

February 12, 1924: At Aeolian Hall, on 42nd Street across from Bryant Park, the world first hears **"Rhapsody in Blue."**

OR

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.'**



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.

OR

October 16, 1969: **The Mets win!**



April 17, 1907: **Immigration** hits its absolute peak; 11,747 newcomers are processed through Ellis Island.

OR

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.

OR

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.

OR

June 28, 1926: **Mel Brooks** is born.



September 8, 1664: The **Dutch** surrender the city to the English, and New Amsterdam becomes New York.

OR

August 16, 1974: **The Ramones** play their first CBGB gig.



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.

OR

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.

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 Street power station** opens, and that night—for the first time anywhere in the world—the city lights come on.

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.

OR

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

