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Radames
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Amneris
Mary Phillips

Amonasro
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Ramfis
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A DAY AT THE MUSEUM

The other day, taking a break from running errands, Ramona Chiya was at the Honolulu Museum of Art, having lunch with her sister at the café and seeing a film at the Doris Duke Theatre.

"I took drawing classes here in 1961 and 1962. My teachers were Wilson Stamper, Joseph Feher and Louis Pohl. Back then, the classrooms were where the curators’ offices are now," said Chiya, taking a meandering detour to lunch. "My classmate was Mercer Mayer, who’s a famous children’s book illustrator now." It was a balmy day and she was dressed in a crisp white blouse and jeans.

"My cousins lived on Kinau Street and as kids we used to go to Linekona to ride down the fire escapes that were at the corners of the building—they were like slides that went around and around," she reminisced, pausing in front of the tangle of electric blue and green squiggles of Monet’s Water Lilies, on her way to Arrangement in Black, No. 5 (Portrait of Lady Meux).

"I read in the museum magazine that they moved her, and want to see her in her new home," she said, referring to James MacNeill Whistler’s statuet composition that is now a highlight in the newly reinstalled—and very orange—Portraiture Gallery. Looking at Valerie Susan Meux, framed in her white fur coat, Chiya recalled gazing at the painting with her mother. "She was a real clotheshorse and loved paintings of women in their finery. But these days, I prefer the works in the new contemporary gallery—the Warhol electric chairs give me a real charge," she chuckled. "Excuse the pun."

At that moment two teenage girls entered the gallery. They stopped in front of the curator’s art historical joke—Alice Neel’s portrait of a dour Marisol Escobar (the Venezuelan-French artist and sometime lover of Willem De Kooning) hanging next to a portrait of a dour 19th-century New Englander. One of the girls posed between the paintings, trying not to crack up, as she turned down the corners of her mouth while the other snapped a picture with her iPhone.

Watching the girls with a raised eyebrow and approving grin, Chiya said, "It’s about time they allowed photography in the galleries. Well, I’ve got to run to lunch so we can make the 1 p.m. screening of the new Herzog documentary—films like that don’t show anywhere else in town, you know."
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**AIDA: An Incredible Journey**

There are not many operas that have a four letter word as a title other than Verdi’s *AIDA*. Berg’s *LULU* comes to mind. Few others. Is *AIDA* the ultimate in operatic spectacle or is it one of the most compelling interpersonal dramas ever created by an opera composer? We think the latter.

This production concentrates on the title figure in her quest for love drawn sharply against the background of war and conquest. It seems the very gods themselves conspire against Aida. Forsaking homeland, service, father, rank and taking into account the other challenges that life has brought her she chooses love: a thing impossible, radiant, and singular. Her own individual luminous salvation is assured.

Verdi never characterized more sharply or more poignantly than he did when he constructed the love triangle between Radames, Aida and Amneris, making the emotions of the rival as compelling as the emotions of the heroine and making the hero into a man who does the right thing. Perhaps he acts with questionable motives, but he is one who will always choose the path of right over wrong. This is the compelling core of the opera and the core of our feast. This is an opera about love. The love of Aida for Radames and the blind love of Radames for Aida. This love has the ability to transcend, withstanding adversity even of the most heinous kind.

So many sins have been visited on this score from the unglamorous painting of bodies no longer suited for public display, to the endless parading of animals who know no better, to the rigging of things that look like flying dinosaurs as lately at La Scala in Milan. Few operas have been so laden with the detritus of the industry, yet few operas are so pure and compelling at their cores as *AIDA*. So riveting and so breathtaking are the final musical moments of the opera that one is left speechless by the very beauty of the emotions invoked.

Come join our feast and let us hope that we make this incredible journey together with *AIDA*.

Henry G. Akina

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**DIRECTOR’S NOTES**

Henry G. Akina’s

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Henry G. Akina
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SYNOPSIS

Before the opera begins: Egypt is in conflict with Ethiopia. The Ethiopian King’s daughter, Aida, has been captured and is now a slave in the service of the Pharaoh’s daughter, Amneris.

ACT I scene i
Radames loves Aida but is loved by Amneris. In addition, Radames is ambitious and listens closely as Ramfis, the high priest tells him that Isis, the goddess has selected the commander of Egyptian armies.

