



SAN FRANCISCO OPERA COSTUME SHOP SALE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC OCTOBER 24 & 25

Spectacular Array of One-Of-A-Kind Costumes, Hats, Masks, Shoes, and Fabrics

**Rare Sale Includes Designs by Noted Costume and Fashion Designers
and Costumes Worn by Opera's Greatest Stars**

SAN FRANCISCO (October 5, 2009) — Looking for a unique piece of opera memorabilia, or the ultimate Halloween costume? Don't miss the San Francisco Opera Costume Shop Sale on Saturday, October 24 from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on Sunday, October 25 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the San Francisco Opera Scene Shop, located at 800 Indiana Street (between 20th and 22nd Streets) in San Francisco.

For only the fourth time in its history, San Francisco Opera opens its extensive and historic costume warehouse to the public. This rare sale offers hundreds of stylish and exotic items, including hats, masks, fabrics and shoes, as well as handmade costumes spanning a wide variety of styles and periods, for men, women and children.

In addition to medieval, biblical, Renaissance, and eighteenth-century costumes, modern and vintage clothing previously worn in San Francisco Opera productions are also available, as well as conceptual and fantasy costumes that defy description.

Hand painted kimonos from Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*, photo emulsion-printed costumes from Verdi's *Macbeth*, spectacular 18th-century costumes from Massenet's *Manon*, and hand painted soldier costumes from Verdi's *La Forza del Destino* are among the one-of-a-kind costumes on sale.

The sale includes a special collection of costumes worn by some of opera's greatest luminaries at San Francisco Opera, including Montserrat Caballé, Beverly Sills, Leontyne Price, Luciano Pavarotti, Régine Crespin, Plácido Domingo, Renée Fleming, Thomas Hampson, Mirella Freni, Samuel Ramey, and Dame Joan Sutherland. Pieces by noted fashion and costume designers such as Gianni Versace, Bob Mackie, Thierry Bosquet, and Jean-Pierre Ponnelle are also featured.

Prices range from \$1 to \$750; prices for costumes from the special opera luminaries collection are available on request. Cash and credit card accepted. All sales are final and benefit San Francisco Opera. For more information, visit sfopera.com.

This press release and downloadable photographs of costumes featured in the sale are available at sfopera.com/press. For further press information, please contact: Jon Finck 415.565.6472 / jfinck@sfopera.com; Robin Freeman 415.565.6451 / rffreeman@sfopera.com.