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**OperaHub Goes Outside the Box:
The return of THE CHOOSE YOUR OWN OPERA
And
The arrival of new Artistic Associate Adrienne Boris
And
A new staging of La Hija de Rappaccini in September**

Boston's own "opera punks" continue their mischief.

BOSTON, MA, June 23, 2015 –

The CHOOSE-YOUR-OWN OPERA - "Here comes the omelette!"

OperaHub brings its highly popular *Choose-Your-Own Opera* to the Outside the Box Festival on Saturday, July 18, 2015 at 7pm (exact time subject to change).

The Choose-Your-Own Opera is an audience-participation-required romp through some of the most beautiful and some of the silliest selections from the operatic repertoire. Which characters do you want to follow? Should they all die tragic deaths or have a big party at the end? These choices and more are in the audience's hands during this one-hour revue.

It is set in the restaurant Chez Mario, where new chef Mario is attempting to create an eggs-only establishment and impress his friends. The potential musical excerpts in any given show range from Monteverdi to Mozart to Bizet to Verdi and beyond.

Here are some audience responses emailed to us after previous performances:

"It is hilarious and charming and fascinating. If like me you are put off by the aura of pomp that seems to surround opera, that is certainly no part of this cabaret show put together with great humor and intimacy and goofiness."

"I have never been to the opera before. Seeing this show was like dipping my big toe in a foreign body of water and finding out it's not so bad!"

"With your approach of simple staging and audience participation, you have made opera an enjoyable, more affordable and accessible experience that runs the range of human emotions."

The show requires the singers to think on their feet and reinterpret old chestnuts as they go, depending on the new context they find themselves in. "It's a challenge, but one of the things that opera singers are used to is assigning meaning to lyrics in foreign languages, so creating a slightly different contextual meaning is something of a natural offshoot of that process," remarks OperaHub General Director Christie Lee Gibson.

The musicians this time around include **Chelsea Beatty**, soprano; **Christie Lee Gibson**, soprano; **Alexandra Dietrich**, mezzo-soprano; **Adrian Jones**, tenor; **Paul Shafer**, bass-baritone; and **Stephanie Mao**, piano. "It is exciting to be part of developing a repertory piece," says Dietrich. OperaHub's hope is that this will become a long-running show with a home, like *Shear Madness* and *Blue Man Group* have in Boston.

EDITORS NOTE: Members of the cast are available for interview and print-quality photos are available at <http://www.operahub.org/#!/cyoo-press/cy5x>

More information about the Outside the Box Festival at www.otbboston.org

Adrienne Boris – New Artistic Associate

OperaHub is pleased to welcome Adrienne Boris as Artistic Associate.

Since its inception OperaHub has grown from an all-volunteer outfit to a semi-professional company. Until now we have focused on paying our performers, designers and show staff, and now in hiring Adrienne part-time are improving our administrative support. This addition to our team is the next step in making sure that OperaHub can continue to grow sustainably.

Adrienne's Bio:

Adrienne Boris is a director, producer, and performance coach for opera and theatre very pleased to be joining OperaHub. She is the former Artistic Administrator of Opera Boston where she spearheaded auditions, casting research, chorus management, and much more.

For Opera Boston Underground, Adrienne staged several operas in non-traditional spaces throughout the city, including Kurt Weill's *The Seven Deadly Sins* in The Lizard Lounge at Cambridge Common, Bernstein's *Trouble in Tahiti* at Cafe 939 at Berklee. Her productions of Mozart's *Bastien and Bastienne* and Salieri's *First the Music, Then the Words* were staged at Emmanuel Church as part of the 2012 and 2013 First Night Boston celebrations. Adrienne was the 2013 Young Artist Stage Director at Opera North where she created a new production of Adamo's *Little Women*. In recent seasons, Adrienne has also directed J. Strauss II's *Die Fledermaus* and Puccini's *La Bohème* both at the Great Hall at Faneuil Hall with NEMPAC Opera Project, Gilbert & Sullivan's *The Mikado* at Opera Providence, Adamo's *Little Women* at Opera del West, and a semi-staged *Don Giovanni* at MetroWest Opera.

Recent theatre directing credits include a staged reading of the 2013 National New Play Network commission, *Harbur Gate* by Kathleen Cahill at New Repertory Theatre, and Sarah Ruhl's *In the Next Room (or the vibrator play)* at Lane-Comley Studio 210 at Boston University. With Exquisite Corps Theatre Company, a theatre collective she co-founded, she directed Edward Albee's *The Play About the Baby* at the Boston Center for the Arts, for which she received a nomination for Best Director from Boston Broadway World. With Exquisite Corps, she also directed several short plays and line produced several other plays and events. As a director of theater, Adrienne has also worked with Simple Machine Theatre Company, Boston Playwrights' Theatre, Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey, Another Country Productions, and others.

Adrienne recently earned her MFA in Directing at Boston University School of Theatre and currently serves as the National New Play Network Producer-in-Residence at New Repertory Theatre and as a Part Time Lecturer in Acting at Boston University. B.A. Kenyon College

LA HIJA DE RAPPACCINI

OperaHub concocts 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.

September 17-19
the Plaza Theatre at the Boston Center for the Arts

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

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 eighteen productions, featuring music ranging from traditional to contemporary in such eclectic formats as fashion show and cabaret. For more information, visit www.operahub.org.