

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VANCOUVER OPERA 2009-2010 POSTER ARTWORK SELECTED FOR
PRESTIGIOUS COMMUNICATION ARTS ILLUSTRATION ANNUAL

VO congratulates artist Edel Rodriguez

Vancouver, BC ~ Vancouver Opera is pleased to announce that Edel Rodriguez' designs for their Golden Anniversary 2009-2010 Season have been selected for the influential *Communication Arts* magazine's 50th annual illustration competition.

Communication Arts is a professional journal that showcases the current best in design, advertising, photography and illustration through its editorials, feature articles and the annual competitions it sponsors. *CA's* Illustration Annual, published each July, is the most exclusive major illustration competition in the world.

Every season, VO commissions a prominent artist to create eye-catching, vibrant posters that speak to the vitality of opera and appeal to diverse audiences across the city and around the world. No stranger to the arts world, Rodriguez created the artwork for New York's Metropolitan Opera production of *Dr. Atomic* - John Adams' opera about Robert Oppenheimer - as well as posters for the tenth anniversary season of Toronto's Soulpepper Theatre.

Rodriguez brings a bold, intriguing aesthetic to Vancouver Opera's Golden Anniversary season, which anticipates VO's bright future and honours the company's illustrious past.

This special season will include productions of Bellini's long-awaited ***Norma*** (November 28 – December 5, 2009), conducted by Richard Bonyngé; John Adams's stunning 1987 opera ***Nixon in China*** (March 13 – 20, 2010); Mozart's beloved ***The Marriage of Figaro*** (April 24 – May 4, 2010); and a dramatic primary-colours staging of Puccini's ***Madama Butterfly*** (May 29 – June 10, 2010), designed by internationally known Japanese-born visual artist Jun Kaneko.

A **50th Anniversary Gala Concert** on November 6, 2009, conducted by VO's esteemed music director, Jonathan Darlington, will launch the season.

The art for all four 2009-2010 productions is featured in VO's printed materials and online, and available for viewing on Vancouver Opera's multimedia website, *OperaLive!* at www.operalive.ca. For hi-res images please contact Selina Rajani, Communications Manager at 604-331-4824 or srajani@vancouveropera.ca. Posters for the first production, *Norma*, will be visible on telephone poles, bus shelters and other public venues in Metro Vancouver beginning in October 2009. Images for the rest of the season will appear early in 2010.

Vancouver Opera congratulates Edel and looks forward to working with him during this milestone year.