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## **EMERGING PICTURES and THE LITTLE THEATRE presents INTERNATIONAL OPERAS & BALLET IN CINEMAS**

- **Featuring new productions from the world-renowned La Scala and Italy's other great opera houses**
- **The Salzburg Festival 2008**
- **Live broadcast on LA SCALA's season opener Don Carlo**
- **The Glyndebourne Festival 2008**
- **Ballet from the Bolshoi and La Scala**

Emerging Pictures now brings to The Little Theatre the best selection of operas that were performed in Italy this year—as well as from the prestigious Salzburg and Glyndebourne Festivals in 2008—in High Definition (HD) and Surround Sound presentation. Following the phenomenal success of its digital cinema presentations of the 2007/2008 season of the Teatro all Scala in cinemas across the country and worldwide, Emerging Pictures will not only present the best of international operas but also new ballet productions from The Bolshoi as well as from La Scala.

The series marks The Little's inaugural venture into digital programming. "To have an opportunity to bring first-class cultural arts programming from around the world to Rochester has been a dream of ours. Thanks to the support of some wonderful donors, we've been able to make this dream a reality", said Bob Russell, Executive Director of The Little. The opera series is being co-sponsored by WXXI.

The season begins Sunday, October 19 at The Little Theatre (240 East Avenue, Rochester NY 14606) with the acclaimed production of LA TRAVIATA starring Angela Gheorghiu. The screening program, which takes place on Sundays at noon and Tuesdays at 6:00pm, are as follows:

**Sunday, Oct. 19, 12noon -- LA TRAVIATA**  
**Tuesday, Oct. 21, 6pm -- LA TRAVIATA**  
**Sunday, Oct. 26, 12noon -- AIDA**  
**Tuesday, Oct. 28, 6pm -- AIDA**  
**Sunday, Nov. 2, 12noon -- MARIA STUARDA**  
**Tuesday, Nov. 4, 6pm -- MARIA STUARDA**

**Sunday, Nov. 9, 12noon -- IL BARBIERE DI SIVIGLIA**  
**Tuesday, Nov. 11, 6pm -- IL BARBIERE DI SIVIGLIA**  
**Sunday, Nov. 16, 12noon -- NORMA**  
**Tuesday, Nov. 18, 6pm -- NORMA**  
**Sunday, Nov. 30, 12noon -- DON GIOVANNI**  
**Tuesday, Dec. 2, 6pm -- DON GIOVANNI**

Sunday, Dec. 7, 12noon -- DON CARLO (LIVE!)  
Tuesday, Dec. 9, 6pm – ROMEO ET JULIETTE  
Sunday, Dec. 14, 12noon -- ROMEO ET JULIETTE  
Tuesday, Dec. 16, 6pm - OTELLO  
Sunday, Dec. 21, 12noon – OTELLO  
Tuesday, Dec. 23, 6pm – HANSEL & GRETEL  
Sunday, Dec. 28, 12noon – PHARAOH'S DAUGHTER (Ballet)

Sunday, January 4, 12noon – HANSEL & GRETEL  
Tuesday, January 6, 6pm – PHARAOH'S DAUGHTER (Ballet)  
Sunday, January 11, 12noon – RIGOLETTO  
Tuesday, January 13, 6pm – RIGOLETTO  
Sunday, January 18, 12noon – L'INCORONAZIONE DI POPPEA  
Tuesday, January 20, 6pm – L'INCORONAZIONE DI POPPEA  
Sunday, January 25, 12noon – GIULIO CESARE  
Tuesday, January 27, 6pm – GIULIO CESARE

Sunday, February 1, 12noon – DON CARLO (reprise)  
Tuesday, February 3, 6pm – LADY MACBETH OF MTSENSK  
Sunday, February 8, 12noon – LADY MACBETH OF MTSENSK  
Tuesday, February 10, 6pm – MEDITERANNEA (Ballet)  
Sunday, February 15, 12noon – MEDITERANNEA (Ballet)  
Tuesday, February 17, 6pm – BOLT (Ballet)  
Sunday, February 22, 12noon – BOLT (Ballet)

#### **ABOUT THE OPERAS -- Production and Cast Information:**

LA TRAVIATA by Giuseppe Verdi, based on A. Dumas' Lady of the Camelias / from La Scala (2008)

In this poignant love story, courtesan Violetta Valery meets a new admirer, Alfredo, who professes back his love. Trouble brews when Alfredo's father demands her to renounce his son since the scandal of their affair has threatened his own daughter's engagement. Violetta resists but eventually agrees. Alfredo denounces his former love cruelly, and months later, Violetta, deathly ill, has only days to live. Alfredo becomes contrite as he learns the truth, though it may be too late.

