

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Adrienne Boris / 508-254-6607 / press.operahub@gmail.com

August 12, 2015

OperaHub concocts new production of Daniel Catán's LA HIJA DE RAPPACCINI:

Sept. 17-19

Boston's own "opera punks" go #distractinglysexy

September 17-19, 2015 :: Plaza Theatre, Boston Center for the Arts

LA HIJA DE RAPPACCINI

BOSTON, MA, August 10, 2015 -- OperaHub opens its ninth season with a new production of Daniel Catán's 1991 mad-scientist opera LA HIJA DE RAPPACCINI, with a libretto by Juan Tovar after Octavio Paz and Nathaniel Hawthorne. Performances are September 17 -- September 19. **All performances are FREE** and take place at Plaza Theatre at Boston Center for the Arts, located at 539 Tremont St., Boston, MA 02116. The opera will be performed in Spanish with English supertitles.

Written in 1991 by Mexican-born composer Daniel Catán, LA HIJA DE RAPPACCINI received its American premiere at San Diego Opera in 1994 and was hailed as "beautifully crafted" by the Los Angeles Times. The premiere marked the first fully-professional production of an opera by a Mexican composer to be staged in the United States. Catán's music is richly lyrical and melodic; he is often referred to as a "neo-impressionist" due to the strong influence on his work of composers like Debussy, Ravel, and Puccini. LA HIJA DE RAPPACCINI will be performed in a chamber orchestration written by the composer: two pianos, harp, and percussion, together with five principal singers and a select ensemble of three women.

The opera's libretto presents a complex portrait of the ethics of science and medicine and the tension between progress and humanity. Beatriz is the protégée of her mad scientist father. In developing her talents and protecting her body as a scientific specimen, Dr. Rappaccini has turned her touch to poison. A twist on the classic femme fatale, Beatriz wants to love but her body is riddled with poison from the toxic plants she and her father experiment with. How far will they go to find cures for diseases? What is the distinction between science and medicine? Can one live for both work and love?

Commenting on this production, Director Christie Lee Gibson says, "Though the piece is technically set in Renaissance Padua, there is very little in the libretto that is specific to that setting. We have chosen to change it to a contemporary setting to highlight the

many timely social and political issues living in this timeless piece, including the GMO debate, modern medical ethics, and the clash between progress and naturalism.”

This production will open OperaHub’s ninth season as Boston’s leading presenter of engaging, accessible, and free chamber opera. The company made its debut in June 2007 with a production of IDOMENEO in a storefront church in Copley Square. LA HIJA DE RAPPACCINI will be the company’s nineteenth production and add to its growing list of works rarely performed in the Boston area.

Cast & Creative Team

The cast is comprised of several exceptional Boston-based based singers. Soprano **Chelsea Beatty** returns to OperaHub as Beatriz, and tenor **Jonas Budris** makes his OperaHub debut Giovanni, the young scientist intent on winning her love. Other singers debuting with the company include **Andrew Miller** as the mad scientist Dr. Rappaccini, tenor **Salvatore Atti** as Dr. Baglione, Dr. Rappaccini’s skeptical colleague, and mezzo-soprano **Oriana Dunlop** as Isabela, an employee of Dr. Rappaccini. **Allison Provaire** debuts with OperaHub in the select ensemble, joined by returning OperaHub artists **Erin Anderson** and **Alexandra Alene Dietrich**.

OperaHub General Director and long-time artistic collaborator **Christie Lee Gibson** is the Stage Director, and **Lina Marcela Gonzalez** returns to OperaHub as Music Director after helming last summer’s DER VAMPYR. Lighting Designer **Ian W. King** (DER VAMPYR) also returns. Scenic designer **Mary Sader** and Costume Designer **Nicole Angell** both make their OperaHub debuts.

Performance Details

LA HIJA DE RAPPACCINI :: Plaza Theatre at the Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont Street, Boston

Thursday, September 17 at 8pm

Friday, September 18 at 8pm

Saturday, September 19 at 8pm

Running time will be approximately two hours including one intermission.

Upcoming

Spring/Summer 2016: OperaHub continues its season-long exploration of modern Spanish-language operatic repertoire with a touring production of Xavier Montsalvatge's EL GATO CON BOTAS, a theatrically-inventive take on the classic story of Puss in Boots, complete with puppetry and an innovative visual landscape. Presented in partnership with Puppet Showplace Theatre and The Boston Conservatory, this imaginative tale is sure to enchant operagoers of all ages.

About OperaHub

Hailed by The Boston Globe as "an idealistic company that takes on...challenging, significant repertoire," OperaHub is committed to bringing innovative, accessible, and fresh interpretations of opera in an intimate setting to the greater Boston community. Since June 2007, OperaHub has created nineteen productions, featuring music ranging from traditional to contemporary in such eclectic formats as fashion show and cabaret. For more information, visit www.operahub.org.

###