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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Guerilla Opera Presents the World Premiere of “Pedr Solis” by composer Per Bloland

BOSTON, MA (March 2015)—Guerilla Opera presents *Pedr Solis*, a world premiere opera by Per Bloland, libretto by Paul Schick, and stage direction by Laine Rettmer. *Pedr Solis* is partially based on "The Tower," a play by Hugo von Hofmannsthal, and the life of Norwegian author Pedr Solis in the late 1960s. In 1970, Solis's novel "Stillaset" spills into his real life in Oslo.

Pedr Solis runs for two weekends: Friday- Saturday, May 15-16, 2015 at 8 p.m., Sunday, May 17, 2015 at 2 p.m., Thursday, May 21-Saturday, May 23, 2015 at 8 p.m., with audience talk-backs on Sunday, May 17 and Friday, May 21 directly after each performance; all performances are in The Zack Box Theater at The Boston Conservatory, located at 8 The Fenway in Boston, MA.

Tickets are currently on sale and are \$15 for general admission and \$10 for senior citizens. Ticket fees apply. Students are eligible for free tickets, as available day-of. Student tickets cannot be reserved in advance and must be claimed at the door with a valid ID. For ticket purchases, please call The Boston Conservatory Box Office at (617) 912-9222 (Weds-Fri, 12-5 p.m.) or visit www.bostonconservatory.edu/tickets. *Pedr Solis* is 70 minutes in duration, sung in English and scored for soprano, mezzo-soprano, countertenor, baritone, violin, clarinet, saxophone, percussion, and electronics.

SYNOPSIS

Two frames interfused: the novel “Stillaset,” authored by Pedr Solis in the late 1960s, and the spilling of that novel into Solis’s life in Oslo, 1970. A figure is written into a structure located in a timeless mythic landscape somewhere in the north of Norway. He explores its modernist architecture, but increasingly the irrational encroaches, and order disintegrates. Solis’s novel character is released from captivity and undertakes to overthrow the author and usurp his role in Oslo. The revolution succeeds, but Edda forces incipient at the borders burst in to subsume the story. The Norwegian god Loki soliloquies.

CAST, ENSEMBLE AND CREATIVE TEAM

Pedr Solis features cast members: mezzo-soprano Carrie Cheron, baritone Brian Church, soprano Aliana de la Guardia (general manager), and countertenor Douglas Dodson. The instrumental ensemble features violinist Gabriela Diaz, clarinetist Amy Advocat, saxophonist Kent O’Doherty and percussionist Mike Williams (artistic director). Guerilla Opera’s creative team features: composer Per Bloland, librettist Paul Schick, stage director Laine Rettmer, scenic designer Julia Noulain-Merat (Director of Design and Production), lighting designer Daniel Chapman, and costume designer Neil Fortin.

For more information, visit Guerilla Opera online at www.guerillaopera.com. Like Guerilla Opera on Facebook at www.facebook.com/guerillaopera, follow them on Twitter using #NewOpera and #PedrSolis at www.twitter.com/guerillaopera, and on Instagram at www.instagram.com/guerillaopera.



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This production is made possible through the generosity of Season Sponsors Timothy and Jane Gillette, The Amphion Foundation, The Arron Copland Fund for New Music, and The Boston Conservatory where Guerilla Opera is proud to be an Ensemble-in-Residence.

ADDITIONAL EVENTS

“First Listen:” Full Concert Performance of *Pedr Solis* (Thursday, May 14, 2015 at 6 p.m.)

Guerilla Opera presents the world premiere concert performance of *Pedr Solis* by composer Per Bloland on Thursday, May 14, 2015 at 6 p.m. in the Linde Family Wing for Contemporary Art at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, 465 Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA. This performance is hosted by the Sound Bites: Nancy Lee Clark Concert Series. This concert is free with purchase of admission to the museum.

Live Streamed Opening Night Performance (Friday, May 15, 2015 at 8 p.m.)

Guerilla Opera will live stream the world premiere performance of *Pedr Solis* on Friday, May 15, 2015 at 8 p.m. EST from The Zack Box Theater at The Boston Conservatory in Boston, MA. The live stream can be viewed at <https://new.livestream.com/guerillaopera>, and is free of charge to watch.

