

16 June 2011

SCOTTISH OPERA MAKES A SONG AND DANCE WITH RETURN TO EDINBURGH FRINGE

Following a sell out show at the HMV Picture House at last year's Fringe, Scottish Opera returns with a Company Chordelia co-production of Kurt Weill and Bertolt Brecht's gritty take on 1930s dustbowl America, *The Seven Deadly Sins*.

The faded glamour of Edinburgh's HMV Picture House, with its art deco surrounds and intimate cabaret style seating, provides the perfect backdrop for this production, which is set in a 1930s film studio. In keeping with the style of the show it will also transfer for a run at O₂ ABC Glasgow.

Often described as a 'sung ballet' or 'danced opera', *The Seven Deadly Sins* makes the perfect collaboration piece for Scottish Opera and Company Chordelia. It tells the tale of soprano Anna I and her dancer alter ego, Anna II. Setting out with the good intention of making money to build their impoverished family a home, they're soon thrust into the seedier side of down-and-out Depression-era America with one of the seven deadly sins tempting them in each town they visit.

Written by Weill for his then estranged wife, singer Lotte Lenya, the mirror-image plotline (Anna I and Anna II) was born when the millionaire commissioning the piece noticed the striking resemblance his ballerina wife bore to Lenya, and wrote a clause into the contract ordering she should dance opposite her lookalike in the main role.

The Orchestra of Scottish Opera plays Weill's score in a full orchestration that mixes brass, banjo, barbershop, jazz and classical. **Jessica Cottis**, currently Assistant Conductor at the BBC SSO, will conduct, making her Scottish Opera debut.

With director **Kally Lloyd-Jones** comes a wealth of experience in the worlds of opera and dance. Previous directing credits for Scottish Opera include 2009/10's *Katya Kabanova*, with choreography credits for numerous productions including *Five:15 Operas Made In Scotland*, *La bohème*, *The Secret Marriage*, *The Marriage of Figaro* and *Rigoletto*. She is the founder and artistic director of Company Chordelia, which has been performing original dance work to critical acclaim throughout Scotland since 2002.

Former Scottish Opera Emerging Artist, and rising operatic star, **Nadine Livingston** (*Susanna*, *The Marriage of Figaro* 2010, *Gilda Rigoletto* 2011) returns to the HMV Picturehouse and Edinburgh Festival Fringe after her part in 2010's collaboration with Club Noir, to sing Anna I. Dancer **Kirsty Pollock**, also no stranger to the Fringe after dancing her first major role with Company Chordelia in *The Red Rooms* there, becomes Anna II. **David Morrison** – a familiar face to Scottish Opera audiences with roles spanning 20 years including parts in *Intermezzo* (2011), *Manon* (2009) and *Tosca* (2004) – takes on the 'skirt role' of Mother.

The Seven Deadly Sins is sung in English.

CAST & PRODUCTION TEAM

Singers

Anna I	Nadine Livingstone	Conductor	Jessica Cottis
Brother	Damian Thantrey	Director/Choreographer	Kally Lloyd-Jones
Mother	David Morrison	Designer	Janis Hart
Father	Iain Paton	Lighting	Grahame Gardner
Brother	Peter Van Hulle		

Dancers

Anna II	Kirsty Pollock
Male Roles	Peter Baldwin
Actor	Nicole Owens

PERFORMANCE DETAILS

HMV Picture House Edinburgh

Mon 29 Aug, 9pm
Sat 3 Sep, 7pm & 9pm

O₂ ABC Glasgow

Wed 31 Aug, 9pm
Thu 1 Sep, 9pm

Running time approximately 40 mins

Tickets on sale:

www.edfringe.com

www.hmvpicturehouse.co.uk

o2abcglasgow.co.uk.

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www.scottishopera.org.uk

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