

NEWS RELEASE

New Jersey Opera Theater, Inc.
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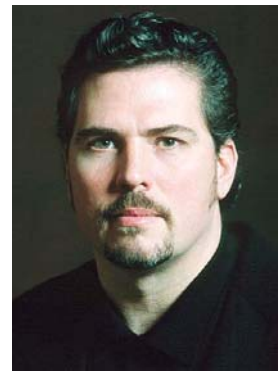
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New Jersey Opera Announces 2008 Season

PRINCETON, NJ – **New Jersey Opera** is pleased to announce the 2008 repertoire and schedule for the winter opera and for the summer season.

A concert-staged production of **Verdi's *Rigoletto*** will open in February to kick off the 2008 season with performances at three different major New Jersey venues. The first performance will take place on Friday, February 1 at The Community Theatre at Mayo Center for the Performing Arts (Morristown); *Rigoletto* will next be performed at McCarter Theatre (Princeton) on Friday, February 8 and the final performance will take place on Sunday, February 10 at the State Theatre (New Brunswick). The world-class cast includes **Richard Zeller** (The Metropolitan Opera, Chicago Lyric Opera, New York City Opera, Live from Lincoln Center and Opera de Bordeaux) in the title role, **John Osborn** (The Metropolitan Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Berlin State Opera and Opéra National de



Paris) as the Duke and **Eglise Gutiérrez** (Opera Orchestra of New York at Carnegie Hall, L'Opéra de Montreal, Santa Fe Opera, Teatro dell'Opera di Roma and Seattle Opera) as Gilda. Tickets to all performances are on sale now.

New Jersey Opera's 2008 Summer Season will feature fully staged performances of **Verdi's** timeless *La traviata*, **Rossini's** charming *Cinderella (La Cenerentola)* and **Léhar's** sparkling *The Merry Widow*. The operas open on July 11 and the final performance will take place on July 27.

New Jersey Opera's 2007 Summer Season was entirely sold out; patrons are encouraged to purchase their 2008 tickets early. Tickets for the operas will go on sale on October 15, 2007. In addition to the opera performances, New Jersey Opera will also present a children's camp, arias and ensemble concerts, masterclasses and free preview concerts.

Furthermore, New Jersey Opera is pleased to announce that they will present **Puccini's *La Bohème*** in February 2009. Additional details, including casting, performance locations, dates and times, will be announced in 2008.

For more information on these and other New Jersey Opera performances, please visit www.njot.org or call (609) 799-7700.

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Schedule and Tickets

Tickets for *Rigoletto* are on sale now at each of the three venues.

Friday, February 1, 2008, 8pm

The Community Theatre at Mayo Center for the Performing Arts (Morristown)

Tickets: \$35-\$70

www.mayoarts.org • (973) 539-8008

Friday, February 8, 2008, 7:30pm

McCarter Theatre (Princeton)

Tickets: \$39-\$90

A post-performance artist reception is available for an additional \$25.

www.mccarter.org • (609) 258-2787

Sunday, February 10, 2008, 3pm

State Theatre (New Brunswick)

Tickets: \$35-\$90

A post-performance artist reception is available for an additional \$25.

www.statetheatrenj.org • (732) 246-SHOW (7469)

Tickets for the **2008 Summer Season** will go on sale on October 15, 2007 and will be available through the McCarter Theatre Ticket Office at (609) 258-2787 or on the web at www.mccarter.org.

Verdi's *La traviata*

July 11, 13 mat., 17, 19, 26 mat.

Rossini's *Cinderella (La Cenerentola)*

July 12, 19 mat., 25, 27 mat.

Léhar's *The Merry Widow*

July 18, 20 mat., 24, 26

Pictured above: Eglise Gutiérrez (Gilda) and Richard Zeller (Rigoletto), both appearing in NJOpera's production of *Rigoletto* in February 2008.

About New Jersey Opera

New Jersey Opera (NJOpera) is earning national recognition as a leader among regional opera companies, providing high quality opera performances, exceptional educational offerings and related activities. NJOpera seeks to stimulate, promote and satisfy interest in opera, build a strong and diverse audience base for the art form and foster the development of emerging artists. **New Jersey Opera** recently received its second straight prestigious Citation of Excellence from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts (NJSCA). The Citation is NJSCA's highest honor and recognizes arts organizations that "exhibit the highest standards of excellence in artistry, operations, governance, public benefit and fulfillment of areas of Council priority." NJOpera received its first citation in 2006, during their first year of eligibility.

This season is made possible in part by funds from the **New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State**, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.

New Jersey Opera gratefully acknowledges the support of **Azimut-Benetti S.p.A.** for *Rigoletto* and of the **New Jersey Italian American Heritage Foundation** for *La traviata*.