



OPERA. SHORT. NEW.

SEPTEMBER 10, 2011

FALL ARTS PREVIEW

AN EXCERPT FROM

THE FILTHY HABIT

Music by Peter Hilliard

Libretto by Matt Boresi

Susan Amedee Moore

Gil Ethan Watermeier

Piano Tessa Hartle

Stage Direction Joe Banno

Musical Direction Robert Wood

CAST

Amedee Moore, soprano, recently sang the role of Clorinda in *La Cenerentola* and covered the Countess in *Le nozze di Figaro* this summer at Opera North. Last year, Ms. Moore performed the role of Clotilde in Handel's *Faramondo*. In 2009, Amedee performed the role of Susanna in OSU's production of *Le nozze di Figaro*. Amedee received her M.M. from the Ohio State University in 2010 and B. M. in vocal performance from Wheaton College's Conservatory of Music in 2008. Her other roles include Jenny in *Three Sisters who are not Sisters*, Madame Pompous in *Too many Sopranos*, Meg in *Little Women*, Frou Frou/ Praskowia in *The Merry Widow* and Sister Margaretta in *The Sound of Music*. Amedee Moore is currently attending the Peabody Institute in pursuit of her graduate performance diploma in opera.

Ethan Watermeier, baritone, favorite credits include: *Les Misérables* (Javert and Factory Foreman/Combeferre), Broadway National Tour; Houston Grand Opera, Santa Fe Opera, Glimmerglass Opera, Aspen Music Festival; Winner, 2002 Kurt Weill

International Competition. Education: Northwestern University (BM), Manhattan School of Music (MM), current doctoral student in voice/opera, UMD. Upcoming: *The Sound of Music* (Admiral Von Schreiber, Max u/s), Olney Theatre Center. Proud member of Actors' Equity Association, National Association of Teachers of Singing, and artist roster of Sing for Hope.

Tessa Hartle has worked as vocal coach/repertoire with Sarasota Opera, Opera North, Aspen Opera Theater Center, Aurora Opera, Chesapeake Chamber Opera, Opera Camerata, Inscape Opera Theater, and Zarzuela Di Si. She has collaborated and appeared in recital with members of the National Symphony, US military bands, and students and alumni of the Peabody Conservatory, University of Maryland and George Mason University, and is principal pianist of Inscape Chamber Orchestra in Bethesda, MD. Tessa has her Master's degree in Collaborative Piano from the University of Maryland, and her Bachelor's degree in Piano Performance from the University of Michigan. Tessa will return to Sarasota Opera in the winter of 2012 to assist on their productions of *Carmen* and *Otello*.

Joe Banno has staged more than 75 theatrical productions in his 25-year career, including contemporary American and British plays at Washington DC's Source Theatre Company (where he was artistic director from 1997 through 2006), Theatre J (DC), Mutineer Theatre (LA), Blue Heron Theatre (NYC), and Renaissance Theatreworks (Milwaukee). His acclaimed, updated stagings of Shakespeare have been seen at the Folger Theatre, Washington Shakespeare Company and the American Shakespeare Center. Banno has directed over 30 opera and musical theatre productions with a dozen companies, most recently Opera Delaware, Wolf Trap Opera and the Alba Music Festival (in Northern Italy). Having recently started working in film, Banno directed his first independent feature, "Sleeping and Waking", in 2008, and has a Shakespeare-based feature film currently in development. He is a recipient of the Helen Hayes Award, the Mary Goldwater Award and the Bud Yorkin Award.

Conductor **Robert Wood** founded UrbanArias in 2009. Primarily an opera conductor, he made his debut with the San Francisco Opera in 2004 with performances of *La Traviata* featuring Rolando Villazon. He also conducted Vivica Genaux's debut with the San Francisco Opera in *L'italiana in Algeri* in 2005. He was appointed Conductor in Residence at the Minnesota Opera, leading productions of *L'italiana in Algeri*, *Le nozze di Figaro*, *La donna del lago*, *Rusalka*, and *Il barbiere di Siviglia*. Mr. Wood has also conducted *L'italiana in Algeri* at Vancouver Opera, *Die Entführung aus dem Serail* for Hawaii Opera Theater, *The Love for Three Oranges* at Indiana University Opera Theater, *La cenerentola* at New Jersey Opera Theater, *Lakmé* at Minnesota Opera, and *The Nutcracker* for San Francisco Ballet. Mr. Wood's conducting appearances with the Wolf Trap Opera Company include *Le Comte Ory* and *Die Zauberflöte*. He recently returned to the San Francisco Opera to conduct the Merola Opera Program's concert of extended scenes.

ABOUT THE OPERA

A comic intermezzo in the spirit of Pergolesi's *La Serva Padrona*, ***The Filthy Habit*** updates the story of Wolf-Ferri's *Il Segreto di Susanna* for modern times. Set in Manhattan in the summer of 2003, *Habit* tells the story of a newlywed couple's struggle with Mayor Bloomberg's new smoking ban. *The Filthy Habit* was first created as a companion to *Trouble in Tahiti* (1951) by Leonard Bernstein.

Peter Hilliard, composer, was born and raised in California. He studied voice in San Francisco and New York with Edward Sayegh and in Baltimore with John Shirley-Quirk. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Composition from the San Francisco Conservatory, where he studied with David Conte and a Masters degree in Musical Theatre Writing from NYU, where he worked with Mel Marvin. He has directed dozens of musicals on both coasts and off-Broadway, and he is the Musical Director and Conductor of the Abington Choral Club, a 90 voice community choir in Abington, PA.

Matt Boresi, librettist, is the Director of Musical Theater Programs for the Music Institute of Chicago, Visiting Lecturer of Theater at North Central College and Carthage College, and Director of the North Central College Summer Musical Theater Workshops and Summer Light Opera. He holds an MFA in Musical Theater Writing from New York University, received the Max Dreyfus Award from the ASCAP foundation, and is an Illinois Lincoln Laureate. Boresi was an outreach librettist for City Center/Encores!, a contributing lyricist for the Lindemann Young Artists Development Program at the Metropolitan Opera, and conducted Master Classes at the Northwestern University School of Music, Midwest Young Artists Summer Program, and the National Association of Teachers of Singing, Chicago Chapter.

UrbanArias is a new opera company dedicated to producing short, contemporary operas. Our mission is to expose DC-area audiences to engaging, accessible, entertaining operas, and to provide a friendly venue at which both established and emerging composers can present their shorter works. Our season is organized around a spring Festival: we gave our first one last April, and UrbanArias garnered glowing reviews for productions of Ricky Ian Gordon's *Green Sneakers* and *Orpheus and Euridice*, and Tom Cipullo's Vietnam opera *Glory Denied*. UrbanArias gave 15 performances in 10 days at Artisphere in Arlington - ambitious, but well worth it.

UrbanArias' Festival 2012 will take place at Artisphere in Arlington's Rosslyn neighborhood from April 13 - April 22, 2012.

UrbanArias Board of Directors

Susan Derry, President
Peter Owen, Secretary
Jason Rylander, Treasurer
Kate Mesches

Advisory Board

Sheri Greenawald, Director, San Francisco Opera Center
Mary Hynes, Arlington County Board
Christina Scheppelmann, Director of Artistic Operations, Washington Opera
Patrick Summers, Music Director, Houston Grand Opera
Delores Ziegler, Associate Professor of Voice, University of Maryland

Robert Wood, Executive and Artistic Director
www.urbanarias.org