

THE GLIMMERGLASS FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES DETAILS FOR 2011

Four New Productions, Including a World Premiere and Professional Premiere, Headline the 37th Festival

Festival Artists Include Anne Bogart, Rod Gilfry, Nathan Gunn, Tony Kushner,
Terrence McNally, John Musto, David Pittsinger, Jeanine Tesori and Deborah Voigt

Company Inaugurates Annual Artist in Residence Series

COOPERSTOWN, N.Y. (July 22, 2010) – The Glimmerglass Festival has released details regarding its 2011 summer season, the first under incoming General & Artistic Director Francesca Zambello.

The 2011 Festival will open with new productions of Bizet's *Carmen* and Cherubini's *Medea*. Additionally, a double bill of two new operas highlighting American artists will feature the world-premiere production of *A Blizzard in Marblehead Neck*, a Glimmerglass-commissioned work by the award-winning team of composer Jeanine Tesori and playwright Tony Kushner, and the professional premiere of John Musto and Mark Campbell's acclaimed *Later the Same Evening*. The four operas will be joined by Irving Berlin's *Annie Get Your Gun*. The main stage productions will be supplemented by special performances, concerts, lectures and symposiums throughout the season.

"For years, Glimmerglass has been celebrated for its devotion to the operatic form and for its adventurous productions of familiar and unfamiliar works from the classic repertoire," Zambello said. "As part of the company's mission to produce new, little-known and familiar operas and works of music theater, The Glimmerglass Festival will offer an annual production of an American musical theater piece performed in the way it was first heard with full orchestra and chorus and without amplification. Irving Berlin's *Annie Get Your Gun* will inaugurate this series as our fourth production."

CARMEN (Bizet/Meilhac & Halévy)

The 2011 season features strong heroines – and the fiery Carmen is no exception. The role of the independent protagonist will be sung by **Ginger Costa-Jackson** in her role and company debut. Costa-Jackson is a recent member of the Metropolitan Opera Lindemann Young Artist Development Program. **Adam Diegel** returns to Glimmerglass as Don José after his performance this summer as Cavaradossi in *Tosca*, for which he was praised for his "smooth and darkly tinged voice." **Keith Miller** will sing the role of Escamillo. Miller has been seen as Zuniga in the Met's production of *Carmen* and also recently appeared in *Salome* and *Madame Butterfly*, both of which were broadcast live in HD around the world. American soprano **Anya Matanovič** will sing the role of Micaëla in her company debut. The production will be directed by **Anne Bogart**, who serves as the Artistic Director for the SITI Company and whose work was last seen at Glimmerglass in 2008 with Bellini's *I Capuleti e i Montecchi*. Glimmerglass Music Director **David Angus** will conduct.

"Glimmerglass is known for unusual repertoire, so *Carmen* seemed a strange choice, until I heard that it would be directed by Anne Bogart," Angus said. "Everything that Anne touches is transformed into something exceptional and different, so I am thrilled I will be doing *Carmen* with her.

"We can expect a completely new approach to the work, and I am sure we will discover many new layers of the story and a very strong staging. When this is combined with the Glimmerglass tradition of bringing in the newest generation of young stars, this will be a *Carmen* worth traveling a long way to see."

James Schuette, who designed costumes for Bogart's Glimmerglass production in 2008, will design sets and costumes. 2010 Tony Award nominee **Robert Wierzel**, who has designed more than 35 productions for Glimmerglass, will design lighting. SITI Company member **Barney O'Hanlon** will choreograph.

