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Media contact:

Bronwen Bradley
bronwen.bradley@operaatelier.com
416-703-3767 x224

Press quality photos:

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Opera Atelier's 30th Anniversary Season continues with the Canadian premiere of Mozart's *Lucio Silla*

- New Canadian Production of the staging that wowed in Salzburg, Bremen and Milan -

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Toronto, ON (February 3, 2016) - Opera Atelier's 30th Anniversary Season continues with a new production of Mozart's ***Lucio Silla***, a Canadian premiere which offers Toronto audiences the opportunity to enjoy the staging and choreography that won international acclaim for Opera Atelier co-artistic directors **Marshall Pynkoski** and **Jeannette Lajeunesse Zingg** at the **Mozartwoche** and **Salzburg Festival** in Austria, **Bremen Music Festival** in Germany and at the famed **Teatro alla Scala (La Scala)** in Milan, Italy. This new production features stars from the European production alongside Canadians making their role debuts, Tafelmusik playing Mozart's first great masterpiece for the first time, and sets and costumes by Canadian designer **Gerard Gauci**. ***Lucio Silla*** runs **Apr. 7-16, 2016** at the Elgin Theatre.

DATES & TIMES: Thursday April 7, 7:30 pm (media night)
Saturday April 9, 7:30 pm
Sunday April 10, 3:00 pm
Tuesday April 12, 7:30 pm
Friday April 15, 7:30 pm
Saturday April 16, 4:30 pm

TICKET PRICES: \$38 - \$181

BOX OFFICE: Ticketmaster at **1-855-622-ARTS(2787)** or www.ticketmaster.ca

VENUE: The Elgin Theatre, 189 Yonge Street, Toronto

WEB PAGE: www.operaatelier.com

Passion, intrigue and redemption take centre stage in ***Lucio Silla***, a story about the romantic and political machinations of ancient Rome's most infamous dictator. This astonishingly inventive *opera seria* is the precursor of Mozart's most famous works, and contains some of his most challenging music for soloists, chorus and ballet.

"It speaks to the technical challenges of the opera that such a complex and beautiful Mozart work is so infrequently produced. We were fortunate to have discovered the piece through conductor Marc Minkowski, and to subsequently be able to truly delve into the intricacies of the opera during generous rehearsal periods provided by our European hosts," say Pynkoski and Zingg. ***"We are thrilled that Opera Atelier's 30th Anniversary Season offers us the opportunity to share this remarkable opera at home in Toronto with our incredible group of talented Canadian artists."***

The title role will be sung by OA favourite **Kresimir Spicer** alongside the extraordinary Latvian soprano **Inga Kalna** as Cinna, both of whom starred in the La Scala production. They are joined in Toronto by **Mireille Asselin** as the tyrant's sister Celia, **Peggy Kriha Dye** playing Cecillio in her first trousers role, and **Meghan Lindsay** as Giunia, whom Silla attempts to force into marriage. The production will feature the full corps of **Artists of Atelier Ballet** and **Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra** under the baton of **David Fallis**.

The creative team for *Lucio Silla* includes director **Marshall Pynkoski**, choreographer **Jeannette Lajeunesse Zingg**, set and costume designer **Gerard Gauci**, and lighting designer **Michelle Ramsay**. *Lucio Silla* will be sung in Italian with English surtitles sponsored by the Istituto Italiano di Cultura. The **Istituto Italiano di Cultura** will also host a special free, open-to-the-public lecture by Pynkoski and Gauci on March 3 at 6:30 pm at 496 Huron St., Toronto.

Tickets for *Lucio Silla* start at \$38 and can be purchased through Ticketmaster at **1-855-622-ARTS(2787)** or www.ticketmaster.ca, or at the Elgin Theatre Box Office (189 Yonge Street). Group discounts (10+ people) are available by calling 416-703-3767 x222. For more information, visit www.operaatelier.com.

\$15 Operatix tickets may be purchased by patrons under 30 in person at the Elgin Theatre Box Office or online with the code OPERATIX. (Subject to availability. Valid I.D. required at pick-up.) The Operatix program is proudly sponsored by **TD. NEW!** Special Operatix Evening on Friday April 15, featuring a post-performance party with Opera Atelier artists for patrons age 30 and under.

2015-2016 Major Sponsors

Season Presenting Sponsor: **BMO Financial Group**

Season Underwriter: **El Mocambo Productions**

Opera Atelier gratefully acknowledges the support of The Canada Council for the Arts, the Ontario Arts Council, City of Toronto through the Toronto Arts Council, and the Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund.

Opera Atelier is North America's premier period opera/ballet company, producing the opera, ballet and drama of the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries. While drawing upon the aesthetics and ideals of the period, Opera Atelier goes beyond "reconstruction" and infuses each production with an inventive theatricality that resonates with modern audiences. Led by founding artistic directors Marshall Pynkoski and Jeannette Lajeunesse Zingg since 1985, Opera Atelier has garnered acclaim for its performances at home as well as in the United States, Europe and Asia.

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Images are available for download at operaatelier.com