

Queen of Puddings Music Theatre



Artistic Directors DÁIRINE NÍ MHEADHRA & JOHN HESS

WELCOME TO *The Queen's Decree*

NEW INGREDIENT IN THE PUDDING....

Nathalie Bonjour – Artistic Producer



Nathalie joined Queen of Puddings in December '05. Before that and for the past four seasons she had been Artistic Producer of Nightwood Theatre. From 1991 to 1998 she was the Artistic Director of the Saidye Bronfman Centre Theatre. She then freelanced as Associate Producer for the Just for Laughs Festival and Centaur Theatre (Wild Side Festival) and was assistant director on several productions. Nathalie was also Artistic Associate for the English Theatre of the National Arts Centre. Before relocating to Toronto Nathalie was the Executive and Artistic Director of MAI

(Montreal, arts interculturels), a multi-disciplinary venue with a contemporary intercultural mandate. Nathalie holds a Masters degree from UQAM. She has gained extensive experience in all aspects of arts management and has also been involved as a lay person on many committees and boards. She is thrilled to be joining Queen of Puddings at this exciting time in the company's development - though she wishes Dáirine would stop demanding that they speak French at the office...!

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE OF

The Midnight Court Opera

BOX OFFICE NOW OPEN!

The Queen of Puddings international debut of The Midnight Court Opera takes place at The Linbury Theatre, Covent Garden, London on June 29, 30 & July 1, 2006.

Box Office: Tel: 011-44-207304-4000 (from Canada)
Online: www.royaloperahouse.org
(under ROH2 performances)



PHOTOS: GUNTAR KRAVIS

HANNAH SHELTON, JOHN KRITER

Music ANA SOKOLOVIC

Libretto PAUL BENTLEY

The opera is based on Brian Merriman's wildly famous

Irish epic poem The

Midnight Court (Cúirt an

Mheán-Oíche) and adapted

from the English transla-

tion by Frank O'Connor.

MAJOR SUPPORTERS

Canada Council for the Arts
Market Development



Canada Council
for the Arts

Canada House Arts Trust

Canadian High Commission

Québec Government Office, London

Gail Asper and Michael Paterson

Linda and Michael Hutcheon

Charles H. Ivey Foundation

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Margaret and Jim Fleck

*"One of Toronto's Top 10
shows of 2005!"*

Critics 'Best of the
Year' review

"The production was dazzling, its verbal, visual and musical wit unfailingly exuberant and its stunning cast fully in command of the vocal pyrotechnics Sokolovic demands.....Londoners are in for a treat."

Opera News, New York

In the Works



VANITY AND THE GODDESS SARASVATI

Music MICHAEL OESTERLE

Text MICHAEL OESTERLE & CHRISTINE UNGER

The workshop process continues...

This opera was inspired by hearing the Toronto vocalist Suba Sankaran teach South Indian Classical singing to opera singers at our Puddings Prep training program. We have completed our second workshop and are preparing for the third. This next workshop will focus on developing a music vocabulary for the two children's roles in the opera (sung by Lorelle Angelo and Agnes Szigovics) and continued development of the libretto. With the assistance of the Consulat Général de France à Toronto, we are delighted to have added the French director Charlotte Nessi to the project. Her input on the opera thus far has been insightful, imaginative and inspiring. Charlotte is an award-winning director who created the Ensemble Justiniana in Franche Comté. Apart from her work with the major opera houses in France, she creates itinerant spectacles in villages, forests and chateaux involving professionals and members of the public, both children and adults.



Christine Unger

**Consulat Général de
France à Toronto**



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FADO OPERA – NEW COMMISSION



This opera has just been commissioned from composer James Rolfe (Beatrice Chancy opera) and librettist Paul Bentley (The Midnight Court and The Handmaid's Tale operas). It is based on the famous medieval Portuguese story of Iñes de Castro but updated to 1960's Toronto. The impetus for a Fado opera was inspired by hearing the wonderful Portuguese fadista Mariza in concert. Portuguese Fado is a living form of urban folk music developed in Lisbon for solo voice. A deeply emotional music form, it shares a visceral expressiveness with opera and a poetic intimacy with theatre. We wanted to develop a Fado opera around an excellent local fadista in Toronto's Portuguese community... and her name is Catarina Cardeal! The first development workshop of this new opera is scheduled for fall 2006. Thank you to Ricardo Sternberg, Manuela Marujo and Joe Blackmore in the Portuguese department at the University of Toronto for their help, advice and enthusiasm.

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AND FINALLY... RECOGNIZE THIS?



The Canada Council for the Arts 06/07 calendar going to all arts organizations across Canada features this photo of the stunning four muses from our *Midnight Court Opera* production on the cover.

They are from L to R: Hannah Shelton, Xin Wang, Mireille Lebel and Catharin Carew.

Congratulations to The *Midnight Court* photographer *Guntar Kravis* for his wonderful images of the production.

www.queenofpuddingsmusictheatre.com

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