MEDEA (Cherubini/Hoffmann)

Medea, Cherubini's rarely performed opera, will be presented in Italian as a co-production with Ireland's Wexford Festival Opera. The role of Medea, the scorned wife who will stop at nothing for revenge, will be sung by **Alexandra Deshorties** in her role and company debut. A graduate of the Metropolitan Opera Lindemann Young Artist Development Program, Deshorties made her Met debut as the High Priestess in *Aida* and has since appeared as Elettra in *Idomeneo*, Fiordiligi in *Così fan tutte* and First Lady in *The Magic Flute*. **Jason Collins**, seen last summer in Seattle Opera's *Ring Cycle*, will sing the tenor role of Jason. Collins last performed at Glimmerglass in 2002 as The Chevalier in *Dialogues of the Carmelites*. **Wendy Bryn Harmer**, also a graduate of the Lindemann Young Artist Development Program, will sing the role of Glauce. The role of King Creon will be sung by **David Pittsinger**, last seen at Glimmerglass in 2005 as The Traveller and The Elderly Fop in *Death in Venice*. Pittsinger has most recently performed at the Met as The Animal Trainer/Acrobat in Alban Berg's *Lulu* and The Speaker in Julie Taymor's production of *The Magic Flute*. Other engagements include performances as Emile de Becque in *South Pacific* at Lincoln Center Theater. He also appeared as Enobarbus in a Carnegie Hall concert performance of *Antony and Cleopatra* with New York City Opera. Englishman **Michael Barker-Caven**, known for his work in London's West End and the Royal Opera House, will direct and Italy native **Daniele Rustioni** will conduct, both in their U.S. debuts. They will be joined by **Joe Vanek**, who will design sets and costumes. **Robert Wierzel** will design lighting.

DOUBLE BILL

***A Blizzard in Marblehead Neck* (Tesori/Kushner)**

The world premiere of *A Blizzard in Marblehead Neck* will be inspired by an episode in the life of playwright Eugene O'Neill. This will be the first operatic composition for **Jeanine Tesori**, who is well-known for her scores on Broadway, including *Shrek The Musical* and Tony Award-winning *Caroline, or Change*. Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright **Tony Kushner** will provide the original libretto; Kushner is acclaimed for his Tony Award-winning play, *Angels in America*, which was later turned into a mini-series. His other plays include *A Bright Room Called Day*, *Slavs!* and *Homebody/Kabul*. He wrote the book for Tesori's *Caroline, or Change* and the screenplays for Mike Nichols's film *Angels in America* and Steven Spielberg's *Munich*. **Zambello** will direct *A Blizzard in Marblehead Neck*. **Court Watson** will design costumes.

***Later the Same Evening* (Musto/Campbell)**

Originally commissioned by the National Gallery of Art, the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center and the University of Maryland, *Later the Same Evening* is a one-act opera inspired by five paintings of American icon Edward Hopper. The opera is written by Pulitzer Prize-nominated composer **John Musto** and award-winning librettist **Mark Campbell**, who previously collaborated on the highly successful comic opera, *Volpone*, for Wolf Trap Opera. *Later the Same Evening* imagines the lives of the figures in Hopper's paintings and weaves a narrative that connects them – both tangentially and directly – on a single night in New York City in 1932. "Ultimately, the opera is a love letter to the city," explains librettist Campbell, "and celebrates the serendipity its inhabitants hold sacred...and its belief that love could always be just around the next corner." The production will feature **Patricia Schuman** in the role of Estelle Oglethorpe. Schuman has performed in many leading opera houses and festivals, including the Met, Vienna State Opera, Salzburg Festival, Royal Opera House Covent Garden and Houston Grand Opera. Baritone **Jake Gardner** will perform the role of Ronaldo Cabral. Gardner returns to Glimmerglass after performances as Jupiter in the company's 2007 production of *Orpheus in the Underworld*. **Leon Major**, who directed *Later the Same Evening*'s 2007 premiere to critical acclaim, will direct; **David Angus** will conduct. **David Roberts** designed costumes for the premiere and designs this new production. **Erhard Rom**, who also teamed with Major on the premiere, will design the sets for the double bill in his company debut. **Mark McCullough** will design lighting for *A Blizzard in Marblehead Neck* and *Later the Same Evening*.

