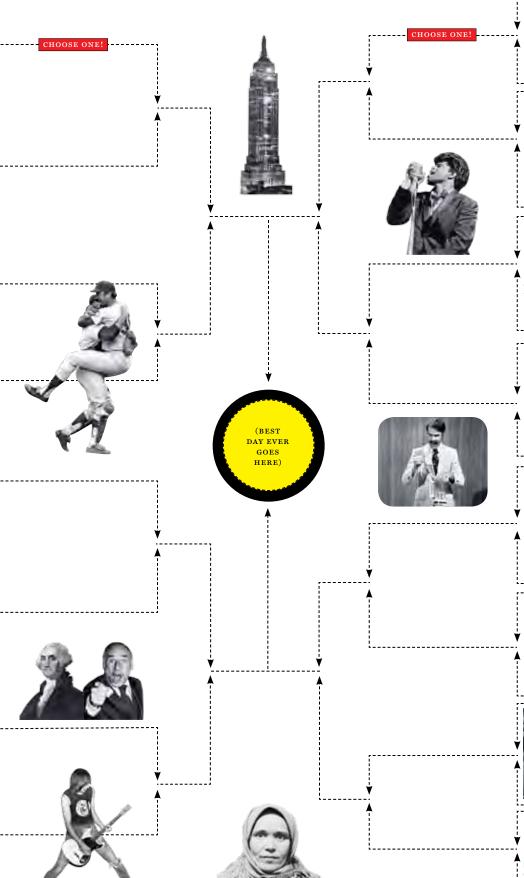
February 12, 1924: At Aeolian Hall, on 42nd Street across from Bryant Park, the world first hears "Rhapsody in Blue." August 14, 2003: The big blackout rolls in, and an ordinary Thursday evening turns into one big citywide block party. ..... July 21, 1853: The deal is signed to set aside more than a square mile of prime Manhattan for Central Park. (Imagine life without it.) OR October 28, 1858: R.H. Macy moves down from Massachusetts and opens shop on 14th Street. November 25, 1992: Lennie Briscoe makes his first appearance on 'Law & Order.' OR October 15, 1997: The New Amsterdam Theatre on 42nd Street-and by extension, Times Square itself—comes back from total ruin, with 'The Lion King.' May 24, 1883: The Brooklyn Bridge opens. April 17, 1907: Immigration hits its absolute peak; 11,747 newcomers are processed though Ellis Island. June 27, 1977: I ♥ NY appears, courtesy of the State of New York and designer Milton Glaser. February 27, 1860: Candidate Abraham Lincoln electrifies Cooper Union's Great Hall with a plainspoken speech that propels him to the presidency, thus ending slavery and saving the Union. January 5, 1920: The Yankees acquire Babe Ruth. **April 30, 1789: George Washington takes** the oath of office at Federal Hall on Wall Street, and New York briefly becomes America's first (and rightful) capital. June 28, 1926: Mel Brooks is born. September 8, 1664: The Dutch surrender the city to the English, and New Amsterdam becomes New York. August 16, 1974: The Ramones play their first CBGB gig.

NBC/PHOTOFET (BRISCOE), PALL DEMARA/INY DRLY NEWS ARCHVE/GETTY MAGES (METS), SUPERSTOCK/GETTY MAGES (BRIDGE), LEWIS W. HINE/GEORGE EASTWAN HOUSE/GETTY MAGES (BANDIGRANT); NATIONAL BASEGS (BRIDGE), SELES PETARD), TIME LIFE PICTURES (BROWN), EBET ROBERTS/BETTY IMAGES (BROWN), EBET ROBERTS/BETTY IM





June 28, 1969: Stonewall erupts, and liberation begins.

OR

**January 15, 2009: Sully** lands his Airbus on the Hudson.

**September 22, 1930:** The steel of the **Empire State Building** reaches 1,050 feet, surpassing the Chrysler Building and becoming the tallest in the world.

OI

October 24, 1962: James Brown performs live at the Apollo. The subsequent recording spends 66 weeks on the charts.

August 11, 1973: Clive Campbell, a.k.a. D.J. Kool Herc, plays a Bronx party in the rec room of 1520 Sedgwick Avenue, and (arguably) hip-hop is born.

OR

**January 1, 2002: Rudy Giuliani** hands off the mayoralty to **Michael Bloomberg** in Times Square just after midnight, and a city that's still reeling from 9/11 grasps that, somehow, eventually everything will feel okay again.

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**November 14, 1943:** Bruno Walter gets sick before taking the stage to conduct the New York Philharmonic, and the new kid, **Leonard Bernstein**, steps up. He'll keep returning for nearly 50 years.

OR

July 1, 1945: During a newspaper strike, Mayor La Guardia gets on WNYC to read the funny pages, keeping kids up to date on their comic-strip plots.

April 17, 1976: Dan Aykroyd stars in the single funniest 'SNL' sketch ever: "Super Bass-O-Matic '76."

OR

September 4, 1882: Thomas Edison's Pearl

 $\begin{tabular}{ll} \textbf{Street power station} opens, and that night—for the first time anywhere in the world—the city lights come on. \end{tabular}$ 

**September 19, 1981: Simon & Garfunkel** play Central Park.

OR

November 6, 1962: Andy Warhol's first Pop Art solo show in New York. On the walls: soup cans, Coke bottles, Marilyn.





**August 14, 1945:** The war is over, and Times Square—starring that sailor and that nurse—celebrates.

OR

**September 8, 1955:** The subway gets its **first air-conditioned cars.** Whew.

June 6, 1998: 'Sex and the City' debuts.

OF

February 22, 2004: 'Sex and the City' ends.

