



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Note: This release contains new information about choreography and costumes. A previous version was released on Dec. 17, 2008

Opera Boston presents the New England Premiere of Shostakovich's *THE NOSE*

Creating the movement for *The Nose* is Martha Mason, artistic director of the late Snappy Dance Theater. Costumer Carmel Dundon creates full-body nose costume for the production

(BOSTON) – Opera Boston presents the New England premiere of Dmitri Shostakovich's satirical first opera, *The Nose*, February 27 through March 3 at the Cutler Majestic Theatre. It will be conducted by Opera Boston Music Director **Gil Rose**, Grammy Award-nominated interpreter of twentieth and twenty-first century repertory, and directed by the internationally-acclaimed **Julia Pevzner** in her Opera Boston debut. Sung in Russian with English surtitles. Individual tickets are on sale now through Telecharge.com, (800-233-3123) and the Cutler Majestic Theatre box office. For more information, please see www.operaboston.org.

Based on the classic story by Gogol in which a government clerk wakes up one morning to find that his nose has left his face to seek its own way in the world, Shostakovich's surreal opera was called an "anarchistic grenade" at its 1930 premiere. It was suppressed by the Soviet arts bureaucracy and rediscovered in the 1970s. It has rarely been staged in the United States since its U.S. debut in Santa Fe in 1987.

The Nose will be directed by Tel Aviv-based **Julia Pevzner**. She is a native of St. Petersburg, the setting of *The Nose*, and has returned to her hometown to stage *Das Rheingold* and *Die Walküre* conducted by Valery Gergiev at the Mariinsky Theatre. United States credits include *Boris Godunov* at San Francisco Opera in October 2008, and *Eugene Onegin* at Virginia Opera. Ms. Pevzner served as Assistant Director to Francesca Zambello at the 2004 Bard Summerscape production of *The Nose*, the most recent U.S. revival of the work.

Creating the movement for this opera is Martha Mason, formerly the artistic director of the critically acclaimed Snappy Dance Theater, which closed in 2008. During her 10-year tenure with Snappy, Mason focused on non-traditional dance movement to find the theatrical potential in

athletic human movement. Says Mason, "I'm so excited to work with the talented singers of Opera Boston and discover what their movement potential will be while singing. Both Julia Pevzner and I think that in general, there is too much standing around in opera! I'm not going to turn *The Nose* into a kick line musical, but there's a lot of fun potential for physicality when you combine Gogol and Shostakovich!"

Tenor **Torrance Blaisdell** takes on the role of The Nose itself, once it strikes out on its own and refuses to return to Kovalyov's face, having achieved a higher status in the bureaucracy.

Costume designer Nancy Leary and fabricator Carmel Dundon have created a full-body nose costume for Blaisdell. The costume is 64" x 50" x 50" and has been specially designed to accommodate a large singing tenor and the audio specifications of the production crew.

Baritone **Stephen Salters** returns to Opera Boston as Kovalyov, the bureaucrat whose nose goes astray. Mr. Salters has appeared in a number of Opera Boston productions: as the title character of *Toussaint Before the Spirits*, as Hercules in *Alceste*, and as Bank-Account Bill in *The Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny*.

Bolshoi Opera bass **Vladimir Matorin** makes his Boston debut as Ivan Yakovlevich, the barber who discovers the missing Nose. Mr. Matorin is the main bass at the Bolshoi, and has been named a "National Artist of Russia," the highest honor his government can bestow on an artist. He has performed at many of the top houses and festivals in the world; among his previous appearances in the United States are engagements at the Lyric Opera of Chicago, Houston Grand Opera, and his Metropolitan Opera debut as Pimen in *Boris Godunov* in 2004.

About Opera Boston

Opera Boston is Boston's most innovative opera company. Founded in 1980, the company has presented more than 70 operas, including 34 regional and two world premieres. In addition to its critically acclaimed, award-winning mainstage productions, Opera Boston offers a range of programs, including an occasional chamber opera festival, a popular informal cabaret series and an extensive educational program in Boston's schools. For more information, visit www.operaboston.org.

The Nose

(Nos)

Dmitri Shostakovich; 1930

Libretto by the composer after the short story by Nikolai Gogol

February 27, 7:30 p.m.; March 1, 3 p.m. March 3, 7:30 p.m., 2009

New England Premiere

Conducted by Gil Rose

Directed by Julia Pevzner

Scenic Design by Alexander Lisiansky

Costume Design by Nancy Leary

Lighting Design by Linda O'Brien

Stephen Salters as Kovalyov

Torrance Blaisdell as The Nose

Vladimir Matorin as Ivan Yakovlevich

Yeghishe Manucharyan as Ivan the Lackey

Frank Kelley as The Police Inspector

Anton Belov as Clerk/Doctor/Spectator

Sung in Russian with projected English titles

Free pre-performance talk one hour before curtain.

Audience talkback to follow Sunday matinee.

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Coming March 11: The Seven Deadly Sins at Opera Boston Underground. Details to follow soon.

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