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September 2008
LA Opera Opens 2008/09 Season
with New All-Star Production of Giacomo Puccini's
Il Trittico

Woody Allen to Make Operatic Debut Staging *Gianni Schicchi*
William Friedkin Will Stage *Il Tabarro* and *Suor Angelica*

Music Director James Conlon to Conduct

What: Celebrating the 150th anniversary of the birth of Giacomo Puccini, LA Opera opens its 2008/09 season with an all-star production of the composer's *Il Trittico*, a unique triptych of one-act operas. *Il Tabarro* ("The Cloak") relates the story of a passionate love triangle that leads to a tragic end. *Suor Angelica* ("Sister Angelica") tells the heart-rending tale of a cloistered nun with a worldly secret. *Gianni Schicchi* is a comedy about a charming scoundrel who schemes to rewrite a dead man's will.

Who: The three operas that make up *Il Trittico* will be split between two Academy Award-winning filmmakers. **Woody Allen** will make his operatic debut directing *Gianni Schicchi* and **William Friedkin** will return to LA Opera to direct *Il Tabarro* and *Suor Angelica*. Music Director **James Conlon** will conduct, and the production will be designed by Tony Award-winner **Santo Loquasto**, with lighting designed by **Mark Jonathan**. The cast for *Il Tabarro* is headed by baritone **Mark Delavan**, tenor **Salvatore Licitra** and soprano **Anja Kampe**. *Suor Angelica* features soprano **Sondra Radvanovsky** and mezzo-soprano **Larissa Diadkova**. Baritone **Thomas Allen** sings the title role in *Gianni Schicchi*, joined by soprano **Laura Tatuлесcu** and tenor **Saimir Pirgu**.

When: **Opening Night Performance: Saturday, September 6, 2008 at 6:00pm**
Evening Performances: September 11, 17, 23 and 26 at 7:30pm
Matinee Performances: September 14 and 21 at 2:00pm

Where: **Dorothy Chandler Pavilion**, 135 N. Grand Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Tickets: Tickets to *Il Trittico* range from \$20 to \$250, and will be available for sale at the LA Opera Box Office (along with all single tickets for the 2008-09 Season) as of July 20, by phone at (213) 972-8001 or online at www.laopera.com. For disability access, call (213) 972-0777 or e-mail wehelpyou@laopera.com.

Artist headshots can be found on the LA Opera Press Gallery:

<http://media.laopera.com/photo/?level=album&id=16>

Synopsis can be found on the LA Opera website:

<http://www.laopera.com/productions/0809/iltrittico/index.htm>

Il Trittico will be sung in Italian with English supertitles projected above the stage.
This is a new LA Opera original production