

Magical *Armide* opens in Toronto before touring to the Royal Opera of Versailles, France and The Glimmerglass Festival, New York

The 17th century operatic masterpiece will have its Versailles debut

TORONTO DATES: April 14, 15, 17, 18, 20, 21, 2012
TIMES: 7:30 P.M. (*with the exception of Sunday matinee at 3 P.M.)
TICKET PRICES: Single tickets start at \$35.
\$20 Operatix tickets may be purchased by patrons under 30 in person at the Elgin Theatre Box Office or online with the code OPERATIX. (Subject to availability. Valid I.D. required at pick-up.)
Group discounts (10+ people) are available by calling 416-703-3767 x222.
VENUE: The Elgin Theatre (189 Yonge Street, Toronto)
BOX OFFICE: Ticketmaster at **1-855-622-ARTS(2787)** or at www.ticketmaster.ca
WEB PAGE: www.operaatelier.com

The Muslim and Christian worlds collide in Jean-Baptiste Lully's ***Armide*** – the supreme operatic masterpiece of the 17th century. The invincible Christian knight Renaud and the Muslim warrior princess Armide play out their doomed love affair against a backdrop of hopeless obsession, jealousy and magic.

Armide will star soprano **Peggy Kriha Dye** in the title role, tenor **Colin Ainsworth** as the Christian knight Renaud, bass **João Fernandes** as Hidraot, **Vasil Garvanliev** as Aronte, **Carla Huhtanen** as Phenice and Lucinde, **Olivier Laquerre** as Artemidore and Chevalier Ubalde, **Curtis Sullivan** as La Haine, **Meghan Lindsay** as Sidonie, **Aaron Ferguson** as Chevalier Danois, and the full corps of **Artists of Atelier Ballet**.

The creative team for ***Armide*** includes director **Marshall Pynkoski**, choreographer **Jeannette Lajeunesse Zingg**, designer **Gerard Gauci**, and lighting designer **Bonnie Beecher**. Opera Atelier's Music Director **David Fallis** conducts the **Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra and Chamber Choir**. ***Armide*** will be sung in French with English SURTITLES™.

As previously announced, following the Toronto dates ***Armide*** will have its debut at the Royal Opera of Versailles, France, May 11-13, 2012, and will then travel to The Glimmerglass Festival, Cooperstown, New York for July and August 2012.

2011-2012 Season Sponsor: Sun Life Financial

***Armide* Production Sponsor:** BMO Financial Group

Opera Atelier also gratefully acknowledges the ongoing support of The Canada Council for the Arts, the Ontario Arts Council, the Creative Trust, and the City of Toronto through the Toronto Arts Council.

Opera Atelier is Canada's premier Baroque opera/ballet company, producing opera, ballet and drama from the 17th and 18th centuries. While drawing upon the aesthetics and ideals of the period, Opera Atelier goes beyond "reconstruction" and infuses each production with an inventive theatricality that resonates with modern audiences. Over the past twenty-five years, lead by founding artistic directors Marshall Pynkoski and Jeannette Lajeunesse Zingg, Opera Atelier has garnered acclaim for its performances at home as well as in the United States, Europe and Asia.

- END -