A messenger arrives with news of Ethiopian atrocities against Egyptians. War is declared and Radames is appointed the commander of Egyptian forces and is blessed as such. Amneris commands him to return victorious.

ACT I scene ii
In the temple of Ptah, priests and priestesses pray for victory in the coming battle. Radames is consecrated.

ACT II scene i
Amneris is preparing to celebrate Egypt’s victory over the Ethiopians. She tells Aida that Radames has perished in battle in order to test her rival. Aida is grief-stricken and Amneris reveals that Radames lives…and will return in victory as her consort. Aida is heart-broken.

ACT II scene ii
Radames returns in triumph, to be rewarded by the unwelcome hand of Amneris in marriage. Aida’s father, Amonasro, has been taken prisoner, but his life is spared at the intercession of Radames.

ACT III
At a temple on the Nile outside the Capital, Amneris is prepared by the priests and priestesses for her wedding to Radames. Aida arrives and is surprised by her father. Amonasro induces his daughter to help him discover the plans of the Egyptian army, which she does in a meeting with Radames. Their conversation is overheard by her father. Aida and Amonasro take flight after Amonasro threatens Amneris, but the apparent treachery of Radames is now revealed. Radames surrenders to the high priest.

ACT IV
Radames is condemned to death by the priests, to the dismay of Amneris, who asks that he reject Aida and her love. He will not. He is immured in a stone tomb, where he is joined by Aida, who has come into the tomb by stealth, to die with him. As they die, Amneris prays for peace.
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LORI PHILLIPS
Aida
Hometown: Providence, RI
Recent & Upcoming Productions: Turandot, Turandot (Opera Lyra Ottawa); Maddalena, Andrea Chenier (Nashville Opera); Santuzza, Cavalleria Rusticana (Arizona Opera) UPCOMING: Brünnhilde, Die Walküre (Metropolitan Opera); Turandot, Turandot (Seattle Opera)
Career Highlights: Senta, Der Fliegende Holländer (Washington National Opera debut, 2008); Senta, Der Fliegende Holländer (Metropolitan Opera debut, 2010); Arianne, Ariane et Barbe-bleue (Vancouver Opera, L’Opera de Nice, and Opéra National de Paris (Bastille) on tour in Japan); Turandot and Madame Butterfly (New York City Opera)
Favorite Pastime: Playing baseball with my 9 year old son, reading mystery novels and baking.

JOSÉ LUIS DUVAL
Radames
Hometown: Mexico City
Recent & Upcoming Productions: Lucia di Lammermoor (Metropolitan Opera); Tosca (Bellas Artes, Mexico); Aida (Skopje, Macedonia); La Traviata (on tour in Mexico) UPCOMING: La bohème (Metropolitan Opera); Cavalleria Rusticana/ Pagliacci (Bellas Artes)
Career Highlights: La bohème (Metropolitan Opera debut and broadcast, 2005); La Traviata (Metropolitan Opera); Rigoletto (Metropolitan Opera in the Park); Turandot (Connecticut Opera); Aida (Bellas Artes and Mexican tour in Tamaulipas Festival); Carmen (Teatro San Carlo, Naples)
Past HOT Productions: HOT Debut
Favorite Pastime: Exercising, walking, reading U.S. and Mexican history, studying new repertoire.

MARY PHILLIPS
Amneris
Hometown: Providence, RI
Recent & Upcoming Productions: Mrs. Alexander, Philip Glass’ Satyagraha (Metropolitan Opera); Schwertleite, Die Walküre (Metropolitan Opera); Aïckin solo in Mahler’s Symphony No. 8 (New York Philharmonic, Lorin Maazel’s farewell concert); Azucena, Il Trovatore (Seattle Opera); Eboli, Don Carlos (Canadian Opera Company)
Career Highlights: Preziosilla, La forza del destino (Metropolitan Opera debut, 2006); Mahler’s Symphony No. 8 (New York Philharmonic Millenium concerts with Kurt Masur); Mahler’s Symphony No. 2 performances & recording on Telarc (Atlanta Symphony, Yoel Levi, conductor); Wagner’s Ring Cycles in Seattle, Toronto, Scotland & Metropolitan Opera
Favorite Pastime: Cooking, yoga, and walking.

