SAN FRANCISCO OPERA'S GRAND OPERA CINEMA SERIES AT SUNDANCE KABUKI CINEMAS CONTINUES ON MAY 10 AND 14 WITH DONIZETTI'S *THE ELIXIR OF LOVE* STARRING RAMÓN VARGAS AND INVA MULA

SAN FRANCISCO (April 14, 2011)—San Francisco Opera's Grand Opera Cinema Series at Sundance Kabuki Cinemas in San Francisco continues on Tuesday, May 10 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, May 14 at 10 a.m. with HD screenings of the Company's acclaimed production of Gaetano Donizetti's *The Elixir of Love.* Stunning Albanian soprano Inva Mula and internationally renowned Mexican tenor Ramón Vargas headline a brilliant cast in Donizetti's sparkling comedy.

Donizetti's *The Elixir of Love* is the flirtatious and charming story of Nemorino, a shy, love-struck Italian immigrant who naïvely relies on a "love potion" to help him win the heart of the beautiful Adina. Director James Robinson updates this classic tale to the delightful innocence of a Napa Valley county fair circa 1915. Tenor Ramón Vargas stars as the bashful Nemorino and soprano Inva Mula is the carefree Adina. Italian bass-baritone Alessandro Corbelli is Dulcamara, the quack doctor and travelling salesman who convinces Nemorino that a cheap bottle of wine is in fact a magic love potion. Italian baritone Giorgio Caoduro is the dashing Sergeant Belcore, Adina's short-term fiancé and Nemorino's main competition. Adina's friend and chatty town gossip, Gianetta, is played by Korean soprano Ji-Young Yang.

The distinguished bel canto stylist Bruno Campanella conducts the San Francisco Opera orchestra and chorus. The production team includes Broadway set designer Allen Moyer, Tony Award winning costume designer Martin Pakledinaz, and lighting designer Paul Palazzo.

Recorded live in high definition at the War Memorial Opera House, the screenings include English subtitles and one brief intermission featuring behind the scenes interviews. Prior to the May

14 screening, San Francisco Opera's Education department will present a free, informative 25-minute talk by music educator Alexandra Amati-Camperi at 9:30 a.m.

Tickets for San Francisco Opera's Grand Opera Cinema Series at the Sundance Kabuki Cinemas are priced at $13 for adults and $11 for seniors for the Tuesday evening screenings, and $11 for adults and seniors and $9.25 for children for the Saturday matinee screenings. Tuesday screenings are available only for patrons age 21 and over; light food, snacks and alcoholic beverages are available for purchase at the Sundance bistro and bar and may be brought into the theater. Tickets are available via sundancecinemas.com, where patrons may also select seats in advance, and at the Sundance Kabuki Box Office. For more information about Sundance Kabuki Cinemas, visit sundancecinemas.com or call (415) 346-3243.

San Francisco Opera launched the Grand Opera Cinema Series in Spring 2008 with its presentation of *La Rondine*, *Samson and Delilah*, *Don Giovanni* and *Madama Butterfly* to movie theaters across the country. These operas are now available to theaters and performing arts venues as part of the Company's Grand Opera Cinema Series. In Fall 2010, four new titles, including *La Bohème*, *Tosca*, *Lucia di Lammermoor* and *The Elixir of Love* were added to the series.

For more information about San Francisco Opera's Grand Opera Cinema Series, including additional theaters currently screening the series and further information and video clips of *La Bohème, Tosca*, *Lucia di Lammermoor* and *The Elixir of Love*, visit sfopera.com/cinemaseries.

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San Francisco Opera's simulcasts and cinemacasts are made possible through the technology of the Company's Koret-Taube Media Suite, the first permanent HD broadcast-standard video production facility installed in an American opera house. A grant from the Koret Foundation provided lead funding for the Koret-Taube Media Suite, with additional support provided by Tad and Dianne Taube. An anonymous donor committed the remaining required funding.

SAN FRANCISCO OPERA'S GRAND OPERA CINEMA SERIES AT SUNDANCE KABUKI CINEMAS (1881 Post Street in San Francisco)

TICKETS AND INFORMATION

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San Francisco Opera's *The Elixir of Love* in HD

Tuesday, May 10 at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, May 14 at 10 a.m.

Sundance Kabuki Cinemas
1881 Post Street, San Francisco

Sung in Italian with English subtitles
Running time: 1 hour and 58 minutes with one 15-minute intermission
Rating: General Audiences

A flirtatious tale of innocent love and boundless devotion, Gaetano Donizetti's boisterous comedy *The Elixir of Love* tells the story of the shy, love-struck Nemorino as he naïvely relies on a "love potion" to help him win the heart of the beautiful Adina. Stunning Albanian soprano Inva Mula and internationally renowned Mexican tenor Ramón Vargas headline a brilliant cast which also includes bass-baritone Alessandro Corbelli as Dulcamara, baritone Giorgio Caoduro as the dashing Sergeant Belcore and soprano Ji-Young Yang as Gianetta. Director James Robinson and set designer Allen Moyer ingeniously update this classic Italian tale to the delightful innocence of a Napa Valley county fair circa 1915, and Bruno Campanella conducts. Recorded live at the War Memorial Opera House in Fall 2008.

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This press release and high-resolution photographs from *The Elixir of Love* are available at sfopera.com/press.

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