Talk-Backs with the Creative Team (Sunday, May 17 & Friday, May 21, 2015)

Meet the composers, director, cast and creative team from *Pedr Solis* in a casual audience Q & A on Sunday, May 17th & Friday, May 21st. Talk-backs are included with ticket purchases and are held in The Zack Box Theatre at The Boston Conservatory directly following both performances.

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PRESS OPENING (WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2015 AT 8 P.M.)

Guerilla Opera invites reviewers and members of the press to attend their final dress rehearsal of *Pedr Solis* on Wednesday, May 13, 2015 at 8 p.m. in The Zack Box Theater at The Boston Conservatory in Boston, MA. Contact Aliana de la Guardia, General Manager, at alidelaguardia@guerillaopera.com or call 866-615-2723 Ext. 3 to secure your spot for this private event.

ABOUT GUERRILLA OPERA

Guerilla Opera is an artist-lead chamber opera 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. The ensemble envisions a national community where serious new chamber opera and ensemble performance are valued and enjoyed. They are currently in their eighth season of bringing exciting new works to Boston, connecting with communities nation-wide, and reinvigorating the concert-going public's love for new opera. Guerilla Opera is proud to be an Ensemble-in-Residence at The Boston Conservatory. Visit our website at www.guerillaopera.com for more information.

COMPOSER BIOGRAPHY

PER BLOLAND is a composer of acoustic and electro-acoustic music whose works have been described as having an “*incandescent effect*” with “*dangerous and luscious textures.*” The New York Times recently praised him for his “*ear-opening electronic innovations.*” His compositions range from short intimate



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solo pieces to works for large orchestra, incorporate video, dance, and custom built electronics, and often draw on a variety of other art forms. He is increasingly interested in the intersections between literature and music, especially regarding issues of modernity as related to both disciplines.

Bloland has received awards and recognition from national and international organizations, including SEAMUS/ASCAP, Digital Art Awards of Tokyo, ISCM, the Eastman Computer Music Center, SCI/ASCAP, the Dal Niente Composer Competition, Taukay Edizioni Musicali, and the Accademia Musicale Pescarese. His work was recently selected for performance at the 2013 International Society for Contemporary Music (ISCM) World New Music Days in Slovakia. He has received commissions from Wild Rumpus, the East Coast Contemporary Ensemble (ECCE), Ensemble Pi, the Callithumpian Consort, Insomnio Ensemble, Stanford's CCRMA, SEAMUS/ASCAP, the Kenners, Michael Straus and Patti Cudd. His music can be heard on the TauKay (Italy), Capstone, Spektral, and SEAMUS labels, and through the MIT Press. A portrait CD of his work, performed by the East Coast Contemporary Ensemble, is scheduled for release on Tzadik Records in the spring of 2014.

Performers of Bloland's work include the Berkeley Symphony Orchestra, the ICE Ensemble, Bent Frequency, Insomnio, the Callithumpian Consort, Linea Ensemble, ECCE, Inauthentica, Eliot Gattegno, Margaret Lancaster, Chryssie Nanou, Nicholas Ong, Brian Sacawa, Michael Straus, the Worn Chamber Ensemble, the Stanford Symphony Orchestra, Sebastian Berweck, John Sampen, and Marianne Gythfeldt. His music has been performed at Bourges, Darmstadt, ICMC, SEAMUS, SIGGRAPH, Gaudeamus, the Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival, the SCI National Conference, Stanford Lively Arts, the Third Practice Electroacoustic Music Festival, the Ingenuity Festival Cleveland, the Bowling Green New Music Festival, and the ISCM World New Music Days, among others. His collaborative video piece *Graveshift* has been widely viewed and acclaimed as part of the Visual Music Marathon.

