

GUERRILLA OPERA

www.guerillaopera.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Guerilla Opera Media Contact

Aliana de la Guardia, General Manager

alidelaguardia@guerillaopera.com

(866) 615-2723 x 3

Florida Grand Opera Media Contact

Judy Glynn, Public Relations

jglynn@fgo.org

(305) 403-3296

Florida Grand Opera to Present an Opera Premiered in Boston

BOSTON, MA (February 2013)— Florida Grand Opera's next installment of "Unexpected Operas in Unexpected Places" features *No Exit*, a one act opera by Andy Vores, Chair of Composition at The Boston Conservatory. This chamber opera was commissioned and premiered by the Boston-based ensemble, Guerilla Opera in April of 2008.

"One of our primary objectives is to help cultivate a new operatic repertoire, so we're elated when one of our pieces get's produced by another company," remarks Rudolf Rojahn, co-artistic director of Guerilla Opera.

No Exit was the second opera ever to be commissioned by Guerilla Opera and was premiered by the company in April 2008 to much acclaim. Lloyd Schwartz, formerly of The Boston Phoenix, wrote that *No Exit* was *"the best new opera of 2008,"* while Richard Dyer, formerly of The Boston Globe, quoted in The Boston Conservatory's STAGES Newsletter that *No Exit* was *"a signature event of the city's 2007-2008 season."*

Guerilla Opera's recent production from this past September received equal praise. Jeffrey Gantz of The Boston Globe praises the opera as *"exceptional,"* while David Wright from the Boston Classical Review wrote that the production was *"a gripping evening of music and theater."*

The libretto for this highly acclaimed opera is adapted directly from Jean-Paul Sartre's well known Existentialist play of the same name. *No Exit* tells the story of three people who are ushered into a room in hell only to discover that there is no greater demonic torture than each other.

FGO's production of *No Exit* runs from February 27 through March 1, 2014, 10 p.m. at the Arena (formerly the NoWhere Lounge) at 653 Washington Avenue, Miami Beach.

Guerilla Opera's next production is the world premiere of *Gallo*, with libretto and music by Rome-prize winning composer Ken Ueno and directed by Metropolitan Opera stage director Sarah Meyers May 23 through 25 and May 29 through June 1, 2014 at The Boston Conservatory's Zack Box Theater, Boston, MA.

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ABOUT GUERRILLA OPERA

Guerilla Opera is a collaborative performing ensemble, and independent 501(c)3 organization, whose mission is to commission new chamber operas written specifically for their ensemble of artists, to perform in intimate theatrical settings, and to perform in a highly collaborative environment resulting from the direct communication between performers without a conductor or formal music director. They will bring exciting new works to Boston and beyond, connect with communities nation-wide, and reinvigorate the concert-going public's love for new opera. (www.guerillaopera.com)

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 Public Relations
 305.403.3296
jglynn@fgo.org

**Florida Grand Opera presents
 Andy Vores’
 No Exit**



Casey Finnigan Caitlin McKechney Riley Svatos Carlton Ford

MIAMI – January 15, 2014 – Florida Grand Opera’s next installment of “Unexpected Operas in Unexpected Places” is *No Exit*, a contemporary and edgy one act opera by Andy Vores. “*No Exit* is both rich and empty at the same time – and that gave me the chance to make some tight and grizzly musical statements along with sections of dark, acid humor, and others of loss and sadness; a very varied journey in a short span of time,” remarked Vores about his adaptation of Existentialist philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre’s celebrated play of the same name. *No Exit* is about three damned souls that are condemned to spend all of eternity together in a room with no exits, which they eventually discover is hell. “It will be very exciting to bring this opera to a lounge setting on Miami Beach” remarked Susan T. Danis, FGO general director and CEO. “I can’t wait!”

As this chamber opera begins, three damned souls, Garcin, Inez, and Estelle, are brought to the same room and locked inside by a mysterious valet. They had all expected torture devices to punish them for eternity, but instead find a plain room and soon realize that they have been placed together to make each other miserable. It is soon clear that Inez is attracted to Estelle, Estelle is attracted to Garcin, and Garcin is in no mood for either woman.

Garcin finally begins giving in to Estelle's seduction, which drives Inez crazy. Inez tells him that Estelle is just pretending to be attracted to him so that she can be with a man—any man. This upsets Garcin, and he abruptly tries to escape by trying to open the door. After several attempts, it surprisingly opens. However, Garcin is unable to bring himself to leave, and he and the two women decide to stay. Garcin concludes that rather than torture devices or physical punishment, "hell is other people."



The cast will be made up of members of Florida Grand Opera’s Young Artist Program, with mezzo-soprano Caitlin McKechney reprising her celebrated performance as Inez from the Chicago Opera Vanguard production of 2009. McKechney recently appeared as Tisbe in *La Cenerentola* and the Third Lady in *The Magic Flute* with Nashville Opera and Maddalena in *Rigoletto* with Opera Memphis.

The cast also includes soprano Riley Svatos, tenor Casey Finnigan, and baritone Carlton Ford. Svatos most recently appeared to acclaim as Helen Niles in FGO’s *Mourning Becomes Electra*. Finnigan makes his FGO main stage debut on February 25 as Abdallo in Verdi’s *Nabucco*. Ford makes his FGO main stage debut as the Servant in *Thaïs*, and this coming summer appears at Glimmerglass as Harlekin in *Ariadne auf Naxos*.

CAST – No Exit

Garcin performed by **Casey Finnigan**

Valet performed by **Carlton Ford**

Estelle performed by **Riley Svatos**

Inez performed by **Caitlin McKechney**

Conductor
Michael Sakir
Zoe Zeniodi

Stage Director
Jeffrey Marc Buchman

Performance Location:

Arena (Formerly NoWhere Lounge)
653 Washington Avenue
Miami Beach

February 27 – March 1, 2014, at 10:00p.m.
21 and older only

ABOUT UNEXPECTED OPERAS IN UNEXPECTED PLACES

The “Unexpected Operas” initiative is supported with a grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, with the intention of expanding the demographic reach of opera in South Florida.

As a winner of the Knight Arts Challenge, Florida Grand Opera will bring opera to new audiences by presenting new or updated operas in a unique, intimate space once a year. This project aims to attract younger audiences to bold and modern productions in nontraditional venues. "I think putting opera in a place where no one would expect to

see it is a great way to start to break down all those stereotypes of what the art form is," said Susan Danis, FGO General Director and CEO.

ABOUT FLORIDA GRAND OPERA

Founded in 1941 as Greater Miami Opera and later merging with The Opera Guild Inc. in 1994, FGO presents a mixture of standard repertoire and contemporary works as well as commissions new productions – all featuring projected translations in English and Spanish. FGO, recognized for funding by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, the Florida Arts Council, and the National Endowment for the Arts. Funding is also provided, in part, by the Broward County Board of County Commissioners as recommended by the Broward Cultural Council and the Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitors Bureau, the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs, Cultural Affairs Council, the Mayor and the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners and the Miami-Dade County Tourist Development Council. Program support is provided by the City of Miami Beach, Cultural Affairs Program, Cultural Arts Council. Florida Grand Opera is a Resident Company of the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County and a member company of OPERA America. American Airlines is the Official Airline, Intercontinental Miami is the Official Hotel and Steinway & Sons is the Official Piano of Florida Grand Opera.

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