



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Movies at Sarasota Opera House to begin Friday, May 10

Friday night “Classic Movies at the Opera House” opens with “The Godfather Part II” on May 10 and Sunday matinees “HD at the Opera House” to open with “Faust” on June 9

Sarasota, FL— Sarasota Opera is pleased to announce the lineup for its 2024 movie series: *Classic Movies at the Opera House* and *HD at the Opera House*. The *Classics at the Opera House* series will open with “The Godfather Part II” on Friday, May 10 at 7:30 p.m. with tickets at \$12. The *HD at the Opera House* series featuring filmed performances of opera, theater, and ballet from around the world will open on Sunday, June 9 at 1:30 p.m. with Charles Gounod’s *Faust* from the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden in London, with tickets at \$20, and \$18 for Sarasota Opera subscribers. Student tickets for *HD at the Opera House* are \$12. **Tickets will go on sale starting Monday, April 22.** Additional movie titles are detailed below.

“The Sarasota Opera House was originally a movie and vaudeville theater, so this is a perfect way to celebrate that tradition,” said General Director Richard Russell. “We are pleased to once again present our *HD at the Opera House* series after we were not able to present these films last year. We are also thrilled to be showing the 1952 classic film “The Greatest Show on Earth” which was filmed in Sarasota and had its world-premiere screening here at our Opera House.”

All seats are general admission. Ticket buyers are encouraged to purchase tickets before arriving at the theater. Information and tickets can be found online at SarasotaOpera.org or by calling (941)328-1300. Sarasota Opera subscribers who wish to purchase discounted *HD at the Opera House* tickets must contact the Sarasota Opera box office directly.

Special thanks go to our Movies at the Opera House series sponsor: Loyd Robbins & Co. and media sponsor: SRQ Magazine. (Logos at end of this press release.)

Classic Movies at the Opera House (Fridays at 7:30 p.m.)

Friday, May 10, 7:30 p.m.

The Godfather Part II (1974)

This epic crime film is both a sequel and a prequel to the 1972 film *The Godfather* presenting parallel dramas: one about Michael Corleone, the new Don of the family determined to protect the family business; the prequel covers the journey of his father from his Sicilian childhood to the founding of his family enterprise. Winner of six Academy Awards including Best Picture. Directed by Francis Ford Coppola and starring Al Pacino, Robert Duvall, Diane Keaton, and Robert De Niro. Running time: 3 hours, 22 minutes.

Friday, May 24, 7:30 p.m.

Rear Window (1954)

From his Greenwich Village courtyard apartment window, a photographer in a wheelchair spies on his neighbors, and becomes convinced one of them has committed murder, despite the skepticism of his fashion-model girlfriend. Directed by Alfred Hitchcock and starring James Stewart, Grace Kelly, Thelma Ritter, and Raymond Burr. Running time: 1 hour, 51 minutes.

Friday, June 28, 7:30 p.m.

Meet Me in St. Louis (1944)

One of MGM's most successful musical films of the 1940s, this is the story of a year in the life of the Smith family in St. Louis leading up to the opening of the World's Fair in the spring of 1904. Popular standards in this film include "The Trolley Song," "The Boy Next Door" and "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas." Directed by Vicente Minnelli and starring Judy Garland, Margaret O'Brien, Mary Astor, and Lucille Bremer. Running time: 1 hour, 53 minutes.

Friday, July 5, 7:30 p.m.

On the Waterfront (1954)

One of the greatest films ever made, receiving twelve Academy Award nominations and winning eight. The film focuses on union violence and corruption among longshoremen on the waterfront of New Jersey. The musical score was composed by Leonard Bernstein. Directed by Elia Kazan and starring Marlon Brando, Karl Malden, Lee J. Cobb, Rod Steiger, and Eva Marie Saint. Running time: 1 hour, 48 minutes.

Friday, July 19, 7:30 p.m.

