



Administrative: 612-333-2700  
Patron Services: 612-333-6669  
Fax: 612-333-0869

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Eric Broker, Associate Communications Director, 612-342-1612, ebroker@mnopera.org

## MINNESOTA OPERA'S *DOUBT* TO AIR NATIONALLY ON PBS

**The broadcast will occur on Friday, January 25 at 9 p.m. ET (check local listings) and 8 p.m. CT in the Twin Cities on TPT 2.**

**MINNEAPOLIS (January 3, 2018)**—Minnesota Opera's production of composer Douglas J. Cuomo and librettist John Patrick Shanley's *Doubt*, a company commission which premiered in January 2013, will be broadcast nationally on PBS as part of their Great Performances series. It will be presented by TPT National Productions, and will air on Friday, January 25 at 9 p.m. ET (check local listings) and 8 p.m. CT in the Twin Cities on TPT 2.

Minnesota Opera presented the world premiere of *Doubt* on January 26, 2013 as part of its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary season at Ordway Center for the Performing Arts in Saint Paul, Minnesota. It was composed by Douglas J. Cuomo with a libretto by John Patrick Shanley, based on his 2005 Tony Award-winning play and the 2008 Academy Award-nominated film of the same name. *Doubt* is a story of suspicion which ignites a battle of wills at a Catholic school in the Bronx, circa 1964. The charismatic and progressive Father Flynn is trying to loosen the stranglehold of St. Nicholas Church School's strict customs, which are fiercely guarded by its iron-fisted principal, Sister Aloysius Beauvier. When the young, innocent Sister James shares with the principal her suspicion that Father Flynn may be abusing the school's only black student, Sister Aloysius embarks on a personal crusade to find the truth and ruin the priest. With no proof besides her moral certainty, Sister Aloysius engages in a battle of wills with Father Flynn, which poses questions to ponder long after the curtain goes down and proves the truth is rarely simple.

*Doubt* was conducted by Christopher Franklin, staged by Kevin Newbury and stars Christine Brewer as Sister Aloysius, Adriana Zabala as Sister James, Matthew Worth as Father Flynn and Denyce Graves in the pivotal role of the boy's mother, Mrs. Miller. *Doubt* was the second commission of Minnesota Opera's New Works Initiative, a landmark program designed to invigorate the operatic repertoire with an infusion of contemporary works.

"New works have been a part of Minnesota Opera's DNA, starting with company's debut—the world premiere of Dominick Argento's *Masque of Angels*," said Minnesota Opera Creative Advisor Dale Johnson. "Since then, we have produced numerous world and American premieres, remaining steadfast in our support of contemporary opera even at times when this commitment was a rarity. Rather than relying on stories from the existing canon, though valuable they are, the form can embrace new narratives and engage audiences in new ways."

### Minnesota Opera's New Works Initiative

A pioneering movement in new opera when it was launched in 2008, Minnesota Opera's New Works Initiative (NWI) continues to invigorate the operatic art form with an infusion of contemporary works, while fulfilling the company's commitment to artistic growth, leadership, and innovation. In addition to *Doubt*, the NWI is responsible for commissions such as the 2016's *The Shining*, composed by Paul Moravec with a libretto by Mark Campbell and based on the novel by



**Administrative:** 612-333-2700

**Patron Services:** 612-333-6669

**Fax:** 612-333-0869

Stephen King, and the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Silent Night*, composed by Kevin Puts with libretto by Mark Campbell and based on the screenplay by Christian Carion for the motion picture *Joyeux Noël* produced by Nord-Ouest. Future NWI premieres include *The Fix*, composed by Joel Puckett with libretto by Eric Simonson, premiering this March, as well as *Edward Tulane*, composed by Paola Prestini with libretto by Mark Campbell, based on the best-selling novel *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* by Kate DiCamillo.

#### **About Twin Cities Public Television (*tpt*)**

As one of the nation's leading public media organizations, tpt uses television, interactive media and community engagement to advance education, culture and citizenship. Over its 50+ year history, tpt has been recognized for its innovation and creativity with numerous awards, including Peabody awards and national and regional Emmys. Based in Saint Paul, Minnesota, tpt is one of the highest rated pbs affiliates in the nation, reaching more than 1.3 million people each month through multiple broadcast and online channels. The organization's particular areas of focus include: the educational readiness of children; serving the needs and unleashing the potential of America's aging population; engaging a new generation in the power of public media; and being the preferred media partner for organizations that align with their mission to "enrich lives and strengthen [the] community through the power of media." tpt National Productions is the national productions division of Twin Cities Public Television and is a significant content producer of the public television system.

###

Minnesota Opera changes lives by bringing together artists, audiences and community, advancing the art of opera for today and for future generations.