Bloland is currently an Assistant Professor of Technology and Music Theory at Miami University, Ohio. He recently completed a five-month Musical Research Residency at IRCAM in Paris during the spring semester of 2013. Prior to his current appointment he was a Visiting Assistant Professor of Computer Music at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, where he served as the founding director of the Oberlin Improvisation and Newmusic Collective (OINC). Bloland has also taught at UC Santa Cruz, Stanford University, and the University of Texas. He received his D.M.A. in composition from Stanford University, where he studied with Mark Applebaum, Brian Ferneyhough, Chris Chafe, and Erik Ulman. While at Stanford he worked extensively at the Center for Computer Research in Music and Acoustics (CCRMA). He received his M.M. from the University of Texas at Austin, where he acted as the Electronic Music Studios (EMS) Manager. While there he studied with Kevin Puts, Russell Pinkston, and Bruce Pennycook.

As a researcher, Bloland has been investigating the interaction between literature and instrumental music, examining strategies employed by composers in reaction to literary influences. His dissertation, which drew heavily on these studies, involved the composition of a cycle of pieces based on an invented novel. His work with the Electromagnetically-Prepared Piano is the area of research that has received the most exposure. In addition to giving numerous lecture/demonstrations, he has thus far composed three pieces for the device and written one paper ("The Electromagnetically-Prepared Piano and its Compositional Implications," published in the Proceedings for the International Computer Music Conference 2007). Building on this experience, his Musical Research Residency at IRCAM involved the creation of a



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physical model of the coupling between a resonator (such as a piano string) and an electromagnet. To learn more about Per Bloland visit his website at www.perbloland.com.

LIBRETTIST BIOGRAPHY

PAUL SCHICK has written libretti for numerous new works, including *NOVA* by Lewis Nielson, *Iphis/Ianthe* by Shea Pierre, *A House In Bali* by Evan Ziporyn, *Feynman* by Jack Veas, and *Sunburst*, *Amarama* and *Cactus Co.* by Dan Plonsey. He is currently working on *Twin Reverb*, an online surf opera by Veas.

Schick has served on the directing staffs of the Wiener Staatsoper, the Teatro alla Scala, the Bayerische Staatsoper, and the Salzburger Festspiele, and has directed for stage, television, and film. He designed and directed *Shadow Bang* with music by Evan Ziporyn and shadow puppetry by Balinese master dalang I Wayan Wija, produced by Bang on a Can. His work has been performed in Europe, Asia, and the US.

Schick is Artistic Director of Real Time Opera, based in Oberlin, OH, recently launching a series of pop-up operas in collaboration with Cleveland artist Don Harvey, that are works of public art filmed for presentation on the web. Composers for these have included Randall Woolf, David Mahler, and Larry Polansky.

His musical compositions and other writings are published by the composers' collective, Frog Peak Music. He has been Visiting Professor at Antioch University, Case Western Reserve University, and at Oberlin College and its Conservatory of Music, where he taught both Musicology and German Language and Literatures. Schick holds a PhD in Musicology from Yale, and currently resides in France.

STAGE DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY

LAINÉ RETTMER is an opera director and actor, and currently the stage director for the New York based LoftOpera. Rettmer's recent LoftOpera production of *Barbiere di Siviglia* played a sold out run and was called by the New York Times, "*funny, dark-edge smart... Ms. Rettmer offered fresh takes on the story. This Rosina doesn't wait for her lover to reveal himself as Count Almaviva and rescue her: The woman he proposes to in the end is fully emancipated, no thanks to anyone else... the production calls for a resounding 'cheers'.*" Her spring production of *La Bohème* was called, "*Triumphant... a performance that is as true and moving as any I can remember in 40 years of opera-going,*" by the New York Observer. This fall she also directed Joyce Di Donato's album release concert which was live-streamed from a metal working shop in Brooklyn, replete with live welding. Currently, she is developing a piece that will have its first work-in-progress showing at BRIC in Brooklyn which combines Donizetti's version of *Romeo and Juliet* with songs from the album, *69 Love Songs*, by the Magnetic Fields and directing Donizetti's, *Lucrezia Borgia*, with LoftOpera this spring. Previous opera associate and assistant director credits include, *Powder Her Face*, which opened New York City Opera's last season at BAM and Evan Ziporyn's opera, *A House in Bali*, at Berkley Rep and which toured to Boston and BAM. She has collaborated with the theater and opera director, Jay Scheib, for the past six years on twelve productions. Laine is a graduate of NYU's TISCH School of the Arts.