

23 May 2019 - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Arcola announces 2019 Grimeborn Opera Festival



“Take any opera-related stereotypes you might have and bin them” – Time Out

Arcola Theatre has announced the 16 productions that make up the 2019 Grimeborn Opera Festival.

The festival, which is returning for its thirteenth successive year, features bold new versions of classic operas, rarely-seen and long-forgotten works, and brand new pieces from some of the most exciting up-and-coming opera artists. **£12 tickets are available for every single show in the season.**

Following their smash-hit *The Rape of Lucretia* (Winner of the 2019 Off West End Award for Best Opera Production), **Julia Burbach** and **Peter Selwyn** reunite for a thrilling new take on **Wagner’s *Das Rheingold***. Arcola produces the first London performances of **Jonathan Dove’s** acclaimed reduction since its premiere in the 1990s, with 18 live musicians from the **Orpheus Ensemble** and an exceptional cast of singers. It follows hot on the heels of Julia Burbach’s production of *Die Walküre* at Bordeaux Opera.

Music Director Peter Selwyn said:

“The Arcola is the perfect space for a contemporary look at the powerful curtain-raiser to the Ring Cycle. The audience will get to see the conflicts, the personal dramas and relationships very close up. They will be really able to get inside the characters and story, experiencing this powerful and thrilling music in the most direct way.”

Arcola Artistic Director Mehmet Ergen said:

“When the chance arises to experience a part of the Ring Cycle, it’s very rarely at these prices. Affordable tickets have always been key to Grimeborn, and to our belief that opera should be accessible to everyone. Its roots are in the streets, in the stories we share, and in the power of music to unite and affect us all. Grimeborn champions that power, and creates a platform for young and adventurous artists to wield it. I can’t wait to watch this year’s line-up with opera fans and first-timers alike.”

Classics are brought daringly into the 21st century by **Opera Allegra**, whose ***Violetta*** investigates the psychological depths of *La Traviata*, and **Baseless Fabric Theatre**, who reimagine Strauss’ ***Die Fledermaus*** for the modern day. Rossini’s dazzling comic opera ***Count Ory*** is revived by **Opera Alegria**, while **Ensemble OrQuesta** present Rameau’s Baroque tale of love and obsession ***Hippolyte et Aricie***

(Hippolytus and Aricia). **Over The Pond** bring Bellini's tragedy *I Capuleti e I Montecchi (The Capulets and The Montagues)* to Studio 2, while the **Arcola Participation Queer Collective** make their Grimeborn debut with *Don Jo*, vividly re-interpreting Mozart's iconic anti-hero through a queer lens.

Music and stories from around the globe are placed right to the forefront of the festival. Arabic and Western music is woven together by chamber orchestra **Ruthless Jabiru** in a hard-hitting look at worldwide violence against women; **Verity Lane** presents an avant-garde twist on traditional Japanese culture; while two productions - **Scott Joplin's Treemonisha** and **Amy Beach's Cabildo** - interrogate how American stories have been buried by nostalgia.

Brand-new and pioneering pieces include **Sane and Sound**, which seeks to demystify our relationship with delusions and hallucinations, and **Noah Mosley's** critically-acclaimed operatic folk tale **Aurora**.

Two double-bills draw out the unexplored connections between familiar characters: the loss and longing of **Hotspur/Pierrot** and the tortured internality of **Miss Havisham's Wedding Night/12 Poems of Emily Dickinson**. **Irrational Theatre** will stage a joyous trio of short comic operas by Samuel Barber, Peter Reynolds and Jacques Offenbach.

Booking is now open for Arcola Supporters. Public booking opens on Friday 24 May at 10.00am.

<http://arco.la/grimeborn>

FULL LISTINGS

Studio 2 | 29 Jul, 30 Jul, 31 Jul at 8pm

Opera Allegra presents

VIOLETTA

Music by Giuseppe Verdi

Libretto by Francesco Maria Piave

Director Martin Berry

Revival Director Ashley Pearson

This daring new chamber performance of Verdi's La Traviata brings the psychological drama to the surface.

