

GUERRILLA OPERA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Marketing Contact: Aliana de la Guardia, General Manager, (201) 952-6735, guerillaopera@gmail.com
Tickets: \$12.00/\$7.00 seniors/free to all students, Boston Conservatory Box Office, (617) 912-9222,
<http://www.bostonconservatory.edu/performances>

WE ARE SONS BY RUDOLF ROJAHN: A WORLD PREMIERE CHAMBER OPERA

(BOSTON – August 2008) Guerilla Opera, Ensemble-in-Residence at The Boston Conservatory, presents the World Premiere of *We Are Sons*, directed by Sally Stunkel, music and original libretto by Rudolf Rojahn, at the Zack Box Theater at The Boston Conservatory.

We Are Sons, music and original libretto by Rudolf Rojahn

Directed by Sally Stunkel

Scenic and Lighting Design by Allison Choat

Zack Box Theater, The Boston Conservatory, 8 The Fenway, Boston

September 17, 19 & 20, 2008, at 8:00pm

September 21, 2008 at 2:00pm

This opera contains adult content and language and is not appropriate for children below high school age

SYNOPSIS - In 1974, Ray Lee Clopas, a newly paroled pedophile, returns to his sleepy South Carolina hometown. His mother attempts to hide her son's blighted past by forcing him to pose as a Vietnam veteran. As her poorly conceived ruse begins to fall apart Momma decides to cure her son once and for all. With the help of a sweat-drenched Minister, the town prostitute, an alcoholic, a doctor, a one-armed coward and others, this black farce explores the nature of guilt and innocence.

Jessi Rosinski, Flute

Kent O'Doherty, Saxophone

Javier Caballero, Violoncello

Mike Williams, Percussion

Matthew Truss as Reverend Eli Hunt

Kathryn Johnson as Olivia Clopas

De'Lon Grant as Raymond Lee Clopas

Jennifer Rizzo as Mattie Creighton

Aliana de la Guardia as June Jackson

Leslie Ann Leytham as Dolores McAvoy

Brendan P. Buckley as Dr. Gene Singleton

Jonathan Nussman as John Creighton

Director **Sally Stunkel** took Guerilla audiences by storm last season with the energetic, dark, and funny *Heart of a Dog*, by Rudolf Rojahn and with her “powerful blocking” in Andy Vores’ operatic adaptation of *No Exit* by Jean-Paul Sartre. A highly respected and accomplished director and acting coach, she will soon begin her second year at The Boston Conservatory as the Director of Opera Studies. Her directing credits include Guerilla Opera (Season One), Sacramento Opera, Tulsa Opera, Opera Theater of St. Louis, Skylight Opera, and Aspen Music Festival.

Rudolf Rojahn is on the faculty of The Boston Conservatory and New England Conservatory’s School of Continuing & Preparatory Education as an Ear Training and Harmony Instructor. In May of 2007 Rojahn, BM in Percussion and MM in Composition from The Boston Conservatory, along with Co-Artistic Director, Percussionist Mike Williams, formed Guerilla Opera as an attempt to bridge the gap between conventional opera repertoire and the creation of newer avant-garde repertoire. *We Are Sons* is the second work from this composer to be premiered by Guerilla Opera.

The extensive mission of **Guerilla Opera** is to revitalize opera by commissioning and performing newly composed chamber operas which require the highest level of virtuosity and musicianship equally from singers and instrumentalists, while simultaneously creating a new operatic repertoire and championing an accessible and artistically progressive form of avant-garde theater.

World renowned baritone, Sanford Sylvan is now on the board of directors for Guerilla Opera, and hails this group as “...the future of opera. Brilliant composers and performers committed to their vision of Music Theater which is dynamic, flexible and deeply compelling. They will carry us forward to new operatic heights.”