



713 Lake Avenue Lake Worth Florida 33460 (561) 586-6169 [lakeworthplayhouse.org](http://lakeworthplayhouse.org)

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## **Mozart's Most Famous Opera Don Giovanni and Nutcracker Ballet are among International Ballet & Opera in Cinema Offerings at Lake Worth Playhouse**

**LAKE WORTH, Florida (November 4, 2008)** – Lake Worth Playhouse presents a series of internationally acclaimed ballet and opera performances from Europe's most famous arts venues. Filmed live from locations ranging from Venice's Teatro La Fenice and Teatro Comunale di Bologna to Florence's Maggio Musicale summer music festival and the Bolshoi Theatre in St. Petersburg, performances are presented in high-definition film format on a 19x22-foot screen accompanied by surround sound. Performances run throughout November and December and continue into 2009.

### **International Opera in Cinema**

**DON GIOVANNI (Wednesday, November 5, 2008 – 7:00pm)** Mozart's most famous opera, DON GIOVANNI is the opening production of the 2008 Salzburg Festival Series and is directed by German stage director, Claus Guth. In the title role, British baritone Christopher Maltman, winner of the Lieder Prize at the 1997 Cardiff Singer of the World Competition, makes his first appearance in Salzburg in an opera production. Annette Dasch, highly celebrated last season as Armida, plays Donna Anna, and Dorothea Röschmann, renowned for her interpretation of the great Mozart roles, sings the Donna Elvira. Bertrand de Billy, Anna Netrebko's favorite conductor, directs the Vienna Philharmonic. This performance has a running time of 180 minutes and one intermission. Guest speaker, Ariane Csonka Comstock, will introduce the opera at 6:30pm.

**ROMÉO ET JULIETTE (Sunday, November 16, 2008 – 2:00pm)** This opera by Charles Gounod, tells of the most famous romantic tragedy in opera literature and features four duets for the title couple. Stage director Bartlett Sher, winner of this year's best director of a musical Tony Award for his revival of *South Pacific* on Broadway, makes his European opera debut with this production staged at the Felsenreitschule festival hall. Renowned lyric tenor Rolando Villazón plays Romeo. Juliette is played by soprano Nino Machaizde, who made her La Scala debut in 2006 as Najade in *Ariadne auf Naxos*. French-Canadian conductor, Yannick Nézet-Séguin, music director designate of the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra, conducts for the first time in

Salzburg. This performance has a running time of 180 minutes and one intermission. Guest speaker, Giuseppe Albanese, will introduce the opera at 1:30pm.

**OTELLO (Wednesday, December 10, 2008 – 7:00pm)** Verdi's last tragic opera is based on Shakespeare's classic drama. This new production for the Salzburg Festival is directed by Stephen Langridge who, in 2006, attracted attention with his production of Offenbach's *Bluebeard* in Bregenz. Riccardo Muti, one of the best Verdi conductors of our time, is returning to Salzburg. Spanish baritone Carlos Álvarez plays Iago, and two rising international singers, Latvian spinto tenor Aleksandrs Antonenko and Russian soprano Marina Poplavskaya, play Otello and Desdemona respectively. This performance has a running time of 130 minutes and one intermission. Guest speaker, Giuseppe Albanese, will introduce the opera at 6:30pm.

**Hansel und Gretel (Saturday, December 27, 2008 – 2:00pm)** Engelbert Humperdinck's (1854-1921) *Hänsel und Gretel* is part of the 2008 Glyndebourne Festival Series. This magical fairytale-turned-opera began as a short entertainment for a children's birthday party. Humperdinck enjoyed the project so much that he immediately set about turning it into a full-scale opera with a text by Adelheid Wette. He sent the score to Richard Strauss who was so impressed he conducted the premiere, which catapulted the opera to fame in 1893, and today it continues to be regarded as a leading children's opera. *Hänsel und Gretel* combines lyricism and exuberant playfulness but, like all great fairy tales, it has darker underpinnings evident in Humperdinck's brilliant orchestral writing. The international creative team behind this production includes conductor Kazushi Ono, Music Director at La Monnaie, and Laurent Pelly, one of France's most talented opera directors. This performance has a running time of 135 minutes and one intermission. Guest speaker, Ariane Csonka Comstock, will introduce the opera at 1:30pm.