£22 | £20 | £12 (concessions available)

Full copy and tickets at <http://arco.la/violetta>

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Studio 1 | 31 Jul, 2 Aug, 3 Aug, 5 Aug, 6 Aug, 8 Aug, 9 Aug, 10 Aug at 7.30pm

Arcola Theatre presents

DAS RHEINGOLD

by Richard Wagner

Adapted by Graham Vick and Jonathan Dove

Orchestrated by Jonathan Dove

Director Julia Burbach

Music Director Peter Selwyn

Wagner's epic of gods, monsters and power comes to Grimeborn in a new production by Julia Burbach and Peter Selwyn.

£40 | £32 | £20 | £12 (concessions available)
Full copy and tickets at <http://arco.la/rheingold>

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Studio 2 | 1 Aug, 2 Aug, 3 Aug at 8pm
Great Expectations presents
MISS HAVISHAM'S WEDDING NIGHT / 12 POEMS OF EMILY DICKINSON
Music by Dominic Argento / Aaron Copland
Libretto by Dominic Argento / Emily Dickinson
Director Ralph Bridle
Music Director David Eaton

The inner lives of two tortured souls are brought vividly to life.

£22 | £20 | £12 (concessions available)
Full copy and tickets at <http://arco.la/havisham>

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Studio 2 | 6 Aug, 7 Aug at 8pm
Baseless Fabric Theatre presents
DIE FLEDERMAUS
Music by Leo Geyer after Johann Strauss II
Libretto by Joanna Turner after Karl Haffner and Richard Genée
Director Joanna Turner
Music Director Leo Geyer

This contemporary re-imagining lands the cast of Johann Strauss' classic in the 21st century.

£22 | £20 | £12 (concessions available)
Full copy and tickets at <http://arco.la/fledermaus>

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Studio 1 | 7 Aug at 7.30pm
Sane and Sound Opera Company presents
SANE AND SOUND
by Matt Geer
Director Katie Bunting
Music Director Matt Geer

A brand-new opera exploring psychotic illnesses and mood disorders, based on true accounts.

£25 | £22 | £15 | £12 (concessions available)
Full copy and tickets at <http://arco.la/sane>

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Studio 1 | 9 Aug, 10 Aug, 11 Aug at 8pm; 10 Aug, 11 Aug at 3pm

Ruthless Jabiru presents

SILK MOTH

Music by Bushra El-Turk, Liza Lim and Cassandra Miller

Libretto by Eleanor Knight

Music Director Kelly Lovelady

Director Heather Fairbairn

Arabic and Western musical traditions are woven together in a hard-hitting look at honour crime.

£25 | £22 | £15 | £12 (concessions available)

Full copy and tickets at <http://arco.la/moth>

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Studio 2 | 13 Aug, 14 Aug, 15 Aug, 16 Aug, 17 Aug at 8pm

Opera Alegría presents

COUNT ORY

Music by Gioachino Rossini

Libretto by Lindsay Bramley from Eugène Scribe and Charles-Gaspard Delestre-Poirson

Director Ben Newhouse-Smith

Music Director Lindsay Bramley

Opera Alegría return to Grimeborn with a full-length production of Rossini's dazzling comic opera.

£22 | £20 | £12 (concessions available)

Full copy and tickets at <http://arco.la/ory>

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Studio 1 | 13 Aug, 14 Aug, 16 Aug, 17 Aug at 7.30pm

Ensemble OrQuesta presents

HIPPOLYTE ET ARICIE (HIPPOLYTUS AND ARICIA)

Music by Jean-Philippe Rameau

Libretto by Simon-Joseph Pellegrin

Director Marcio da Silva

Ensemble OrQuesta return to Grimeborn with a Baroque tale of love and obsession.

£25 | £22 | £15 | £12 (concessions available)

Full copy and tickets at <http://arco.la/aricie>

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Studio 2 | 23 Aug at 8pm; 24 Aug at 3pm and 8pm

Verity Lane presents

ORIGAMI SOUNDSCAPES / THE CRANE

Music and Libretto (English and Japanese) by Verity Lane

Verity Lane's deeply personal project draws on classical Japanese traditions with an avant-garde twist.

£22 | £20 | £12 (concessions available)

Full copy and tickets at <http://arco.la/crane>

Studio 1 | 23 Aug, 24 Aug, 25 Aug at 7.30pm

Bury Court Opera presents

AURORA

Music by Noah Mosley

Libretto by Elisabetta Campeti

Director Aylin Bozok

Music Director Noah Mosley

A King fights to save his daughter from a mysterious illness in Noah Mosley's acclaimed new opera.

