

## Warwick Arts Centre presents a thrilling season of Opera New York's Metropolitan Opera LIVE in HD

An exciting season of opera will commence at Warwick Arts Centre in October with the introduction of *Met Opera: Live in HD* into the programme. From their 2009-2010 award-winning series of live, high-definition performance transmissions, the **New York Metropolitan Opera** bring us five thrilling operas in as many months. Performed in America as a matinee, the operas will be transmitted live to cinemas and theatres across the UK in time for audiences to enjoy an evening of stunning performance.

Produced with at least 10 cameras allowing for multiple view points within any transmission, there are many different kinds of shots used including special camera zooms and close-ups. Satellite equipment in the venues receives a live HD signal, and the broadcasts are engineered and delivered in Dolby Digital 5.1 surround sound providing the next best audio experience to being in the opera house itself.

Over 40 countries around the world are participating in *The Met: Live in HD* this season; including several independent cinemas, performing arts organisations, and universities in the United States. The series is for everyone, making opera more accessible than ever before with productions featuring a variety of styles and showcasing the full range of the Met repertoire and artists. They all feature great storytelling, great singing and extraordinary production values.

Being screened simultaneously in different venues across the world the series begins with **Puccini's *Tosca*** on **10 October**. Conducted by Met Music director **James Levine**, it tells the story of three people- a famous opera singer, a freethinking painter, and a sadistic chief of police- caught in a net of love and politics. Soprano **Karita Mattila** will sing the title role for the first time outside her native Finland.

Set in ancient Egypt, **Verdi's *Aida*** comes next on **24 October** with a heartbreaking love story and magnificent crowd scenes from a cast of powerful voices.

Following this, **Puccini's *Turandot*** is transmitted on **7 November**. Directed by **Franco Zeffirelli**, **Puccini's** last opera features a ruthless Chinese princess who has all suitors beheaded if they fail to answer her riddles. **Marcello Giordani** sings Calaf, the unknown prince who wins her love and sings the famous *Nessun Dorma*.

Into the New Year, Warwick Arts Centre will have two further operas from the series - ***Der Rosenkavalier*** (**Strauss's** comic masterpiece of love and intrigue in 18<sup>th</sup> Century Vienna) and **Bizet's *Carmen*** (one of the most popular operas of all time).

With a fantastic line up of operas, shot with the best camera angles and transmitted in crystal clear HD with fantastic audio, it will almost be as good as having front row seats in New York (without the jet lag!). Join us, for an extremely exciting opportunity to be part of this worldwide showcase of one of the world's best opera companies.

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Date of release: 28 September 2009

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For hi res images see the ONLINE PRESS CENTRE @ [www.warwickartscentre.co.uk/press](http://www.warwickartscentre.co.uk/press)

Editor's Notes:

***Tosca* -Giacomo Puccini**

Sat 10 Oct 6pm

Theatre £25 (£20)

3hrs 30mins approximately (including 2 intervals)

***Aida* -Giuseppe Verdi**

Sat 24 Oct 6pm

Theatre £25 (£20)

4hrs approximately (including 2 intervals)

***Turandot* -Giacomo Puccini**

Sat 7 Nov 6pm

Theatre £25 (£20)

3hrs 30mins approximately (including 2 intervals)

***Der Rosenkavalier* -Richard Strauss**

Sat 9 Jan 6pm

Cinema £25 (£20)

3hrs approximately (including 2 intervals)

***Carmen* -Georges Bizet**

Sat 16 Jan 6pm

Theatre £25 (£20)

4hrs approximately (including 2 intervals)

For further information on *The Met: Live in HD* please visit [www.metoperafamily.org//metopera/broadcast/hd\\_events\\_current.aspx](http://www.metoperafamily.org//metopera/broadcast/hd_events_current.aspx)