Directed by Liliana Cavani, based on Alexandre Dumas' Lady of the Camelias / Conductor: Lorin Maazel  
Cast: Angela Gheorghiu, Ramón Vargas, Roberto Frontali

AIDA by Verdi / from La Scala (2008)

Set in ancient Egypt during the reign of the Pharaohs, AIDA delivers an intense, compelling drama combined with spectacular theatrical pageantry. Political intrigue, love, betrayal, passion, and vengeance conspire in a tragic love triangle that pits three people conflicted by their love for country, family, and each other.

Directed and designed by Franco Zeffirelli / Conductor: Riccardo Chailly  
Cast: Violetta Urmana, Roberto Alagna, Giorgio Giuseppini (Ramfis)

MARIA STUARDA by Donizetti / from La Scala (2008)

Maria Stuarda is a tragic opera based on the lives of Mary, Queen of Scots and her powerful cousin Queen Elizabeth I. During the negotiations of a marriage proposal between Queen Elizabeth and the King of France, Lord Talbot intercedes on behalf of the

royal prisoner Maria Stuart, imprisoned since fleeing from Scotland. The Queen is torn between sympathy for Maria and fear that she is plotting against her. As both queens engage in a power struggle, it becomes apparent that the final triumph will prove elusive to either one.

Directed, designed and costumed by Pier Luigi Pizzi / Conductor: Antonino Fogliani  
Cast: Includes Mariella Devia (Maria Stuarda), Anna Caterina Antonacci (Elisabetta)

#### IL BARBIERE DI SEVIGLIA by Rossini from Teatro La Fenice, Venice (2008)..

In the form of comedy, IL BARBIERE DI SEVIGLIA tells the story of Rosina who refuses to marry Doctor Bartolo, her guardian, as she is in love with Lindoro (the Count Almaviva in disguise). After many twists and tricks, and thanks to the strategic help of Figaro, Lindoro (the Count of Almaviva) and Rosina finally succeed in getting married.

Conductor: Antonino Fogliani / Director: Bepi Morassi  
Cast: Roberto Frontali, Rinat Shaham, Francesco Meli, Bruno de Simone

#### NORMA by Bellini from Teatro Comunale di Bologna (2008)

Norma is a visual spectacle that tells the heartrending story of the tragic love triangle between the aging priestess Norma, the Roman consul Pollione, and his new love, the young Adalgisa. Desperate after having been abandoned by the man she loves, Norma decides whether or not to kill herself; Pollione, struck by her devotion, must choose between saving her life or following his heart.

Conductor: Evelino Pido / Director Federico Tiezzi  
Cast: Daniela Dessi, Fabio Armiliato, Kate Aldrich

#### DON GIOVANNI by Mozart from Salzburg Festival (2008)

In what is probably Mozart's most famous opera, British baritone Christopher Maltman takes on the title role in this opening production of this year's Salzburg Festival. Bertrand de Billy, Anna Netrebko's favorite conductor, directs the Vienna Philharmonic.

Conductor: Bertrand de Billy / Director: Claus Guth  
Cast: Christopher Maltman, Annette Dasch, Anatoly Kocherga, Dorothea Roschmann

#### ROMEO ET JULIETTE by Gounod from Salzburg Festival (2008)

With its four duets for the title couple, Charles Gounod's ROMEO ET JULIETTE is one of the most famous love tragedies in opera literature. Stage director Bartlett Sher (this year's Tony winner for "South Pacific") makes his European opera debut and Rolando Villazon, one of the leading tenors of our day, plays Romeo to Nina Machaizde's Juliet.

Conductor: Yannick Nezet-Seguin / Director: Bartlett Sher  
Cast: Nino Machaizde, Rolando Villazon, Mikhail Petrenko, Russell Braun

#### OTELLO by Verdi from Salzburg Festival (2008)

Verdi's last tragic opera Otello, like Shakespeare's play, is a shattering psychological drama. Riccardo Muti, one of the best Verdi conductors of our time, returns to Salzburg. Along with famous Spanish baritone Carlos Alvarez as Jago, two upcoming young singers can be heard as Otello and Desdemona: Aleksandrs Antonenko and Marina Poplavskaya.

Conductor: Riccardo Muti / Director: Stephen Langridge

Cast: Aleksandrs Antonenko, Marina Poplavskaya, Carlos Alvarez, Stephen Costello

DON CARLO by Verdi from La Scala, Live!

