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Press contact: Matt Gray, AOP Projects Manager, email: mgray@operaprojects.org phone: 718-398-4024
Press material is available at: www.operaprojects.org

AMERICAN OPERA PROJECTS AND MAKOR
PRESENT THE NYC FILM PREMIERE OF

THE THIEF OF LOVE

A COMIC OPERA BY SHEILA SILVER

A FILM BY JOHN FELDMAN

DVD RELEASE PARTY TO FOLLOW SCREENING

NEW YORK, NY, October 3rd, 2006— On Monday, December 4th 2006 at 7:30pm
AMERICAN OPERA PROJECTS (AOP) and MAKOR/ Steinhardt Center of the
92nd St. Y will present the New York City premiere screening of **THE THIEF OF
LOVE**. Directed by **John Feldman**, *The Thief of Love* captures the 2001 premiere of
Sheila Silver's comic opera featuring **The Stony Brook Opera and Orchestra**,
conducted by **David Lawton** and stage directed by **Ned Canty**. A reception with the
creators will follow the screening to celebrate the DVD release by HUMMINGBIRD
FILMS.

Filled with twists and turns, *The Thief of Love* is **a contemporary love story set in
ancient India**. Vidya has vowed to marry any man who can defeat her in intellectual
debate. Sundar is a wealthy game player who tries to win her through deceit and
disguise. Based on a classic 18th century Bengali court tale, Silver's libretto draws on
many sources including Indian erotic poetry, Sikh prayer mantras, and the works of
Rabindranath Tagore. Sometimes boisterous, sometimes lyrical and passionate, the
music is always well-paced. From the erotic seduction scene to the mystical dream
sequence, the Stony Brook Opera's fresh and mesmerizing performance beautifully
captures the spirit of this new opera while Feldman's visually stunning film with its
innovative use of supertitles renders the opera experience accessible to all.

MORE

The Thief of Love received its **fully staged world premiere** in March 2001 by the Stony Brook Opera and features the singers Gwendolyn Hillman, James Brown, Manami Hattori, Michael Douglas Jones, and Myeongsook Park. Excerpts from the opera were performed by the New York City Opera in *VOX 2000: Showcasing American Composers*.

Sheila Silver's music has been performed and commissioned by prestigious artists and orchestras worldwide and she has received many awards including the Rome Prize and the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters Composer Award. Ms. Silver creates "*a musical language of her own, one rich in sonority, lyrical intensity and poetic feeling.*" (Chicago Tribune) She is a Professor of Music at Stony Brook University and her music is recorded on the Naxos, CRI, Leonarda and Mode labels.

A veteran independent filmmaker and pioneer of digital video, **John Feldman** "*possesses in abundance what most contemporary filmmakers lack – the ability to create three dimensional characters, a deft hand with actors and an understanding of how to use the physical environment to express complex emotions.*" (Joel Siegel) Mr. Feldman's recent feature, *Who the Hell is Bobby Roos?* won the New American Cinema Award at the 2002 Seattle International Film Festival.

Billed as "**an opera film for everyone,**" *The Thief of Love* DVD reaches out to steadfast opera fans as well as those who have never seen an opera before. The DVD is being released by Hummingbird Films and is available online at Amazon.com and www.hummingbirdfilms.com/thiefoflove. Running Time: 112 minutes. Retail price: \$19.95. Not rated but recommended for ages 10 and up.

Screeners are available upon request.

THE THIEF OF LOVE will be shown at 7:30pm on December 4th, 2006 at the MAKOR/ Steinhardt Center (35 W. 67th St., NY, NY). For info and reservations call: (212) 601-1000 or visit www.makor.org. Tickets are \$15.

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. Ned Canty, stage director of *The Thief of Love*, is the Director of Libretto Development at AOP.

American Opera Projects: 138 S. Oxford Street, Brooklyn, New York 11217 Tel: (718) 398-4024/Fax: (718) 398-3489

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