



ADVANCE RELEASE

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Greed and ambition run rampant in Monteverdi's *The Coronation of Poppea*

DATES: April 25, 26*, 28, 29 and May 1 and 2, 2009.
TIMES: 7:30 P.M. (*with exception of Sunday matinee at 3 P.M.)
TICKET PRICES: \$30 to \$135
Operatix are **\$20** and may be purchased by people under age of 30 with valid I.D. in person at the Elgin Theatre Box Office (subject to availability). Group discounts (15 people +) are available by calling 416.703.3767 ext. 24.
VENUE: The Elgin Theatre (189 Yonge Street, Toronto)
BOX OFFICE: Ticketmaster at 416.872.5555 or at www.ticketmaster.ca
WEB PAGE: www.operaatelier.com

Opera Atelier presents its internationally acclaimed production of *The Coronation of Poppea*, Claudio Monteverdi's final masterpiece. Following a spectacular debut at the prestigious Houston Grand Opera (sensational...a sumptuous celebration of period style...electric with undercurrents of love, eroticism and anger" – Charles Ward, Houston Chronicle), this lavish spectacle of love, power and greed played to sold-out houses in Toronto (2002). The opera is based on the true story of Poppea, Nero's fiercely ambitious mistress, who aspires to be Empress of the Roman Empire and who will resort to any means – treachery, seduction, and murder – in order to realize her goal.

This production was originally conceived as a vehicle for the astonishing male soprano **Michael Maniaci** who returns to Toronto to reprise his role of Nero. Canadian mezzo-soprano **Kimberly Barber** makes her Opera Atelier debut in the role of Ottavia, and soprano **Peggy Kriha Dye** sings the role of Poppea. They are joined by **Olivier Laquerre** (Ottone), **Laura Pudwell** (Arnalta/Virtue), **João Fernandes*** (Seneca), **Carla Huhtanen** (Drusilla), **Tracy Smith Bessette** (Fortune/Venus), **Vicki St. Pierre** (Nurse), **Curtis Sullivan** (Liberto), **Artists of Atelier Ballet**, and **Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra and Chamber Choir** under the baton of conductor **David Fallis**. *The Coronation of Poppea* will be sung in Italian with English SURTITLES™.

The production is directed by **Marshall Pynkoski** and choreographed by **Jeannette Lajeunesse-Zingg**, Opera Atelier's co-artistic directors, with set designs by **Gerard Gauci**, costumes by **Dora Rust-D'Eye**, and lighting by **Kevin Fraser**.

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*OA debut

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