



SARASOTA OPERA

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Classic Movies at the Opera House and HD at the Opera House Return This Summer

April 20, 2026 — Sarasota Opera invites audiences to celebrate the return of **Classic Movies at the Opera House** and **HD at the Opera House**, presenting a summer and early fall lineup of classic cinema and high-definition opera and ballet screenings in the historic Sarasota Opera House. The 2026 series reflects the Opera House’s legacy as a former movie palace while offering a diverse selection of beloved films and internationally acclaimed stage productions on screen.

The 2026 summer season of film offerings kicks off on **Friday, June 12 at 7:00 p.m.** with Cecil B. DeMille’s Academy Award–winning epic *The Greatest Show on Earth*, which was largely filmed in Sarasota and had its road premiere at the Opera House, followed by a slate of Friday evening screenings spanning Hollywood classics, comedies, musicals, and modern favorites. The **HD at the Opera House** series launches on **Sunday, June 14 at 1:30 p.m.** with Offenbach’s *The Tales of Hoffmann* from The Royal Opera, inaugurating a season of acclaimed opera and ballet presentations filmed on leading international stages.

Tickets for Classic Movies are **\$12**, and tickets for HD screenings are **\$20 (\$18 for Sarasota Opera subscribers, \$12 for students with valid ID)**. All seating is **general admission**, and patrons are encouraged to purchase tickets in advance at www.sarasotaopera.org or by calling

the Sarasota Opera Box Office at **941.328.1300**. More information is available at:
<https://www.sarasotaopera.org/2026summerseries>

Classic Movies at the Opera House

Fridays at 7:00 p.m. | Tickets: \$12 | General Admission

Friday, June 12, 2026. *The Greatest Show on Earth* (1952) – filmed in Sarasota & premiered at the Sarasota Opera House

An epic circus drama following a manager struggling to keep his show afloat during postwar hard times as rivalry, romance, and spectacle collide under the big top. Winner of the Academy Award for Best Picture, the film was directed by Cecil B. DeMille and stars Betty Hutton, Cornel Wilde, Charlton Heston, James Stewart, and Dorothy Lamour. Running time: 2 hours, 33 minutes.

Friday, June 26, 2026. *Silent Movie* (1976) – marking Mel Brooks' 100th birthday

A dialogue-free slapstick comedy in which filmmaker Mel Funn attempts an audacious comeback by making the first full-length silent movie in decades. The plan launches a chaotic hunt for Hollywood celebrities willing to appear in the film. Directed by and starring Mel Brooks, with Marty Feldman, Dom DeLuise, and Sid Caesar. Running time: 1 hour, 26 minutes.

Friday, July 10, 2026. *Dead Again* (1991)

A psychological thriller in which a private investigator teams up with a hypnotist to uncover a chilling connection to a decades-old murder while investigating a woman who has lost her memory and voice. Directed by Kenneth Branagh and starring Kenneth Branagh, Emma Thompson, Andy Garcia, Robin Williams, and Derek Jacobi. Running time: 1 hour, 50 minutes.

Friday, July 31, 2026. *Gigi* (1958)

A lavish musical set in turn-of-the-century Paris that follows a young woman navigating love and society. Winner of nine Academy Awards, including Best Picture, the film was directed by Vincente Minnelli and stars Leslie Caron, Louis Jourdan, Maurice Chevalier, Hermione Gingold, and Eva Gabor. Running time: 1 hour, 56 minutes.

Friday, August 14, 2026. *The Truman Show* (1998)

A modern classic in which a man gradually realizes his entire life is a meticulously constructed reality television show broadcast to the world. Directed by Peter Weir and starring Jim Carrey, Ed Harris, and Laura Linney. Running time: 1 hour, 43 minutes.

Friday, August 28, 2026. *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory* (1971)

A beloved musical fantasy that brings Roald Dahl's story to life as children tour an extraordinary chocolate factory guided by the eccentric Willy Wonka. Directed by Mel Stuart and starring Gene Wilder, Jack Albertson, and Peter Ostrum. Running time: 1 hour, 38 minutes.

Friday, September 4, 2026. *The Princess Bride* (1987)

A fairy-tale adventure blending romance, comedy, and swashbuckling heroics as Westley sets out to rescue Princess Buttercup, framed as a story read by a grandfather to his grandson. Directed by Rob Reiner and starring Cary Elwes, Robin Wright, Mandy Patinkin, André the Giant, and Billy Crystal. Running time: 1 hour, 38 minutes.

Friday, October 2, 2026. *Pretty Woman* (1990)

A modern romantic comedy in which an unexpected relationship develops between a wealthy businessman and a free-spirited woman, becoming one of the most iconic love stories of its era. Directed by Garry Marshall and starring Julia Roberts and Richard Gere. Running time: 1 hour, 59 minutes.

HD at the Opera House

Sundays at 1:30 p.m. | Tickets: \$20 (\$18 for Sarasota Opera subscribers) | Students: \$12

All HD performances are screened in stunning high definition.

Sunday, June 14, 2026. *The Tales of Hoffmann*

Offenbach's fantastical opera follows a poet revisiting the three great loves of his life as memory and illusion intertwine. The Royal Opera production stars Juan Diego Flórez in the title role and is directed by Damiano Michieletto. Running time: 4 hours, 5 minutes.

Sunday, July 12, 2026. *Swan Lake*

Classical ballet's enduring tale of love, betrayal, and redemption returns in a Royal Ballet production set to Tchaikovsky's iconic score. The performance stars Yasmine Naghdi and Matthew Ball. Running time: 2 hours, 18 minutes.

Sunday, August 16, 2026. *Samson and Delilah*

Saint-Saëns' grand opera retells the biblical story of strength and temptation in a visually rich Royal Opera production. Elīna Garanča stars as Dalila with Antonio Pappano conducting. Running time: 1 hour, 10 minutes.

Sunday, September 20, 2026. *Don Quixote* (2023)

A vibrant ballet inspired by Cervantes' classic novel, bursting with humor, romance, and bravura choreography. The Royal Ballet production was choreographed by Carlos Acosta and stars Mayara Magri and Matthew Ball. Running time: 2 hours, 7 minutes.

Sunday, October 4, 2026. *Rigoletto* (2021)

Verdi's powerful tragedy of deception, revenge, and love unfolds in a striking modern Royal Opera production. Directed by Oliver Mears, the opera stars Carlos Álvarez and Lisette Oropesa with Antonio Pappano conducting. Running time: 2 hours, 15 minutes.

About Sarasota Opera

Sarasota Opera is in its 67th season of bringing world-class opera to Florida's Gulf Coast and celebrating 100 years of the historic Sarasota Opera House. 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 opera 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 the administrative leadership of General Director Richard Russell since 2012. In June 2026 Maestro DeRenzi will be stepping down from the company and Mr. Russell will add Artistic Director to his responsibilities. 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.

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