QUINN KELSEY
Amonasro
Hometown: Honolulu, HI
Recent & Upcoming Productions: Rigoletto (Canadian Opera Company); Ezio, Attila (San Francisco Opera); Enrico, Lucia di Lammermoor (Deutsche Oper Berlin); di Luna, Il Trovatore (Dresden Semperoper)
Career Highlights: Rigoletto (Norwegian National Opera), di Luna, Il Trovatore and Amonasro, Aida (San Francisco Opera); Sharpless, Madame Butterfly (New York City Opera) Athanael, Thais (Edinburgh Festival)
Past HOT Productions: Madame Butterfly (2007), Turandot (2005); La bohème (2003); Tristan und Isolde (2000);
PRINCIPAL CAST

ANDREW GANGEStAD
Ramfis

Hometown: Cheongju, South Korea

Recent & Upcoming Productions: Leporello, Don Giovanni (Sarasota Opera); Commendatore, Don Giovanni (Opera Theatre of St. Louis); Bass soloist, Honegger’s Jeanne d’Arc au bûcher (Oregon Bach Festival); Nourabad, Les pêcheurs de perles (Pittsburgh Opera); Sparafucile, Rigoletto (Sacramento Opera)

Career Highlights: Colline, La bohème (Metropolitan Opera); Ramfis, Aida (Bregenz Festival); First place winner of the Fritz and Lavinia Jensen Foundation; Schumann’s Scenes from Goethe’s Faust (Warsaw Philharmonic); Figaro, Le nozze di Figaro (Macau Festival) (2009)

Past HOT Productions: HOT Debut

Favorite Pastime: Cooking and fishing and anything outdoors; or should that be fishing THEN cooking!? And spending time with family.

LEON WILLIAMS
King

Hometown: Brooklyn, NY

Recent & Upcoming Productions: Vaughan Williams’ Fantasia on Christmas Carols (South Bend Symphony); Delius’ Sea Drift (Florida Orchestra); Porgy and Bess in Concert (Leipzig Youth Orchestra, Prague, Czech Republic and Leipzig, Germany)


Past HOT Productions: Baron Douphol; La Traviata (2011); Wagners, Faust (2011); Figaro, Marriage of Figaro (2010); Schaunard, La bohème (2010); Papageno, The Magic Flute (2003); Second Soldier, Salome (2002), Schlemil/Hermann, Tales of Hoffmann (2001)

Favorite Pastime: Leading Worship at First Presbyterian Church of Honolulu.

BLYTHE KELSEY-TAKEMASA
High Priestess

Hometown: Honolulu, HI

Recent & Upcoming Productions: Aida, Aida (HOT Opera Express); Miss Todd, The Old Maid & the Thief (HOT, HPR Broadcast)

Career Highlights: Masterclass with Dame Kiri Te Kanawa; Member of HOT’s Mae Z. Orvis Opera Studio; Jezibaba, Rusalka (HOT Opera Express); Aida, Aida (HOT Opera Express); Miss Todd, The Old Maid & the Thief (HOT, HPR Broadcast)

Past HOT Productions: Has sung as soprano soloist or chorus member for over a dozen concerts and productions. Highlights include: Grand Night for Singing (2010 & 2011), Great Singers, Great Songs (2011), Opera Express productions of Rusalka (2010/11) and Aida (2011/12) and Old Maid & the Thief (2011)

Favorite Pastime: Enjoying all things geek and enjoying good food.

KAVEO KANOHO
Messenger

Hometown: Hilo, HI

Recent & Upcoming Productions: Tenor soloist, Beethoven’s Symphony No. 9 (Hilo premiere); Tenor soloist, Mozart’s Requiem (Kona); Tenor soloist, Bach’s Magnificat (Maui); In-keeper, Manon Lescaut

Past HOT Productions: La Traviata (2011); La bohème (2010); Manon Lescaut (2009); Barber of Seville (2008)

Favorite Pastime: Hanging out with my Basset Hound, Madeline.
ARTISTIC TEAM

IVAN TÖRZS
Conductor
Hometown: Paterson, NJ

Recent & Upcoming Productions:
- Mahler’s Das Lied von der Erde (Madrid); Concerts in Sicily with Palermo Symphonic Orchestra;
- Don Giovanni (Lausanne, Switzerland) UPCOMING: The Cunning Little Vixen (Lausanne, Switzerland);
- Nicolaï’s Die lustigen Weiber von Windsor (Detmold, Germany)

Career Highlights:
- L’elisir d’amore (Vienna State Opera); Moscow début with Russian National Orchestra; Conducted the first ever concert of Wagner in Tirana, Albania; Hamburg début with Barber of Seville; Wagner’s Ring (De Vlaamse Opera, Antwerpen, Belgium)

Past HOT Productions:
- Macbeth (1998); Elektra (1999); Tristan und Isolde (2000); Salome (2002); Otello (2004); Il Tritico (2006); Don Carlo (2008); Manon Lescaut (2009); The Marriage of Figaro (2010)

Favorite Pastime:
- Learning Korean and trying to avoid getting yelled at.

