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Opera Atelier's Mirage Gala is a Feast for the Senses
Inspired by sumptuous production of Armide, event will feature archery, music and costumes in sensual setting of a garden oasis

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Toronto, ON (May 8, 2012) - Details of Opera Atelier's fourth annual Versailles gala, "Mirage", were announced today by founding co-artistic directors Marshall Pynkoski and Jeannette Lajeunesse Zingg. Taking place **June 6, 2012** at Toronto's hottest new event space, the **Evergreen Brick Works**, Mirage promises to be the most lavish gala the company has held to date and will feature décor, activities and entertainment inspired by Opera Atelier's sumptuous international production of Lully's **Armide**.

Jeanne Beker, Canada's multi-talented fashion darling, will host the event, which will include a **Tiffany & Co. raffle** as well as live and silent auctions. Featuring divine costumes from the OA vault, magnificent dancing and singing from the Baroque tradition, and delectable food from chef **Neal Noble of Noble Culinary**, Mirage will be a feast for the senses. Entertainment will be provided by a **team of archers**, dancers from **Atelier Ballet**, and the **stars of Armide Colin Ainsworth and Peggy Kriha Dye**, fresh from their tour to the Palace of Versailles, France. Guests will have the opportunity to shoot a bow and arrow, be adorned with henna, and bid on the many luxury items available. Funds raised will be used to support Opera Atelier's **education and outreach programs**, which have been offered without charge since the company's inception.

Media are invited to attend and photograph the cocktail hour, 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm, which will feature archery demonstrations and tutorials, henna designs for guests by Fresh Inc. Mehndi, and hors d'oeuvres by Noble Culinary, as well as the fabulous fashions of Toronto's trendsetters. **Please RSVP to Bronwen Bradley at Bronwen.Bradley@operaatelier.com.**

What: *Mirage: The 2012 Versailles Gala*

When: Wednesday, June 6, 2012, 6:00 pm – 10:30 pm (media invited 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm)

Where: The Evergreen Brick Works, 550 Bayview Ave., Toronto

Tickets & Info: www.operaatelier.com

Presenting Sponsor: BMO Financial Group

Raffle Sponsor: Tiffany & Co.

Wine Sponsor: Tre Amici Imports Inc.

Opera Atelier is Canada's premier baroque opera/ballet company, specializing in opera, ballet and drama from the 17th and 18th 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. Over the past twenty-five years, lead by founding artistic directors Marshall Pynkoski and Jeannette Lajeunesse Zingg, Opera Atelier has garnered acclaim for its performances at home as well as in the United States, Europe and Asia. Visit operaatelier.com for more information.

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