American Graffiti (1974)

A group of teenagers in California's central valley spend one final night after their 1962 high school graduation cruising the strip with their buddies before they pursue their varying dreams. Everything takes place against backdrops such as a burger drive-in, a high school dance, a downtown cruising strip giving the film an authentic feel for place and time. Directed by George Lucas and starring Richard Dreyfuss, Ron Howard, Harrison Ford, and Cindy Williams. Running time: 1 hour, 52 minutes.

Friday, August 2, 7:30 p.m.

A Star is Born (1954)

This musical revolves around a story about Norman Maine, a movie star whose career is on the wane who meets showgirl Esther Blodgett when he drunkenly stumbles into her act one night. They develop a friendship that blossoms into romance before tensions increase as Esther's career takes off while Norman's continues to plummet. Directed by George Cukor and starring Judy Garland, James Mason, and Jack Carson. Running time: 2 hours, 34 minutes.

Friday, August 16, 7:30 p.m.

***Viva Las Vegas* (1964)**

This American rock and roll musical film is about two competing race car drivers who also compete for the same girl. This film is regarded by Elvis fans and film critics as one of Presley's best films. Directed by George Sidney and starring Elvis Presley, Ann-Margret, Cesare Danova, and William Demarest. Running time: 1 hour, 25 minutes.

Friday, September 13, 7:30 p.m.

***A Fistful of Dollars* (1964)**

A wandering gunfighter enters the Mexican village of San Miguel and plays two rival families against each other in a town torn apart by greed, pride, and revenge. This film helped define a new era for the Western and usher in its most iconic star. Directed by Sergio Leone and starring Clint Eastwood, Wolfgang Lukschy, Marianne Koch and Gian Maria Volonté. Running time: 1 hour, 39 minutes.

Friday, October 4, 7:30 p.m.

***Duck Soup* (1933)**

This Marx Brothers classic is a satire about the nature of war, politics, and affairs of the state. Directed by Leo McCarey and starring Groucho, Harpo, Chico and Zeppo Marx, and Margaret Dumont. Running time: 1 hour, 8 minutes.

Friday, October 18, 7:30 p.m.

***The Greatest Show on Earth* (1952)**

This lavish tribute to circus life, features three intertwining plotlines concerning romance and rivalry beneath the big top. Action sequences include a show-stopping train wreck. The film won Academy Awards for Best Picture and Best Story. Directed by Cecil B. DeMille and starring Charlton Heston, Betty Hutton, Dorothy Lamour, Cornel Wilde, and Gloria Grahame. Running time: 2 hours, 32 minutes.

***HD at Sarasota Opera House* (Sundays at 1:30 p.m.)**

Sunday, June 9, 1:30 p.m.

Faust – The Royal Opera

Gounod's masterpiece is given the grandest of Royal Opera stagings in David McVicar's richly layered and theatrically exuberant production. Cast includes Michael Fabiano (Faust), Erwin Schrott (Méphistophélès), and Irina Lungu (Marguerite). Dan Ettinger conducts the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House. Running time: 2 hours, 58 minutes.

Sunday, June 23, 1:30 p.m.

Shakespeare's Macbeth

This special film presentation of a new production of one of William Shakespeare's most iconic plays is staged like never before in custom built theatre spaces unique to this production in Liverpool, Edinburgh, London and Washington D.C. Starring Ralph Fiennes and Indira Varma. Directed by Simon Godwin. Running Time: 2 hours, 30 minutes.

Sunday, July 7, 1:30 p.m.

***The Sleeping Beauty* – The Royal Ballet**

Since 1890 this first collaboration between composer Tchaikovsky and choreographer Petipa has retained a place of honor as one of audiences' most beloved classical ballets replete with some of the most sweepingly romantic music ever written and sublime choreography by one of the all-time masters. Marianela Nuñez and Vadim Muntagirov headline this immaculate Royal Ballet production. Koen Kessels leads the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House. Running time: 2 hours, 18 minutes.

Sunday, July 21, 1:30 p.m.