HENRY G. AKINA
Stage Director
Hometown: Honolulu, HI

Recent & Upcoming Productions:
- Il Trovatore & Il Tabarro (Nickel City Opera); Lucia di Lammermoor (Lyra Oratava);
- Madame Butterfly (Saloninna Festival, Finland & Malmo Opera House, Sweden); Die Walküre (HOT) UPCOMING: Die Fledermaus (HOT); Don Carlo (Vancouver Opera & Austin Lyric Opera); Owen Wingrave (San Francisco Lyric Opera)

Career Highlights:
- Founder and Resident Director, Berlin Chamber Opera (Berliner Kammeroper) (1980-1996); General and Artistic Director of HOT since 1996; Founded Mac Z. Orvis Opera Studio in 1998

Past HOT Productions:
- Highlights include: Madame Butterfly (1993, debut), Der fliegende Holländer, The Tales of Hoffmann, Faust, La Traviata, and La bohème; Hawaii premieres of Macbeth, Tristan und Isolde, Die Walküre, Elektra, Don Carlo, and Il Tritico.

Favorite Pastime:
- Traveling.

NOLA A. NAHULU
Co-chorus Director
Hometown: Wai’anae, HI

Recent & Upcoming Productions:
- Mozart Festival (July, 2011); Onipa’a (Sept., 2011); 10th Anniversary of 9/11, Kawaiaha'o Church (Sept., 2011); “Long Story Short” on PBS (March 2011)

Career Highlights:
- Singing & conducting around the world with HYOC at Carnegie Hall, New York; Beijing, China; Llangollen, Wales; Sacre Coeur, Paris, France; Salzburg Cathedral, Austria; Kawaiaha’o Church, Oahu

Past HOT Productions:
- Has prepared choruses with Beebe Freitas since 1992.

Favorite Pastime:
- Sewing… fabric as well as PIKAKE!

GRETNCHEN MUELLER
Stage Manager
Hometown: Newton, MA

Recent & Upcoming Productions:
- The Experience of Flight in Dreams (Garrett & Moulton Productions);
- Clark Supryniewicz’s Caliban Dreams (world premiere);
- Ariadne auf Naxos (Berkeley West Edge Opera)

Career Highlights:
- War and Peace; Der Ring des Nibelungen; The Tale of Genji; Das Verratene Meer; Tour with Peking Opera

Past HOT Productions:
- Over 40 productions, most recently La Traviata (2011), Faust (2011); La bohème (2010); Le nozze di Figaro (2010)

Favorite Pastime:
- Body surfing and photography.
ARTISTIC TEAM

BEEBE FREITAS  
Co-Chorus Director / Rehearsal Pianist  
Hometown: Youngstown, OH  
Recent & Upcoming Productions: All past HOT productions; UPCOMING: Recital with Frederica von Stade  
Career Highlights:  
Rehearsal pianist for Leonard Bernstein, Charles Munch, Gian Carlo Menotti; Recital with Yo Yo Ma; Recitals and recordings with clarinetist David Shifrin  
Past HOT Productions: Every season since the Stone Age.  
Favorite Pastime: Reading, watching UH sports on TV.