***ANNIE GET YOUR GUN* (Berlin/Fields)**

Based on the real-life romance of sharpshooter Annie Oakley and Frank Butler, Berlin's *Annie Get Your Gun* features the popular and well-known songs "Anything You Can Do I Can Do Better," "I Got Lost in His Arms," and "There's No Business Like Show Business." Leading dramatic soprano **Deborah Voigt** will sing the title role. Although Voigt is internationally revered in the operas of Richard Wagner and Richard Strauss, and is noted for portrayals of such Italian operatic heroines as Tosca and Aida, she has also sung Broadway and popular songs in recital and in special cabaret presentations. **Rod Gilfry** will sing the role of Frank Butler, Annie's love interest. Gilfry is a two-time GRAMMY nominee who can currently be seen as Emile de Becque in the U.S. National Tour of the Lincoln Center Production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's *South Pacific*. Buffalo Bill Cody will be sung by **Jake Gardner**. **Zambello**, known for both her opera and theater productions, will direct the musical. **Kevin Stites**, who has served as Music Director for almost a dozen Broadway productions, will conduct. **Court Watson** will design sets and costumes in his company debut, and **Mark McCullough** will design lighting. McCullough returns, after having designed *Das Liebesverbot* in 2008, for his ninth season with the company.

GLIMMERGLASS FESTIVAL ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

New in 2011, the company will host a Glimmerglass Festival Artist in Residence. Each summer, an Artist in Residence will join the company for the season and be fully integrated into the Festival. The inaugural Glimmerglass Festival Artist in Residence will be **Deborah Voigt** who, in addition to starring in *Annie Get Your Gun*, will perform special solo performances throughout the summer and work closely with members of the company's Young American Artists Program.

"Great opera singers are always seeking ways to renew and refresh their art," Zambello said. "Every summer, The Glimmerglass Festival will be enriched by an internationally acclaimed artist who will join us for the entire season to explore new avenues of expression, to mentor our Young Artists and to interact with our public. We are especially pleased to welcome Deborah Voigt as our first Artist in Residence in 2011."

Voigt said, "I am honored to have been chosen as The Glimmerglass Festival's first Artist in Residence. I love working with young, talented singers. To have the opportunity to mentor them over a period of weeks, during which we all live, work and create together, will be very special. I certainly hope it will be enriching for them, and I know it will be fulfilling for me.

"Fifty or 60 years ago, these big, classic American musicals were originally scored with very large orchestras, and there was certainly no sound amplification," she continued. "It will be exciting to sing Annie this way, and I'm certain that our audiences will find it very satisfying to hear the orchestra and the singing performed the way it was intended."

CONCERTS AND SPECIAL PERFORMANCES

The 2011 Glimmerglass Festival will feature two special performances. A cabaret starring **Deborah Voigt** will take place on July 29, 2011. This performance will be the premiere of a program developed by Voigt, director **Zambello** and award-winning playwright **Terrence McNally**. McNally has written the books for the musicals *The Full Monty*, *The Rink*, *Ragtime* and *A Man Of No Importance*, as well as the libretto for Jake Heggie's *Dead Man Walking* at San Francisco Opera. He is also acclaimed for his Tony Award-winning play, *The Master Class*, which focuses on the life and career of operatic soprano Maria Callas. The performance will take place in the Alice Busch Opera Theater at 4 p.m.

"I've been doing evenings of show songs, ballads and cabaret songs for a few years now," Voigt said, "and these performances have met with great response from audiences and critics alike – which is wonderful because I really love doing them. A cabaret can be very much like an art song or lieder recital. The evening must be carefully constructed and have a theme that both the artist and audience can relate to. This makes it more personal, which is what this kind of intimate evening is all about. I love singing opera, but it is a very different kind of experience. [In an opera performance] I am up there on stage, hundreds of feet away from the audience, with a 100-piece orchestra between us. So I've always loved and appreciated these more intimate evenings of song, whether classical or popular. At The Glimmerglass Festival, we'll be looking for a little bit of both, perhaps, for our cabaret evenings. I'm not exactly sure yet...but I can guarantee that it will be magical...and lots of fun!"

