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**VANCOUVER OPERA ANNOUNCES DESIGNER FOR 50TH ANNIVERSARY
SEASON ARTWORK**

Edel Rodriguez commissioned to create posters for VO's milestone
2009/2010 season

Vancouver. BC ~ Vancouver Opera is pleased to announce that award-winning Cuban-American illustrator **Edel Rodriguez** has been commissioned to create the artwork for their 50th anniversary season.

Recently featured in Communication Arts Design Annual 49, Rodriguez is the recipient of Gold and Silver Medals for editorial illustration from the Society of Illustrators.

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' work, a strong, contemporary blend of Cuban aesthetics and American commercial illustration, has appeared in The New Yorker, Time Magazine, Rolling Stone, Playboy, The New York Times, The New Republic, The Wall Street Journal, Esquire magazine, Conde Naste Traveler, The Washington Post, Fortune Magazine, Billboard Magazine and the Los Angeles Times, as well as in three children's books. A stamp he created for the United States Postal Service was released in the Summer of 2005.

Vancouver Opera looks to prominent artists like Rodriguez to create artwork that reflects the passion and energy of its productions. VO's tradition of innovative, visually striking poster art continues with this commission.

Rodriguez brings a bold, intriguing aesthetic to Vancouver Opera's 50th anniversary season, which anticipates VO's bright future and honours the company's illustrious past. The season will be formally announced in February and will feature both traditional and contemporary productions, including a Canadian premiere of a late-20th- century masterpiece.

Vancouver Opera looks forward to working with Edel Rodriguez during this milestone year.

To view examples of Edel's work, please visit <http://www.drawger.com/edel/>.