PETER DEAN BECK  
Scenic & Lighting Designer  
Hometown: Los Angeles, CA  
Recent & Upcoming Productions: Turandot (Florentine Opera); Music Man (Skylight Opera Theatre); Marriage of Figaro and Susannah (CU Boulder); UPCOMING: Suor Angelica/Gianni Schicchi (UC Boulder); Abduction from the Seraglio (SUNY Stony Brook); Sound of Music (Light Theatre)  
Past HOT Productions: 27th season as resident designer, including Tristan und Isolde, Don Carlo, Elektra, A Little Night Music  
Favorite Pastime: Loves cooking, jazz & NY Yankees

HELEN E. RODGERS  
Costume Designer  
Hometown: Charlottesville, VA  
Recent & Upcoming Productions: UPCOMING: Don Giovanni (Mannes Opera); The Ghosts of Versailles (Manhattan School of Music)  
Career Highlights:  
Die Walküre (HOT); Wild West costumes designed for San Diego Opera, performed by companies in US and Canada and remounted this season in San Diego.  
Past HOT Productions: Resident costumer since 2002. Favorites include Die Walküre, La bohème, & Susannah.  
Favorite Pastime: Travel, gardening and Reiki.

SUE SITTKO SCHAEFER  
Wig & Make-up Designer  
Hometown: St. Paul, MN  
Recent & Upcoming Productions: Boris Godunov and Don Giovanni (Utah Festival Opera); Musical Theatre in Logan, Utah; Carmen and Marriage of Figaro (Kentucky Opera)  
Career Highlights:  
Traveling and working in Poland on a production of Marriage of Figaro, co-produced by University of Louisville and The Karol Szymanowski Academy of Music in Katowice, Poland. This production was the subject of the documentary film, “Figaro: Living in the Moment of a Character”, directed and produced by Sue’s husband, Dan Schaefer.  
Past HOT Productions: Faust, Lucia di Lammermoor and La Traviata (2011); Manon Lescaut, assisting former wigmaster Richard Stead (2009)  
Favorite Pastime: I LOVE to travel!
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HOT’s education team shares their love of opera not only during Grand Opera Season, but year round. The world of opera is literally brought to schools and taught to children of all ages. Aspiring opera singers have the opportunity to train with professionals and better their craft.

HOT OPERA EXPRESS
This is the touring group of HOT that develops operatic shows for students throughout the state. Performances are held in cafeterias, auditoriums and other various facilities on school campuses. The shows feature singers from the Mae Z. Orvis Opera Studio of Hawaii Opera Theatre and include opportunities for audience participation. Annually, HOT’s Opera Express gives 50 to 80 performances.

HOT RESIDENCY
This award-winning program turns a class, grade level or even a whole school into an opera production company. With assistance from the professionals at HOT, students, faculty and staff are coached on developing their own opera or producing adaptations of famous operas and operettas. In the past year students at Aina Haina Elementary, Waikele Elementary, Niu Valley Middle School and St. Louis School have all participated in this program.

OPERA FOR EVERYONE
The final dress rehearsal of every opera is reserved for education purposes and each year educators bring thousands of students to experience live opera.

SINGER TRAINING
Mae Z. Orvis Opera Studio
Each year local singers audition to become members of the Mae Z. Orvis Opera Studio of Hawaii Opera Theatre. The Studio offers singers opportunities to work with the opera professionals on the HOT staff as well as singers, coaches and other industry professionals to further their development as singers.

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If you are interested in having HOT’s education team come to your school or community group, contact the HOT Office at 596-7372.

(L to R) 1. Cast members from the Niu Valley Middle School Mikado production. 2. Mae Z. Orvis Opera Studio member Cat Masuda as Amneris in the HOT Opera Express production of Aida. 3. Mae Z. Orvis Opera Studio members Winnie So as Gretel and Rosanna Perch as the Witch in the HOT Opera Express production of Hansel and Gretel.
LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES
Opera Highlights
Dr. Lynne Johnson leads this insightful class which provides two in-depth discussions on each of HOT’s productions. Members of the class are also invited to a staging rehearsal of one opera. This class is offered as part of the non-credit programs through the University of Hawaii at Manoa’s Outreach College.

OPERA PREVIEWS
Opera Previews at the Honolulu Museum of Art are a long-time tradition. The lectures are free for HOT and Academy members. There is a minimal fee for non-members. This year’s lecturers include Dr. Lesley Wright and Judy Neale.

LANAI LECTURES
One hour prior and 30-minutes prior to each opera performance at the Neal Blaisdell Concert Hall a lecture is given on the Ward Avenue Lanai. The lectures are free and are a great way to get informed about the opera and have a place to relax before the performance begins.
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April 26, 28, 30, 2013

The change in schedule . . .
1. Provides HOT the flexibility to offer Opera year round.
2. Allows HOT to increase its focus on each production.
3. Gives HOT the ability to expand its event opportunities for each production.

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