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CONTACT Selina Rajani, 604-331-4824
srajani@vancouveropera.ca

VANCOUVER OPERA ANNOUNCES: BLOGGER NIGHT @ THE OPERA

Vancouver. BC ~ Vancouver Opera is pleased to announce their second **Blogger Night @ The Opera** will take place on Saturday, March 7, 2009 at the opening night performance of *Rigoletto*. Five prominent local bloggers have been invited to attend and live-blog their opera experience.

The inaugural **Blogger Night @ The Opera** was held during Vancouver Opera's production of *Carmen* in January 2009. The highly successful event introduced many blog readers to opera – and many opera-goers to blogging.

The bloggers will post live updates from laptop computers in the lobby of the Queen Elizabeth Theatre before the performance. During intermission, they will return to their computers to continue their reporting, and will also post their final thoughts and reviews after the performance.

A live feed collecting all the blogger posts as they happen will be available on the Vancouver Opera blog at <http://vancouveropera.blogspot.com>, beginning at approximately 7:00pm. Each bloggers' individual posts will also appear on their own websites simultaneously.

The bloggers are Rebecca Bollwitt of *Miss604* (<http://www.miss604.com>); Tanya Davis of *Netchick* (<http://netchick.net>); Tris Hussey of *A View From the Isle* (<http://www.trishussey.com>); Kimli of *Delicious Juice* (<http://blog.deliciousjuice.com>); and Monique Trottier of *So Misguided* (<http://somisguided.com>).

In addition to **Blogger Night @ The Opera**, Vancouver Opera has launched many other new media initiatives, including a Facebook page with special privileges for VO Fans; a Flickr site with Opera Fashion photo albums; a blog with guest posts, interviews and video diaries; and the micro-site OperaLive!, with featurettes, audio clips and the popular Opera Manga series. Links are available from Vancouver Opera's main website, <http://www.vancouveropera.ca/>.

Rigoletto is Giuseppe Verdi's dark, powerful story of treachery and vengeance. Rigoletto is a jester in the court of a womanizing Duke. When his jokes go too far, he becomes the subject of an angry Count's curse. His beloved daughter, Gilda, is kidnapped by the Duke's courtiers and Rigoletto swears revenge. The jester's plan goes wrong and Gilda pays the price with her life.

This emotional and haunting production, conceived and directed by Glynis Leyshon, features an imaginative set design by Bretta Gerecke.

Opening night is **Saturday, March 7, 2009**, with subsequent performances **Tuesday, March 10; Thursday, March 12; Saturday, March 14** and **Tuesday, March 17**. All performances take place at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre, Georgia and Hamilton Streets, Vancouver, B.C. and begin at 7:30pm.

Single tickets are available from the Vancouver Opera Ticket Centre, online at www.vancouveropera.ca, or by phone at 604-683-0222. Visa, MasterCard and American Express are accepted. Groups: For special pricing for groups of ten or more, call 604-683-0222.

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