### International Ballet in Cinema

**Nutcracker (Wednesday, December 17, 2008 – 7:00pm)** One of the world's most famous ballets, NUTCRACKER premiered at Russia's Mariinsky Theater 1892. Mikhail Shemiakin, Russian émigré and world-renowned avant-garde artist and sculptor reinterpreted the historical ballet to suit a more colorful audience. Shemiakin's version is sophisticated and witty, more unconventional than the traditional versions popular at Christmas. This unique interpretation was filmed in the Mariinsky Theater in St. Petersburg, home of the Kirov Ballet Academy and the Nutcracker's original stage. The 2007 production showcases the eye-catching costumes and startling staging designed by Mikhail Shemiakin. "First-rate performances by the principals, Irina Golub as Masha, Leonid Sarafanov as the Prince and the fabulous Anton Adasinsky as Drosselmeyer. Golub has childlike charm and sparkling dancing. The most delightful surprise is the eloquently expansive performance of Ekaterina Kondaurova as the Queen of Snows." - *Ballettalk.com* This performance has a running time of 130 minutes and one intermission.

**The Pharaoh's Daughter (Sunday, December 28, 2008 – 2:00pm)** was created by Marius Petipa in 1862 for the Bolshoi Theatre in St. Petersburg. This ballet became immensely popular with the public and adored by the ballerinas. The ballet tells the story of Lord Wilson, an Englishman who falls asleep after smoking opium with merchants in a pyramid where he has taken refuge from a storm. He dreams he is an ancient Egyptian in love with Aspacia, a Pharaoh's daughter who has been promised to the King of Nubia. Pierre Lacotte, in his restoration for the Bolshoi Theatre Company in Moscow, recreated all the dances for this lavish production, which includes performances by leading dancers Svetlana Zakharova and Sergei Filin. Petipa's choreography was reconstructed by Pierre Lacotte for a lavish production into which the Bolshoi threw all its resources; lavish ancient Egyptian scenery and costumes, brilliant performances by the corps de ballet and the orchestra, and above all spectacular performances by the leading dancers Svetlana Zakharova and Sergei Filin. This performance has a running time of 102 minutes and one intermission



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## Opera Opening Speakers

Distinguished speakers, **Giuseppe Albanese** and **Ariane Csonka Comstock**, will give presentations one half-hour prior to show times as indicated in the schedule. **Giuseppe Albanese** presents opera courses at Florida Atlantic University's Lifelong Learning Society. He is the recipient of Lifelong Learning Society 2000 Excellence in Teaching Award and the 2002 LLS Faculty Appreciation Award, and he was recently named the Brandeis National Women's Committee Man of Achievement for 2004. He will be the opening speaker for **Roméo et Juliette** and **Otello**.

**Ariane Csonka Comstock** has for many years taught opera appreciation, and her experiences in founding and developing the Palm Beach Opera's educational program led to the popular book, *The Young Person's Guide to the Opera*. She currently teaches opera appreciation at the prestigious Society of the Four Arts in Palm Beach, Florida. She will be the opening speaker for **Don Giovanni** and **Hansel und Gretel**.

Tickets to all performances are on sale now. Contact the Lake Worth Playhouse Box Office at 561-586-6410 or visit [www.lakeworthplayhouse.org](http://www.lakeworthplayhouse.org). Individual tickets can be purchased online using Visa, MasterCard or Discover Card. Group discounts are available.

## About Lake Worth Playhouse

Lake Worth Playhouse is a not-for-profit, non-equity community theatre with a diverse array of offerings, including award-winning dramas, comedies, musicals, area premieres, reinterpretations of classics, children's shows, ballets and operas on film, concert series and alternative programming. In addition to its main stage theatrical fare, the Playhouse presents year-round independent and foreign films in the Stonzek Theatre, an intimate black-box style theatre equipped with a large viewing screen and high-definition projection. The Playhouse is proud to offer a variety of educational programs for adults and children, as well as community outreach initiatives that bring cultural programs into the neighborhoods of underserved youth and also make theatre available free of charge for disadvantaged citizens in the community.

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