



PRESS RELEASE

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GREEK PREMIERES IN NEW YORK

Scottish Opera and Opera Ventures' co-production of **Mark-Anthony Turnage's** *Greek*, which was a hit at the 2017 Edinburgh International Festival, will have its U.S. premiere at the Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) Howard Gilman Opera House this December. It is the first time that *Greek*, a modern re-telling of the Oedipus myth based on the play by **Steven Berkoff**, has been performed in New York.

Opening at BAM on December 5 for four performances as part of the multi-arts centre's Next Wave Festival, which presents contemporary performances, talks, storytelling, visual arts and film showcasing work by emerging and innovative artists, *Greek* was directed by Young Vic Artistic Associate **Joe Hill-Gibbins** and designed by **Johannes Schütz**. The New York revival is directed by **Daisy Evans**. Scottish Opera Music Director, **Stuart Stratford**, conducts.

Former Scottish Opera Emerging Artist **Alex Otterburn** (*Ariadne auf Naxos* 2017), winner of an International Opera Award bursary, reprises the role of Eddy and is joined by a wealth of British talent: **Susan Bullock**, **Allison Cook** and **Andrew Shore**.

Turnage's anarchic, provocative opera exposes the seedy world of Eddy and his family. Stuck in a rut, Eddy longs for more, so when he is told of a prophecy that he will kill his father and bed his mother he is appalled, leaving home to seek a different life. But can he escape the plague that is coming, or is he, in fact, the source?

The announcement of these performances of *Greek* at BAM is made following the recent success of Scottish Opera's *Bambino* at the Metropolitan Opera in New York.

Alex Reedijk, Scottish Opera General Director said: 'Scottish Opera is extremely proud of *Greek*, of the wonderful cast and creative team who made this marvellous production for the Edinburgh International

Festival last year in collaboration with Opera Ventures. The opera remains, in equal measure, a powerful and moving response to Britain in the 1980s and startlingly relevant to today's turbulent political times. We are thrilled to have received this prestigious invitation from BAM to perform *Greek* in New York this December which follows on from our New York debut with *Bambino* last month.'

John Berry, Opera Ventures Artistic Director said: '*Greek* is the first project to be instigated by Opera Ventures, and we are all looking forward to presenting this ground-breaking piece in New York following last year's success at Edinburgh International Festival. BAM, with its beautiful theatre and inquisitive audience, is the perfect venue for *Greek*'s New York premiere.

'Opera Ventures is dedicated to creating new contemporary opera productions of scale and quality. By bringing together committed philanthropists and the resources and expertise of organisations such as Scottish Opera, even in this financially challenging climate adventurous contemporary work can still thrive and remain relevant.'

Cast List

Eddy	Alex Otterburn
Eddy's Mum/Waitress/Sphinx	Susan Bullock
Eddy's Sister/Waitress later Eddy's Wife/Sphinx	Allison Cook
Eddy's Dad/Café Manager/Chief of Police	Andrew Shore

Creative Team

Conductor	Stuart Stratford
Director	Joe Hill-Gibbins
Revival Director	Daisy Evans
Set Designer	Johannes Schütz
Costume Designer	Alex Lowde
Lighting Designer	Matthew Richardson
Video Designer	Dick Straker
Movement Director	Jenny Ogilvie
Dramaturg	Caroline Steinbeis

Performance Diary

BAM Howard Gilman Opera House (30 Lafayette Ave)

Dec 5, 6 & 8, 7.30pm

Dec 9, 3pm

Tickets: \$35, 55, 80, 110 (weekday); \$35, 65, 90, 120 (weekend)
(Prices subject to change after Aug 1)

More information is available from www.bam.org

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www.scottishopera.org.uk

Notes to Editors

Scottish Opera

Scottish Opera is Scotland's national opera company and the largest performing arts organisation in Scotland. It was founded by Alexander Gibson in 1962 and was inaugurated with a production of *Madama Butterfly* at the King's Theatre in Glasgow. Notable achievements include the world premiere of James MacMillan's *Inés de Castro* at the 1996 Edinburgh International Festival; complete Ring cycles at the 2003 Edinburgh International Festival, which won the 2004 South Bank Show Award for Best Opera Production; and the Achievement in Opera Award at the 2017 UK Theatre Awards for Sir David McVicar's production of Debussy's *Pelléas and Mélisande*. Recent commissions include *Five:15 Operas Made in Scotland* (2008-10); *The Lady from the Sea*, *Clemency*, the double bill of *In the Locked Room* and *Ghost Patrol* (winner of a South Bank Sky Arts Award) which premiered at the 2012 Edinburgh International Festival and 2016's *The Devil Inside* by Stuart MacRae and Louise Welsh.

Scottish Opera is committed to bringing the widest possible range of opera, performed to the highest possible standards, to the maximum audience throughout Scotland and the UK. Each year it performs in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Inverness, as well as smaller theatres, village halls, and community centres throughout the country. Scottish Opera's Education and Outreach Department was the first of its kind of any opera company in Europe. It operates an extensive program which involves over 8,000 primary school children every year as well as many other activities including adult learning and *Unwrapped* taster sessions. Scottish Opera is supported by the Scottish Government.

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Opera Ventures

Opera Ventures is a transformational new UK charity founded by John Berry CBE, former Artistic Director of English National Opera, to produce opera and mixed media performances.

Creating and staging new productions of contemporary opera is one of the biggest challenges in the performing arts today, especially in an environment where reduced public funding has forced opera houses and festivals to do less and take fewer risks.

Opera Ventures has responded to this challenge with a combination of artistic vision, producing expertise and a focussed network of philanthropists. The charity creates powerful productions that can be shared by several partners, harnessing and co-ordinating existing infrastructures (e.g. orchestras, theatres, rehearsal rooms and administration) of internationally recognised organisations, such as the Edinburgh International Festival, Scottish Opera and Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) New York.

Opera Ventures has shown through its critically acclaimed co-production with Scottish Opera of Mark-Anthony Turnage's *Greek* that it can be a catalyst for contemporary work by encouraging organisations to work together. This collaborative approach means that resources are shared and partner organisations can be more ambitious artistically, and programme work that they could not undertake otherwise.

www.operaventures.org

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