£25 | £22 | £15 | £12 (concessions available)

Full copy and tickets at <http://arco.la/aurora>

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Studio 2 | 26 Aug, 27 Aug, 28 Aug at 8pm

Irrational Theatre presents

A HAND OF BRIDGE / THE SANDS OF TIME / LE 66

Three comic operas by Samuel Barber, Peter Reynolds and Jacques Offenbach

Director Paula Chitty

Music Director Peter Jones

Don't miss this winning trio of comic opera gems, for one night only at Grimeborn.

£22 | £20 | £12 (concessions available)

Full copy and tickets at <http://arco.la/trio>

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Studio 1 | 27 Aug, 28 Aug, 30 Aug, 31 Aug at 7.30pm

Spectra Ensemble presents

TREEMONISHA

Music and Libretto by Scott Joplin

Director Cecilia Stinton

Music Director Matthew Lynch

Treemonisha leads her fractured community in Scott Joplin's fusion of African-American spirituals, barbershop and blues.

£25 | £22 | £15 | £12 (concessions available)

Full copy and tickets at <http://arco.la/treemonisha>

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Studio 2 | 29 Aug, 30 Aug, 31 Aug at 8pm

Jessie Anand Productions presents

CABILDO

Music by Amy Beach

Libretto by Nan Bagby Stephens
Director Emma Jude Harris
Music Director John Warner

This new production of Amy Beach's rarely-staged opera explores the dark underside of the American dream.

£22 | £20 | £12 (concessions available)
Full copy and tickets at <http://arco.la/cabildo>

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Studio 1 | 29 Aug, 1 Sep at 7.30pm
formidAbility in collaboration with Signdance Collective International present
HOTSPUR / PIERROT LUNAIRE
Music by Gillian Whitehead / Arnold Schoenberg
Libretto by Fleur Adcock / Albert Giraud
Director Sara Brodie
Music Director Scott Wilson

A double-bill of operas about love, longing and loss from Dame Gillian Whitehead and Arnold Schoenberg.

£25 | £22 | £15 | £12 (concessions available)
Full copy and tickets at <http://arco.la/hotspur>

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Studio 2 | 2 Sept, 3 Sept, 4 Sept at 8pm
Over The Pond Productions presents
I CAPULETI E I MONTECCHI (THE CAPULETS AND THE MONTAGUES)
Music by Vincenzo Bellini
Libretto by Felice Romani
Director Lysanne van Overbeek
Music Director Kelvin Lim

Bellini's operatic tragedy of doomed love comes to Grimeborn in a new production by Over The Pond.

£22 | £20 | £12 (concessions available)
Full copy and tickets at <http://arco.la/capuleti>

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Studio 2 | 4 Sept, 5 Sept, 6 Sept at 8pm; 7 Sept at 3pm and 8pm
Arcola Participation presents
DON JO
Music by Nick Bonadies after Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Libretto by Leo Doulton after Lorenzo da Ponte
Director Leo Doulton
Music Director Nick Bonadies

A queer take on Mozart's perennially problematic classic by Arcola Participation Queer Collective.

£15 (concessions available)

Full copy and tickets at <http://arco.la/donjo>

ABOUT ARCOLA THEATRE

Arcola produces daring, high-quality theatre in the heart of East London and beyond. We commission and premiere exciting, original works alongside rare gems of world drama and bold new productions of classics. Our socially-engaged, international programme champions diversity, challenges the status quo, and attracts over 65,000 people to our building each year. Ticket prices are some of the most affordable in London, and our long-running Pay What You Can scheme ensures there is no financial barrier to accessing the theatre.

Arcola enables new and diverse talent. Our annual Grimeborn Festival unlocks opera for everybody. We give young and diverse companies a platform to embark on bold artistic ventures. Contemporary stagings and affordable ticket prices make opera accessible for the many. Arcola's Playwrought scheme provides opportunities for writers to develop new scripts for production, while Arcola Academy empowers young people to build their futures within the arts. Through Arcola Lab, we offer 26 weeks of free rehearsal space every year to BAME and refugee artists.

Arcola Participation expands opportunities for everyone to make theatre, including through our youth theatres, courses, and pioneering community theatre companies.

Arcola imagines and builds a sustainable future. Our award-winning green initiatives, developed with our sister company Arcola Energy, aim to make Arcola the world's first carbon-neutral theatre.

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