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## Get 2 Operatix for the price of one April 28 and 29

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Toronto, ON (April 17, 2009) ...Opera Atelier is offering a special **2 for 1 Operatix** deal to people under the age of 30 for the **Tuesday, April 28** and **Wednesday, April 29** performances of *The Coronation of Poppea*. **Operatix** are \$20 and may be purchased in person at the Elgin Theatre Box Office (189 Yonge Street) by people under the age of 30 with valid I.D.

Set in the decadent court of the Roman Emperor Nero in 64 AD, *The Coronation of Poppea* is based on the true story of the courtesan Poppea, Nero's fiercely ambitious mistress, who aspires to be Empress of the Roman Empire. Poppea will resort to any means – treachery, seduction, and murder – in order to realize her goal.

This production was originally conceived as a vehicle for the astonishing male soprano **Michael Maniaci** who returns to Toronto to reprise his role of Nero. Canadian mezzo-soprano **Kimberly Barber** makes her Opera Atelier debut in the role of Ottavia, and soprano **Peggy Kriha Dye** sings the role of Poppea. They are joined by **Olivier Laquerre** (Ottone), **Laura Pudwell** (Arnalta/Virtue), **João Fernandes** (Seneca) in his OA debut, **Carla Huhtanen** (Drusilla), **Tracy Smith Bessette** (Fortune/Venus), **Vicki St. Pierre** (Nurse), **Curtis Sullivan** (Liberto), **Artists of Atelier Ballet**, and **Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra and Chamber Choir** under the baton of conductor **David Fallis**.

*The Coronation of Poppea* is directed by **Marshall Pynkoski** and choreographed by **Jeannette Lajeunesse Zingg**, Opera Atelier's co-artistic directors, with set designs by **Gerard Gauci**, costumes by **Dora Rust-D'Eye**, and lighting by **Kevin Fraser**.

*The Coronation of Poppea* runs **April 25, 26, 28, 29, May 1 and 2, 2009** at Toronto's Elgin Theatre (189 Yonge Street). Performances begin at 7:30 p.m. with the exception of the April 26<sup>th</sup> matinee at 3 p.m., and will be sung in Italian with English SURTITLES™.

Tickets for *The Coronation of Poppea* are \$30 to \$135 and are available by calling TicketMaster at **416-872-5555**, on-line at [www.ticketmaster.ca](http://www.ticketmaster.ca) or at the Elgin Theatre box office. For more information visit [www.operaatelier.com](http://www.operaatelier.com). Operatix are **\$20** and may be purchased by people under the age of 30 with valid I.D. in person at the Elgin Theatre Box Office (subject to availability). Group discounts (15 people +) are available by calling 416.703.3767 ext. 22.

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Opera Atelier gratefully acknowledges the ongoing support of The Canada Council for the Arts, the Ontario Arts Council, the City of Toronto through the Toronto Arts Council, the George Cedric Metcalf Foundation, the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the Creative Trust, and Anna Guthrie.

**2008/09 Season Sponsor:** Sun Life Financial

**Production Sponsor:** BMO Financial Group

**2008/09 Major Sponsors:** Scotiabank, TD Canada Trust Music, The Dominion of Canada General Assurance Company

Michael Maniaci's appearance as Nero is generously underwritten by Jerry and Joan Lozinski.

*Opera Atelier is Canada's premier baroque theatre company, dedicated to 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. For more than two decades, under the direction of founders 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.*