



SAN FRANCISCO
OPERA

**SAN FRANCISCO OPERA'S *GRAND OPERA CINEMA SERIES* IN HD
AT SUNDANCE KABUKI CINEMAS CONTINUES ON MARCH 20 & 24
WITH CAMILLE SAINT-SAËNS'S *SAMSON AND DELILAH***

SAN FRANCISCO (March 5, 2010) – San Francisco Opera's *Grand Opera Cinema Series* at the Sundance Kabuki Cinemas in San Francisco continues on Saturday, March 20 at 10 a.m. and Wednesday, March 24 at 6:30 p.m. with HD screenings of the Company's acclaimed production of Camille Saint-Saën's sweeping biblical epic, *Samson and Delilah*.

Samson and Delilah stars mezzo-soprano Olga Borodina as the seductive Delilah and tenor Clifton Forbis as the Old Testament hero who loses his heart, his hair and nearly his soul. Sandra Bernhard directs the opulent San Francisco Opera production by Nicolas Joël. Patrick Summers, San Francisco Opera's principal guest conductor and Houston Grand Opera's music director, conducts.

Recorded live in high definition at San Francisco's historic War Memorial Opera House, the screenings include English subtitles and a brief intermission featuring behind the scenes interviews. All performances feature the San Francisco Opera Orchestra and San Francisco Opera Chorus (Ian Robertson, Chorus Director).

Tickets for San Francisco Opera's *Grand Opera Cinema Series* at the Sundance Kabuki Cinemas are priced at \$14 and 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 partners with Sundance Cinemas to present its *Grand Opera Cinema Series* for the first time at the Sundance Kabuki Cinemas, one of the city's premier movie theaters.

The monthly Saturday matinee and Wednesday evening screenings continue through April 2010 with presentations of Giacomo Puccini's rarely performed gem *La Rondine*, starring renowned soprano Angela Gheorghiu, tenor Misha Didyk, soprano Anna Christy and tenor Gerard Powers. Please see attached calendar for a complete schedule and screening information.

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, visit sfopera.com/cinemaseries.

About Sundance Cinemas LLC

Based in Los Angeles, California and launched in 2006, Sundance Cinemas, LLC is building a multiple facility national theatre circuit. Sundance Cinemas, LLC brings together Robert Redford's Sundance brand, a recognized name in independent film and a team of nationally recognized exhibition executives. Sundance Cinemas is dedicated to redefining and enriching the specialized exhibition experience, and are programmed with the very best in Event, Independent and World Cinema.

About San Francisco Opera's Grand Opera Cinema Series

San Francisco Opera launched its digital 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*, which focuses on distributing San Francisco Opera cinema presentations to arts centers, independent film theaters, universities, and other venues in the western region of the country.

The cinema series is one of the many electronic media initiatives launched under the direction of General Director David Gockley. These include the Company's free live simulcasts, one of the first innovations of David Gockley's tenure and part of the Company's campaign to bring opera into the community. Since 2006, the Company has presented seven free live simulcasts at venues throughout the Bay Area, including San Francisco's AT&T Park, for nearly 120,000 fans. 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. The media suite gives the Company the permanent capability to generate a high-definition, multi-camera live feed of the stage for many uses including cinema presentations, its expanding tradition of free outdoor simulcasts, OperaVision (offering full stage, close-up and mid-range ensemble shots in high-definition video on two retractable screens for patrons seated in the balcony section of the War Memorial Opera House), and for educational and other uses. 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: \$14; patrons may purchase tickets and select seats in advance at sundancecinemas.com. Tickets are also available at the Sundance Kabuki Box Office.

INFORMATION: For more information about Sundance Kabuki Cinemas, visit sundancecinemas.com or call (415) 346-3243. For more information about San Francisco Opera's *Grand Opera Cinema Series*, and to view video clips of these operas, visit sfopera.com/cinemaseries.

UPCOMING SCREENINGS:

San Francisco Opera's *Samson and Delilah* in HD

Saturday, March 20 at 10 a.m.

Wednesday, March 24 at 6:30 p.m.

Sundance Kabuki Cinemas

1881 Post Street, San Francisco

Sung in French with English subtitles

Running time: 2 hours and 35 minutes with two ten-minute intermissions

Rating: General Audiences

Saint-Saëns's sweeping biblical epic stars mezzo-soprano Olga Borodina as Delilah and tenor Clifton Forbis as the Old Testament hero who loses his heart, his hair, and nearly his soul. The cast also features bass-baritone Juha Uusitalo as The High Priest of Dagon, bass Oren Gradus in the role of An Old Hebrew and bass-baritone Eric Jordan as Abimélech. Sandra Bernhard directs this sumptuous San Francisco Opera/Nicolas Joël production featuring sets by Douglas Schmidt and costumes by Carrie Robbins. Patrick Summers conducts. Recorded live at the War Memorial Opera House in Fall 2007.

San Francisco Opera's *La Rondine* in HD

Saturday, April 3 at 10 a.m.

Wednesday, April 7 at 6:30 p.m.

Sundance Kabuki Cinemas

1881 Post Street, San Francisco

Sung in Italian with English subtitles

Running time: 2 hours and 5 minutes with one ten-minute intermission

Rating: General Audiences

Renowned soprano Angela Gheorghiu stars as Magda de Civry in Puccini's rarely-performed gem. Tenor Misha Didyk is the naïve young man (Ruggero) who falls in love with the worldly Magda in this Italian take on Viennese operetta. Soprano Anna Christy (Lisette), tenor Gerard Powers (Prunier) and bass-baritone Philip Skinner (Rambaldo) round out the cast. The stunning Art Deco-inspired production by Nicolas Joël (from Royal Opera, Covent Garden and Théâtre du Capitole, Toulouse), with set design by Ezio Frigerio and costumes by Franca Squarciapino, is directed by Stephen Barlow and conducted by Ion Marin. Recorded live at the War Memorial Opera House in Fall 2007.

This press release and downloadable photographs of *Samson and Delilah* and *La Rondine* and are available at sfopera.com/press.

For further press information, please contact San Francisco Opera Communications:

Jon Finck (415) 565-6472 / jfinck@sfopera.com; Robin Freeman (415) 565-6451 / rfreeman@sfopera.com