

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Opera, Outside of the Box:

Brooklyn-based company launches commissioning project,
brings contemporary opera to new ears with James Barry's
SMASHED

"This comic deflation of opera as a sacred art perfectly captures the spirit of Opera on Tap, a gifted and irreverent group of classically trained vocalists whose purpose is to take the 'grand' out of grand opera." -LA Times

APRIL 4, 5 & 6 AT HERE

(145 6TH AVE, NYC)

New York, NY –Opera on Tap, the Brooklyn-based opera company that strives to present the art form in contemporary, colloquial settings, is pleased to announce the inaugural production in its **Roadworks Commissioning Series**: the world premiere of the one-act opera **SMASHED: The Carrie Nation Story** by composer **James Barry** and librettist **Timothy Braun**, going up at **HERE** (145 6th ave – note: enter on Dominick, 1 Block South of Spring) on **April 4, 5 and 6 at 7:00pm**. Tickets and information are available through www.here.org or call **212-352-3101** (\$15 regular /\$10 students and seniors).

Giving a new spin to the operatic mainstay of the strong leading lady, **SMASHED** is an absurdist take on the life of Carrie Nation, a radical turn-of-the-century teetotaler, who furthered her cause through vandalism –namely, attacking drinking establishments with a hatchet. With stage direction from **Jenny Lee Mitchell** (founder of TheaterTHE), musical direction from **Mila Henry** (American Opera Projects) and costumes by **Ramona Ponce**, this will be Opera on Tap's most ambitious production to date. The forward-thinking new music ensemble **Hotel Elephant**, conducted by



Krista Wozniak in rehearsal

Conrad Chu, will provide the sonic backdrop for a cast of singers that includes **Joseph Flaxman** as God/The Bartender, **Krista Wozniak** as Carrie Nation, **Lynn Berg** as the narrator, **Michael Bragg**, **Kayleigh Butcher**, **Seth Gilman**, **Christiana Little**, **Cameron Russell** and **Patricia Vital**. This production is a part of SubletSeries@HERE, HERE's curated rental program, which provides artists with subsidized space and equipment, as well as technical support.

As the launching work of the **Roadworks Commissioning Series**, **SMASHED** marks the beginning of an industrious new stage for Opera on Tap. With the end goal of providing immersive and entertaining work that is accessible to audiences who may otherwise be outside of the opera community (OOT has built a dedicated following performing in dive bars



new music ensemble Hotel Elephant

[MORE]

and rock clubs), the Roadworks Series promotes new works with a focus on American personalities and historical figures. The works are created specifically for, and scaled to, the types of smaller venues outside of the usual opera fare –the very types of venues that Opera on Tap has grown up in. On the subject of Carrie Nation for the first commission, OOT artistic director Anne Hiatt says, “I just thought it’s the perfect figure for Opera on Tap to present; the opera company who sings in dive bars doing an opera about someone who was one of the leaders of the temperance movement.” Future works include ***The Inner Circle***, based on TC Boyle’s novel about Alfred Kinsey, by librettist **Kate Gale** and composer **Daniel Felsenfeld** (set to premiere in 2014), and more to be announced.

ABOUT OPERA ON TAP



The Cast of *SMASHED* in rehearsal

What started as one soprano’s lament over a lack of performance opportunities has kicked off a movement; Opera on Tap began as a monthly gathering of ambitious, classically trained singers, looking for more performance opportunities and a place to try

out new repertoire, but has since grown into a nationwide organization with a youth education component and twelve national chapters. Opera on Tap’s core mission is to bring opera to the uninitiated by performing in bars, rock venues, and other alternative spaces while providing opportunities for the performers who keep the art form alive.

In addition to its collaborations with American Opera Projects under the title **OPERation Brooklyn** (formerly Opera Grows in Brooklyn), Opera on Tap hosts a new music concert series called **New Brew** at Barbés in Brooklyn the first Friday of every other month, and bi-annually co-produces the critically acclaimed **21c Liederabend** (Best of 2009 in TimeOut NY) in collaboration with Beth Morrison Projects and VisionIntoArt. Opera on Tap has gained national press recognition, including features and mentions in The LA Times, NPR’s All Things Considered, The New York Times, WNYC’s Soundcheck, NewMusicBox.com, The Denver Post, LA Weekly, Seattle Weekly, and The New York Daily News.

Opera on Tap Presents the world premiere of ***SMASHED: The Carrie Nation Story***

April 4, 5 & 6, 2013

HERE, 145 6th ave t. (212).352.3101

Tickets are \$15 regular / \$10 students and seniors

Tickets available at www.here.org as well as at <http://www.smashedtheopera.com/>

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For credits, personnel, synopses, hi-resolution photos, videos, biographies, and press passes, please email Gabriel Furtado at gabriel@b-sidemedia.com

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