



Ogunquit Playhouse presents 'Aida'

SPECIAL TO THE BEACH NEWS

Ogunquit, Maine — "Aida," the modern musical masterpiece by Elton John and Tim Rice, hits the Ogunquit Playhouse stage on Tuesday, July 5. Bursting with energetic pop-rock rhythms, the timeless tale of love, loyalty, betrayal and courage ignites the stage with passion.

Following their triumphant collaboration on "The Lion King," the legendary team of Elton John and Tim Rice created the contemporary rock "popera" "Aida," which won four Tony Awards (including Best Score) and a Grammy Award.

Based upon the legend of the same name, "the story traces the elaborate lives of two of history's most romantic figures," explains Producing Artistic Director, Roy Rogosin. "Certain to become as famous and popular as Elton John's other legendary work, "Aida" is a 'must-see' at Ogunquit Playhouse this summer."

Elton John and Tim Rice's classic love triangle details the story of an Egyptian captain, Radames, who finds himself enamored with an enslaved African princess, Aida. To spare her from a life of hard labor, Radames gives Aida to his future bride, the Egyptian princess, Amneris, where she must serve as the princess's handmaiden.

While Radames struggles with his love for Aida and his future as king of Egypt, Aida struggles with her role as leader of her people. Even as the young couple falls in love, Aida refuses to ignore the plight of her people, declaring "I cannot continue to live in the comfort of the palace while my countrymen are dying."

The haunting story of forbidden love on the banks of the Nile has enchanted audiences for ages. The contemporary pop-rock score was adapted from the famous Verdi

opera, by pop music's most successful composer, Elton John, in collaboration with the legendary Tim Rice. Rice is known not only for his work on "The Lion King" but also for "Evita" and "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat." Score highlights for "Aida" include "Every Story is a Love Story," "My Strongest Suit," "The Gods Love Nubia;" "Easy as Life," and "Written in the Stars."

The Ogunquit Playhouse has assembled a stellar cast, led by Angela Williams and Sebastian Arcelus as the star-crossed lovers, Aida and Radames. Arcelus triumphantly returns to the Seacoast area, performing here last in "Big River" and "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now

Change" at the Seacoast Repertory Theatre. Since then, he has become one of Broadway's young rising talents, playing the coveted role of Roger in Broadway's hottest show, "Rent," and, more recently, performing in the new Beach Boys musical, "Good Vibrations." Williams reprises the role of Aida, a part she played in the regional theatre East Coast premier of the show last summer at the Foothills Theatre; last February, she dazzled New England audiences as Maria in "The Sound of Music" at the Wheelock Theatre in Boston.

"Aida" runs at the Ogunquit Playhouse from July 5-23, with showtimes Monday through Friday at 8 p.m. and Saturday at 8:30 p.m., with matinees on Wednesdays and Thursdays at 2:30 p.m. Ticket prices range from \$31-47.

In-season box office hours now through September 10 are Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Sunday from 12-5 p.m.; window sales only. Tickets are also available online at ogunquitplayhouse.org.



NOW ON STAGE — Amneris Radames and Aida, the three central figures in the Ogunquit Playhouse's presentation of "Aida".

—Beach News Courtesy Photo



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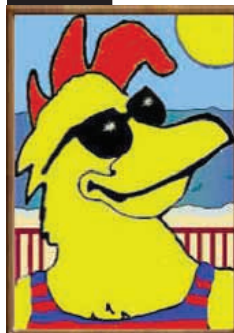
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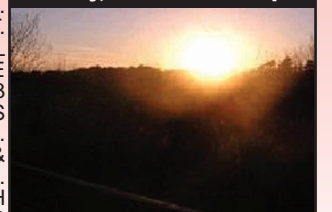
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