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Cinnabar's season concludes with Verdi's hilarious *Falstaff*

MAY 8, 2015 – Next month, Cinnabar Theater's scintillating season ends on a high note with *Falstaff*. Performed entirely in English, this irreverent opera combines Verdi's glorious score with Shakespeare's uproarious rogue. *Falstaff* opens Friday, **June 12** and runs through Sunday, **June 28**.

Following on their flawless *Figaro*, Artistic Director Elly Lichenstein and Music Director Mary Chun unveil another sumptuous and sonorous show. Falstaff schemes to get rich by bedding his neighbors' wives, but the ladies turn the tables with a mischievous series of tricks and disguises. Renowned baritone Jo Vincent Parks embodies the irrepressible rascal in this rollicking tale of wine, women, and song.

"Verdi output was already prodigious when he composed *Falstaff*, yet it is by far his finest work," said Lichenstein. "He was inspired to create this glorious score by *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, the classic Shakespearean comedy about hilarious housewives who outwit the men around them. Speaking of classic comedy, that sounds just like Lucy and Ethel – so we're paying homage to *I Love Lucy* and setting our production in the 1950s. It's madcap fun with magnificent music, and I hope you'll share it with us."

***Falstaff* features 23 spectacular singers and a 12-piece orchestra.** The lead roles are performed by Kim Anderman (Meg Page), Miguel Evangelista (Dr. Caius), Sepp Hammer (Pistol), Scott Joiner (Fenton), Eileen Morris (Alice Ford), William Neely (John Ford), Jo Vincent Parks (Sir John Falstaff), Aurelie Veruni (Nannetta), Krista Wigle (Dame Quickly), and Ted Zoldan (Bardolf).

The original libretto by Arrigo Boito has been translated into modern, accessible English by Amanda Holden. The **creative team** includes Joseph Elwick (scenery), Lisa Eldredge (costumes), and Wayne Hovey (lights). *Falstaff* is generously underwritten by Dr. David Noorthoek.

Tickets are \$40 for adults and \$25 for ages 21 and under, with special \$9 seats on June 12 for junior-high and high-school students. Reserve seats online at any time by visiting cinnabartheater.org, or call the box office at 707-763-8920 between 10:00 AM and 3:00 PM on weekdays. Tickets may also be available at the door, but reservations are recommended as Cinnabar's shows often sell out.

Every year, **Cinnabar Theater** produces a thrilling mix of plays, musicals, operas, and concerts in a remarkable range of genres. Cinnabar's Young Rep offers extensive activities for local youth, and Cinnabar's community choirs welcome anyone who wants to sing in harmony. All these events take place in

the iconic red schoolhouse perched atop a grassy hill on the outskirts of Petaluma.

Audiences have flocked to performances in this intimate setting since 1972, when Marvin and Jan Klebe established an arts center for the community. Along with their sons, they transformed a charming 1908 schoolhouse into a jewel-box theater that has hosted successful shows for four decades. Now Cinnabar is presenting another year of lively performances for its loyal audience.

Cinnabar Theater is located at 3333 Petaluma Boulevard North, just off Highway 101 and only minutes from historic downtown Petaluma. There's ample parking up on the hill... and a friendly herd of goats grazing in the neighboring field. For more information, or to purchase tickets, **call 707-763-8920 or visit cinnabartheater.org.**

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Photo caption: At Cinnabar Theater in Petaluma, renowned baritone Jo Vincent Parks plays the title character in Verdi's hilarious *Falstaff*. (Photo by Eric Chazankin)

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***Falstaff* — Fact Sheet**

WHO:

Cinnabar Theater, the beloved professional theater in Sonoma County

WHAT:

Falstaff

Performed entirely in English, this irreverent opera combines Verdi's glorious score with Shakespeare's uproarious rogue.

Music by Giuseppe Verdi / Libretto by Arrigo Boito / Translation by Amanda Holden
Music direction by Mary Chun / Stage direction by Elly Lichensten

Featuring 23 spectacular singers and a 12-piece orchestra

WHERE:

Cinnabar Theater, 3333 Petaluma Blvd. North, Petaluma, CA 94952

WHEN:

Friday, June 12 @ 8 PM
Saturday, June 13 @ 8 PM
Sunday, June 14 @ 2 PM
Friday, June 19 @ 8 PM

Saturday, June 20 @ 8 PM
Sunday, June 21 @ 2 PM
Friday, June 26 @ 8 PM
Saturday, June 27 @ 8 PM
Sunday, June 28 @ 2 PM

HOW MUCH:

\$9 for junior-high and high-school students (June 12 only)
\$25 for ages 21 and under
\$40 for adults

TICKETS:

707-763-8920 or www.cinnabartheater.org