**ON DECEMBER 7, 2008 : LIVE BROADCAST throughout North America and Europe of the OPENING NIGHT PRODUCTION OF LA SCALA'S "DON CARLO" -- which opens their 2008/09 Season. In stunning High Definition & Surround Sound.**

Don Carlo, widely considered to be Giuseppe Verdi's greatest work, has been selected to open the 2008-09 Teatro Alla Scala opera season. Now a global audience can watch it via a digital cinema release organized jointly by Emerging Pictures and RAI Trade, the international sales arm of public broadcasting powerhouse, RAI. The story is based on conflicts in the life of Prince Carlos of Asturias, after his betrothed Elisabeth of Valois was married instead to his father, King Philip II of Spain, as part of the peace treaty ending the Italian War (1551-1559) between the Houses of Habsburg and Valois.

Conductor: Daniele Gatti

Cast: Giuseppe Filianoti, Fiorenza Cedolins, Matti Salminen

HANSEL UND GRETEL by Humperdinck from Glyndebourne Festival (2008)

Adapted from the Grimms' fairy tale, this opera was first proposed to Engelbert Humperdinck by his sister who approached him about writing music for songs that she had written for her own kids for Christmas based on "Hansel and Gretel." After several revisions, the musical sketches and the songs were turned into a full-scale opera. This new, acclaimed production was hailed by Opera News as "pure theatrical magic."

Director: Laurent Pelly / Conductor: Kazushi Ono

Starring: Jennifer Holloway, Adriana Kucherova

L'INCORONAZIONE DI POPPEA by Monteverdi from Glyndebourne Festival (2008)

Based on historical incidents described in the Annals of Tacitus, the opera takes Poppea, the second wife of the Roman Emperor Nero, as the heroine of the plot. A masterwork of irony, the plot itself shows the triumph of the god Amore over fellow goddesses Virtù and Fortuna, as promised by the prologue. However, the educated audience of that day would have been aware of the pregnant Poppea's murder of Poppea in a fit of rage.

Director: Robert Carsen / Conductor: Emmanuelle Haim

Starring Danielle De Niese, Alice Coote

GIULIO CESARE by Handel from Glyndebourne Festival (2008)

Handel's Giulio Cesare (Julius Caesar) has all the historical themes of warfare, passionate love, betrayal, heroic action brought to lyric drama on an epic scale. Julius Caesar is embroiled in a bitter power struggle with Pompey the Great for control of the Roman world. In their explosive battle at Pharsalus (sometime in 48 B.C.) Caesar triumphs over his rival who subsequently fled to Egypt, now under the joint rule of Ptolemy and his sister, Cleopatra. The plot ends with Caesar and Cleopatra entering the city of Alexandria, with Cleopatra proclaimed as queen of Egypt, and Caesar declaring his love for her and promising peace to the people in Egypt.

Director: David McVicar / Conductor: William Christie

Starring Danielle De Niese, Sarah Connolly

## RIGOLETTO by Verdi from the Teatro Regio di Parma (2008)

Rigoletto tells the touching, love-hate relationship between a father and his daughter. It is the story of how Rigoletto wants to hide and protect his daughter Gilda, while Gilda herself is in love with the Duke. The story ends tragically with Rigoletto attempting to have the Duke murdered and Gilda having to make the sacrifice of her life to save the Duke.

Director: Stefano Vizioli / Conductor: Massimo Zanetti  
Cast: Francesco Demuro, Leo Nucci, Desiree Rancatore.

## LADY MACBETH OF MTSENSK DISTRICT by Shostakovich from Teatro Maggio Musicale Fiorentino

Shostakovich's opera delineates the story of the unhappy Katerina who is driven to murder so she can pursue her romance with Sergei, one of her husband's workers. Acclaimed at the time of its creation, Lady Macbeth was condemned in the Soviet Union in 1936, two years after its first production, and banned for almost thirty years.

Director: Lev Dodin / Conductor: James Conlon  
Cast: Vladimir Vaneev, Vsevolod Grivnov, Jeanne-Michele Charbonnet, Sergej Kunaev

## **ABOUT THE BALLET – Production and Performer information:**

### BOLT

Dimitri Shostakovich's second ballet, BOLT, brings serious and popular music and dance all together including Komsomol routines, Red Army marches, circus acrobatics, and vaudeville antics.

Choreographer: Alexei Ratmansky/Conductor: Pavel Sorokin  
Performers: Anastasia Yatsenko, Andreï Merkuriev, Denis Savin, Morikhiro Iwata  
Ballet of the Bolshoi theatre/ Orchestra of the Bolshoi theatre

### PHARAOH'S DAUGHTER

Petipa's choreography was reconstructed by Pierre Lacotte for a lavish production into which the Bolshoi threw all its resources, lavish ancient Egyptian scenery and costumes. "PHARAOH'S DAUGHTER features brilliant performances by the corps de ballet and the orchestra, and above all spectacular performances by the leading dancers Svetlana Zakharova and Sergei Filin." -Washington Post

