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AMERICAN OPERA PROJECTS JOURNEYS INTO TARIK O'REGAN'S HEART OF DARKNESS

A WORKSHOP OF THE OPERA-IN-PROGRESS

NEW YORK, NY, October 6, 2007— On November 9 and November 11, 2007 at 8PM **AMERICAN OPERA PROJECTS** (AOP) will present a semi-staged workshop of **Tarik O'Regan's** *Heart of Darkness* based on the novella by Joseph Conrad. Both performances will feature a panel discussion and visual demonstration by O'Regan and British designer and librettist **Tom Phillips**. The November 9th performance will be held at **the Institute for Advanced Study** in Princeton, NJ where Mr. Phillips is in residence as a Director's Visitor. The November 11th performance will be held at South Oxford Space in Fort Greene, Brooklyn, the home of American Opera Projects.

Tickets for the Nov. 9 presentation in Princeton, NJ are free. Tickets for the Nov. 11 presentation in Brooklyn are \$15, \$12 for students with ID and seniors. South Oxford Space is located at 138 South Oxford Street, at the corner of South Oxford and Hanson Place, Fort Greene. For more information, call (718) 398-4024 or visit www.operaprojects.org.

Currently under development with American Opera Projects, *Heart of Darkness* has been described by *The New York Times* as "... a dense, dreamlike chamber opera heavily tinged with exoticism, like 'Death in Venice' on steroids." The opera is the latest work from composer Tarik O'Regan, who has been singled out by *The Observer* (London) as "**one of the most original and eloquent of young composers... tonal but cutting-edge.**" *Heart of Darkness* is being written as an opera in one act for 8 singers and 13 instruments. The performances on Nov. 9th & 11th, will be performed with singers and piano accompaniment, led by AOP Artistic Director **Steven Osgood** (Nov. 9) and Opera East Productions (UK) Artistic Director **Oliver Gooch** (Nov. 11) and directed for the stage by **Ned Canty**. Singers scheduled to perform include **Robert Hoyt** (Orlando Opera), **Curtis Streetman** (Tanglewood Festival), **Benjamin Sosland** (Spoleto Festival), **Matthew Curran** (Seattle Opera), **Zeffin Quinn Hollis** (Dallas Opera), **Michael Zegarski** (NYCO), **Jeanine DeBique**, and **Alison Tupay**.

Voted **one of the 100 best novels of the 20th century** by The Modern Library, Joseph Conrad's masterpiece *Heart of Darkness* follows Marlow, a riverboat captain, on a voyage into the African Congo at the height of European colonialism. Astounded by the brutal depravity he witnesses, Marlow becomes obsessed with finding Kurtz, a notorious ivory trader stationed farther along the river. "All that happens in Conrad's seminal novella, which heralded the 20th century," explains composer Tarik O'Regan, "still goes on in the world's many hearts of darkness as we enter the 21st. Though the theatres of human degradation migrate from place to place among nations and continents they continue to conform to the old recipes."

The November 2007 presentations represent the first performances of *Heart of Darkness* in its entirety. The opera has been in development with AOP since June 2006 and was most recently featured at *Wall to Wall Opera* at Symphony Space in May 2007.

On **November 9th, 2007**, American Opera Projects' *Heart of Darkness* performs at 8PM at the Institute for Advanced Study (Wolfensohn Hall; Einstein Drive, Princeton, NJ, www.ias.edu). Admission is free. Reservations are required. To reserve tickets for Nov. 9 call: 609-951-4458 or email kazakoff@ias.edu. *Heart of Darkness* performs at 8PM on **November 11th, 2007** in the Great Room at South Oxford Space (138 S. Oxford St. in Ft. Greene, Brooklyn). To reserve tickets call: 718-398-4024 or email info@operaprojects.org. Tickets are \$15 (\$12 for students/seniors).

Founded in 1988, **American Opera Projects (AOP)** has gained international recognition as an arts organization devoted to creating, developing, and presenting new American opera and experimental music theatre. AOP is led by Charles Jarden, Executive Director, and Steven Osgood, Artistic Director.

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