

CALENDAR RELEASE

HoustonGrandOpera



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<http://www.houstongrandopera.org/pressmedia/login.aspx>

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ATTENTION CALENDAR EDITORS:
HOUSTON GRAND OPERA PRESENTS
Verdi's Rigoletto
PERFORMANCES APRIL 17-MAY 2, 2009

WHO: Houston Grand Opera (HGO)

WHAT: HGO continues its 2008-09 season with Verdi's *Rigoletto*, opening April 17, 2009 with performances through May 2.

Giuseppe Verdi's classic tragedy *Rigoletto* reveals a world where court jesters openly mock courtiers, thoughtless taunts lead to a deadly curse and comedy leads to ultimate tragedy. The ensemble cast is lead by HGO Studio alumnae **Scott Hendricks** in his role debut as the tormented court jester Rigoletto and Russian soprano **Albina Shagimurtova**, as his daughter Gilda. Included in the cast are tenor **Eric Cutler** as Duke of Mantua, Italian bass **Andrea Silvestrelli** as Sparafucile, and bass-baritone **Bradley Garvin** as Count Monterone. *Rigoletto* is directed by Australian **Lindy Hume**. Houston Grand Opera Musical Director **Patrick Summers** conducts the Houston Grand Opera Orchestra and Chorus. Sets are designed by **Michael Yeargan**. Costumes are designed by **Peter J. Hall**. Lighting Design is by British designer, **Paul Pyant**.

WHEN: Friday, April 17, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, April 19, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.
Friday, April 24, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, April 26, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 2, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.

WHERE: Wortham Theater Center's Brown Theater, Texas Avenue at Smith Street, Houston, Texas.
(713)-228-OPERA

ARTISTS:

Rigoletto **Scott Hendricks**, baritone
 Gilda **Albina Shagimuratova**, soprano
 Duke of Mantua **Eric Cutler**, tenor
 Sparafucile **Andrea Silvestrelli**, bass
 Maddalena **Maria Markina**, mezzo-soprano
 Count Monterone **Bradley Garvin**, bass-baritone
 Giovanna **Jamie Barton**, mezzo-soprano
 Count Ceprano **Adam Cioffari**, bass
 Borsa **Shon Sims**, tenor
 Marullo **Octavio Moreno**, baritone
 Countess Ceprano/Page **Faith Sherman**, mezzo-soprano

Conductor **Patrick Summers**
 Director **Lindy Hume**
 Set Designer **Michael Yeargan**
 Costume Designer **Peter J. Hall**
 Lighting Designer **Paul Pyant**
 Chorus Master **Richard Bado**
 Fight Director **Brian Byrnes**

Houston Grand Opera Orchestra and Chorus

LANGUAGE: *Rigoletto* will be sung in Italian with English supertitles.

TICKETS: Single tickets for *Rigoletto* (inclusive of all city surcharges), start at \$20. For tickets and general information, go to www.houstongrandopera.org or call **(713)-228-OPERA** or **1-(800)-62-OPERA** 9 a.m. – 7 p.m. Monday–Friday and 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Saturday.

Guarantor

Mr. and Mrs. Hal G. Kuntz

Underwriters

Jennifer and Doug Bosch /



Mr. and Mrs. Daniel A. Breen, Jr. Jerry and Bobbie-Vee Cooney

Mr. George B. Geary, Sr.

Dr. Will L. McLendon



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