Choreographer: Pierre Lacotte from Marius Petipa/ Conductor: Alexander Sotnikov  
Performers: Svetlana Zakharova, Sergey Filin, Gennady Yanin, Maria Aleksandrova, Anastasia Yatsenko  
Ballet of the Bolshoi theatre/ Orchestra of the Bolshoi theatre

### MEDITERRANEA

Mediterranea, which does not indulge in the folklore but varies the musical genres that range from popular Turkish music to Ligeti and Mozart to archaic Grecian melodies, focuses on the gestures and the moves in a refined balance between lyricism and pure energy. "A hit with the public, MEDITERRANEA was acclaimed by critics for its power..." -Dance Magazine

Choreographer: Mauro Bigonzetti  
Performers: Massimo Murru, Antonino Sutera, Francesca Podini, Gabriele Corrado, Antonella Albano, Andrea Volpintesta

### **About La Scala (Teatro Alla Scala)**

Founded in 1778, La Scala is widely regarded as the greatest opera house in history. It has been home to many of the most renowned composers, conductors and virtuoso singers of the international opera world. La Scala's Opening Night is one of European society's most important cultural events. Heads of State, kings, queens, princes and princesses as well as Italy's elite are certain to be in attendance. Last year's premiere saw ticket prices soar to US \$2,800 each, and it is anticipated that this year's performance of "Don Carlo" with its stellar cast will command an even higher premium.

### **About Salzburg Festival**

The Salzburg Festival (Salzburg Festspiele) was inaugurated on August 22, 1920 by Richard Strauss, Max Reinhardt and Hugo von Hofmannsthal. Since that time, it has established itself as the pre-eminent and most important festival in the world for opera, drama, and concerts.

### **About the Glyndebourne Festival**

The internationally renowned Glyndebourne Festival was founded in 1934 by John Christie and his wife, Audrey Mildmay; their grandson Gus is now Executive Chairman with David Pickard the General Director. Carl Ebert was the first Artistic Director and Fritz Busch Music Director. Vladimir Jurowski is the current Music Director. The Festival repertoire has expanded to include operas from the baroque to the contemporary, including seven of Glyndebourne's own commissions and 13 British premieres. The opera house itself was rebuilt in 1994 and now seats 1,200. Glyndebourne on Tour was founded in 1968 taking productions to a wider audience and offering increased performance opportunities to young singers. Additionally, Glyndebourne's Education department has an enormous commitment to new opera and community projects; it currently hosts over 230 different activities each year. With 124 opera performances annually reaching over 140,000 people, Glyndebourne's continued employment of inspirational directors and performers, and the ongoing drive to commission new work, now goes hand in hand with digital innovations to reach new audiences.

### **About Bolshoi Ballet**

Bolshoi Ballet is one of the principal ballet companies of Russia. Part of the Bolshoi Theater, which also includes Russia's premier opera company, the Bolshoi Ballet began as a dancing school for the Moscow Orphanage in 1773. The Bolshoi Theatre, which opened permanently in 1856, in its early decades competed for preeminence with the Maryinsky Theatre of St. Petersburg. Aleksandr Gorsky revitalized the dance company in the early 20th century and introduced a new dramatic realism to the classical ballets. Igor Moiseyev experimented with folk-dance ballets at the Bolshoi in the 1930s. The company is internationally acclaimed for its superb ensemble skills and for the spectacular realism of its scenery and costumes. During the 1960s, Maya Plisetskaya was the company's prima ballerina. In 1964, Yuri Grigorovich became chief choreographer and later, artistic director, serving until the late 90s. Aleksei Fadeychev was the ballet's artistic director from 1998 to 2000, when Boris Akimov was named to the post. The company is internationally acclaimed and regularly tours with such classics as *Giselle* and *Swan Lake*. Today, the Bolshoi embodies a school, a style, a savoir-faire and a performing tradition of unrivaled richness.

### **About Emerging Pictures/ Emerging Cinemas**

Emerging Pictures was founded in 2002 by Barry Rebo, Giovanni Cozzi and Ira Deutchman to create a new theatrical distribution network for independent, international and documentary films through the use of digital technology. Emerging has grown into a distribution, marketing and exhibition company through its network of theaters, Emerging Cinemas, bringing first-run art house cinema, opera and ballet worldwide. (website: [www.emergingpictures.com](http://www.emergingpictures.com)) Emerging Pictures is the leading distributor of Operas into Cinemas representing the programs from Teatro alla Scala (Milan, Italy), Salzburg Festival (Austria), Teatro La Fenice (Venice, Italy), Teatro del Maggio Musicale (Florence, Italy), Teatro Regio (Parma, Italy), Teatro Comunale di Bologna (Italy), Glyndebourne Festival (U.K.), Palau de les Arts Reina Sofia (Valencia, Spain.)

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