***I puritani* – De Nederlandse Opera**

In Vincenzo Bellini's last opera, Elvira's love for Arturo overcomes the power games in Puritan England, staged with darkly dramatic flair by director Francisco Negrin. This Nederlandse Opera production stars Mariola Contarero (Elvira), John Osborn (Lord Arturo Talbo), Scott Hendricks (Sir Riccardo Forth) with Giuliano Carella directing the Netherlands Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorus of De Nederlandse Opera. Running time: 2 hours, 52 minutes.

Sunday, August 4, 1:30 p.m.

***Il trovatore* – The Royal Opera**

Verdi's opera of passion, blood, fire and vengeance comes to the stage in an atmospheric production directed by David Bösch. Starring Gregory Kunde (Manrico), Lianna Haroutounian (Leonora), Vitaly Bilyy (Count di Luna), and Anita Rachvelishvili (Azucena). Richard Farnes conducts the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House and Royal Opera Chorus. Running time: 2 hours, 20 minutes.

Sunday, August 18, 1:30 p.m.

***Coppélia* – The Royal Ballet**

The Royal Ballet presents a beloved classic—a story of love, mischief and mechanical dolls. The intricate choreography is set to Delibes' delightful score and showcases the precision and comedic timing of the entire company. Cast includes Marianela Nuñez (Swanilda) and Vadim Muntagirov (Franz). Choreography by Ninette de Valois with Barry Wordsworth conducting the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House. Running time: 2 hours, 30 minutes.

Sunday, September 15, 1:30 p.m.

***Die Walküre* – The Royal Opera**

This opera is the most performed work of Richard Wagner's Ring cycle, loved and admired for its nuanced exploration of complex family entanglements. Highlights include the drama and glorious music of lovers Siegmund and Sieglinde, and Wotan's passionate farewell to his beloved daughter, Brünnhilde. Cast includes Nina Stemme (Brünnhilde), Stuart Skelton (Siegmund), Emily Magee (Sieglinde), and John Lundgren (Wotan). Directed by Keith Warner with Antonio Pappano leading the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House. Running time: 3 hours, 58 minutes.

Sunday, October 6, 1:30 p.m.

***Die Entführung aus dem Serail* – De Nederlandse Opera**

This innovative account of Mozart’s 1782 comic tale of abduction, love, loyalty and forgiveness delivers thrilling energy with a profound sense of lyrical beauty and truth. Directed by John Simons the cast includes Laura Aiken (Konstanze), Edgaras Montvidas (Belmonte), and Kurt Rydl (Osmin). Constantinos Carydis conducts the Netherlands Chamber Orchestra and Chorus of De Nederlandse Opera. Running time: 2 hours, 34 minutes.

Sunday, October 20, 1:30 p.m.

***La fille mal gardée* – The Royal Ballet**

A classic in the Royal Ballet repertory, this lyrical and charming work choreographed by Sir Frederick Ashton, was an immediate hit at its 1960 premiere and continues to be a company triumph. Starring principals Natalia Osipova (Lise) and Steven McRae (Colas) and directed for the screen by Ross MacGibbon. Barry Wordsworth conducts the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House. Running time: 2 hours, 4 minutes.

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ABOUT SARASOTA OPERA

Sarasota Opera recently completed its 65th Season of bringing world-class opera to Florida’s Gulf Coast. The company was launched in 1960 in the historic 320-seat Asolo Theater on the grounds of Sarasota’s Ringling Museum of Art. In 1984 the company moved into the former A.B. Edwards Theater—now the Sarasota Opera House. Since then, the company has gained an international reputation as one of the leading regional opera companies in the U.S. through initiatives such as the Masterworks Revival Series and the Verdi Cycle. The company’s Sarasota Youth Opera is the most comprehensive Youth Program in the U.S. The Sarasota Opera House, which underwent a \$20 million renovation and rehabilitation in 2007, has been called “one of America’s finest venues for opera” by Musical America. Since 1983, the company has been under the artistic leadership of Victor DeRenzi and administrative leadership of General Director Richard Russell since 2012. Sarasota Opera is sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Arts and Culture and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture and the National Endowment for the Arts. Programs are paid for in part by Sarasota County Tourist Development Tax revenues. Sarasota Opera • 61 N. Pineapple Avenue • Sarasota, FL 34236

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