Nathan Gunn will also perform a concert accompanied by his wife, **Julie Gunn**, in the Alice Busch Opera Theater on August 12, 2011, at 4 p.m. Mr. Gunn made his Glimmerglass debut in Zambello's production of *Iphigenia in Tauris* in 1997. He has appeared in internationally renowned opera houses such as the Met, San Francisco Opera, Seattle Opera, Houston Grand Opera, Paris Opera and Glyndebourne Opera. A frequent recitalist, Mr. Gunn has been presented in recital at Alice Tully Hall by both Lincoln Center's Art of the Song series and the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, and by Carnegie Hall in Zankel Hall. He recently released a solo album, *Just Before Sunrise*, on the Sony BMG Masterworks label. Other recordings include the first complete recording of Rogers & Hammerstein's *Allegro* and his debut album, *American Anthem*, a collection of American songs.

"My summers at Glimmerglass were two of the most memorable and enjoyable I've ever spent," Mr. Gunn said. "The beauty of the lake, eating ice cream downtown, and the perfect evenings at the opera brought everything I love about summer together in one small town. I can't wait to be back."

MEET ME AT THE PAVILION

New in 2011, The Glimmerglass Festival will present Meet Me at the Pavilion, a series of special performances and lectures that will take place in the company's Thaw Pavilion next to the Alice Busch Opera Theater. These performances will be presented all summer and will consist of concerts, lectures, post-performance discussions with cast and crew, and performances by members of the Young American Artists Program. **Deborah Voigt**, baritones **Rod Gilfry** and **Nathan Gunn**, the 2011 Young American Artists, and acclaimed composer and pianist **John Musto** will be involved in the summer series of special performances and concerts. His playing is featured in song recitals, chamber music, concertos and solo works.

BACKSTAGE TOURS, CHANGEOVERS AND Q&As

In addition to Meet Me at the Pavilion, audience members may continue to enjoy free previews prior to each performance, where a member of the music staff will offer an exploration into the work about to be performed. Free backstage tours will still be offered every Saturday in August at 10 a.m. During backstage tours, audience members have the opportunity to take a behind-the-scenes look at how each production comes together. Between performances on Saturdays in August, audience members can remain in the theater to watch as the production crews change the scenery and lighting to that of the next production. A member of the production staff narrates as the crews race to change the scenery in less than three hours. In 2011, audience members will be invited to remain in the theater after many performances for special Q&A sessions with the cast and creative teams.

SHOWTALK

Next summer, The Glimmerglass Festival will introduce ShowTalk, a series that will take place over three weekends and two weeks in August when visiting scholars and artists will explore topics related to the Festival productions.

"In the coming months, we will announce the prominent group of artists and experts who will engage us during the 2011 ShowTalk," Zambello said. "Anticipate an eclectic mix of cultural and critical perspectives on music, theater, art and ideas."

The 2011 Festival runs July 2 through August 23. Subscriptions for the 2011 Festival are currently on sale. Ticket buyers should note that many performance times next year have been scheduled earlier to better accommodate dining and travel arrangements for Glimmerglass visitors, and a new weekend subscription is now available in August. For more information on the 2011 Glimmerglass Festival and performance dates and times, visit www.glimmerglass.org or call the Box Office at (607) 547-2255.

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[Francesca Zambello](#) officially assumes the role of General & Artistic Director commencing September 1, 2010. She will succeed Michael MacLeod, who has held the position for five years. The company is a professional and non-profit organization that offers approximately 40 performances of four productions that run in rotation during July and August. Since its opening in 1987, the company's Alice Busch Opera Theater has been home to more than 85 productions. The 2010 Festival runs from July 9-August 24 and features four new productions: Puccini's *Tosca*, Copland's *The Tender Land*, Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro* and the U.S. professionally staged premiere of Handel's *Tolomeo*. For additional information, call (607) 547-2255 or visit www.glimmerglass.org.