



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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Eric Broker, 612-342-1612, ebroker@mnopera.org

MINNESOTA OPERA PRESENTS FUNNY, POIGNANT OPERA *FLIGHT* JAN. 25-FEB. 2

Jonathan Dove’s comic and thought-provoking exploration of colliding souls comes to the Ordway for the first time.

MINNEAPOLIS (January 3, 2019) – Minnesota Opera continues its 2019-2020 season at the Ordway on January 25, 2020 with *Flight*, a touching and deeply human comedy all about what it means to make a real connection.

Based on the true story of a refugee who was stranded for 18 years at Paris’ Charles de Gaulle Airport, *Flight* tells the tale of a group of total strangers stuck in an airport during an electrical storm. Thrown together, their lives and relationships soon start to unravel; passengers and crew are forced to take stock of their turbulent lives. The Refugee spends his days scavenging for food, asking for money from passengers and avoiding the authorities. He connects with three couples, Bill and Tina, Minskman and Minskwoman and Steward and Stewardess. He observes their relationships and personal struggles, then elicits them for help.

Premiering in 1998, *Flight* has become one of the most popular and most performed British operas in recent years. London-born composer Jonathan Dove says, “When I was starting out as a composer, modern operas were never funny. In fact, laughter pretty much deserted opera for the whole of the 20th century! As an admirer of Mozart and Rossini, I wanted to redress the balance. In the twenty plus years since it was first performed, *Flight* hasn’t got less funny, but its darker aspect has become, if anything, more topical.”

Former Resident Artist David Radamés Toro serves as reprisal stage director for a production created by Opera Parallèle in 2017 by Brian Staufenbiel (*Elektra, Das Rheingold*) that is timely and vital today. “The show offers no solutions for the Refugee’s crisis for the simple reason that there are no easy answers,” says Toro. “He never speaks of his home country and we never learn his name so as not to pinpoint one specific humanitarian crisis and diminish the span and complexity of human rights issues across the globe. What this show asks of its audience is to see themselves in a shared airport experience and leave asking, ‘What would I do? What can I do?’ ”.

Flight features a superb ensemble cast. Former Minnesota Opera Resident Artist and current Chanticleer singer Cortez Mitchell, a countertenor, sings the pivotal role of the Refugee, with another former Resident Artist, baritone Christian Thurston, returning as the Steward. Visiting artist coloratura soprano Katrina Galka plays the Controller and is joined by mezzo-soprano

Deanne Meek as the Older Woman and Crystal E. Williams as the Stewardess. Current Minnesota Opera Resident Artists round out the rest of the cast with tenor Christian Sanders as Bill, soprano Lisa Marie Rogali as Tina, baritone Nicholas Davis as Minskman, mezzo-soprano Mia Athey as Minskwoman and bass-baritone Andrew Gilstrap as the Immigration Officer.

What: *Flight*

Music by Jonathan Dove

Libretto by April De Angelis

Performed in English with English captions projected above the stage.

Licensed by arrangement with C. F. Peters Corporation, New York



Leipzig · London · New York

Where: Ordway Music Theater, 345 Washington St., Saint Paul, MN 55102

When: Saturday, January 25, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, January 28, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, January 30, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, February 1, 2020 at 8 p.m.
Sunday, February 2, 2020 at 2 p.m.

Tickets: \$25-\$215. Call Minnesota Opera Patron Services at 612-333-6669, Monday – Friday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., or purchase online at mnopera.org/flight.

Media: Press information and digital assets are available at our [Online Press Room](#).

Creative Team

Conductor – Geoffrey McDonald

Production – Brian Staufenbiel

Reprisal Stage Director – David Radamés Toro*

Choreographer – Jennifer Mack

Intimacy Director – Doug Scholz-Carlson

Set Design – Dave Dunning

Projections Design – David Murakami

Costume Design – Alina Bokovikova

Lighting Design – Paul Whitaker

Hair & Makeup Design – David Zimmerman

Cast

Refugee – Cortez Mitchell*

Controller – Katrina Galka

Bill – Christian Sanders⁺

Tina – Lisa Marie Rogali⁺



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

Older Woman - Deanne Meek
Stewardess - Crystal E. Williams
Steward - Christian Thurston*
Minskman - Nicholas Davis+
Minskwoman - Mia Athey+
Immigration Officer - Andrew Gilstrap+

+MN Opera Resident Artist
*MN Opera Resident Artist Alum

To learn more about *Flight*, please visit mnopera.org/flight.

###

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