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GENERAL DIRECTOR

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## **PORTLAND OPERA AND NORTHWEST FILM CENTER TEAM UP FOR OPERA FILM SERIES**

Portland, Ore -- Portland Opera and the Northwest Film Center have teamed up to present a new film series centered around the Opera's 2010/11 Season offerings. This new series—nicknamed “Reel Opera”—will feature a specific film related to each of Portland Opera's offerings to be aired in close proximity to the opera's opening.

These films will not be films of staged operas. Rather, these films have been chosen because they share some important aspect of the upcoming operas, hopefully making for not only an interesting evening of film, but also for a broader perspective when enjoying the opera.

First up in the series—Fellini's “**La Strada**” which is paired with the season-opening production of *Pagliacci & Carmina Burana*—is a good example. Not only is it a strong film in its own right, but, from the opera point of view, it served as the visual touchstone when Mr. Mattaliano created this production.

“These films explore the world around each opera in some engaging and informative way,” said Opera General Director Christopher Mattaliano. “We are delighted with this partnership and look forward to the cross-pollination that could occur between film lovers and opera lovers as they each share their very visual artforms with each other.”

Northwest Film Center Director, Bill Foster, highlighted another important aspect of the series: “Working with the Opera provides fresh perspective on how artists explore and interpret themes while reaching out to find and share new audiences.”

The first two movies have been scheduled with the final two movies to be announced at a later date.

### **“La Strada”**

**Director: Federico Fellini**

**Monday, September 20, 7:00pm**

**Whitsell Auditorium, Portland Art Museum**

**Tickets: \$9**

When Christopher Mattaliano created the upcoming production of *Pagliacci & Carmina Burana*, Fellini's famous film was the design touchstone, making the film a very interesting one to watch in advance of the opera production. One of the undisputed

classics of post-war Italian cinema, this film of great joy, bleak despair, and delicate heartbreak reveals a profound humanity in the midst of the absurd.

**“Babette’s Feast”**

**Director: Gabriel Axel**

**Monday, November 1, 7:00pm**

**Whitsell Auditorium, Portland Art Museum**

**Tickets: \$9**

Portland Opera’s production of *Hansel and Gretel* takes the issue of food (or lack thereof) very seriously. What could be more interesting than pairing such an opera with a film that goes down as one of the great celebrations of food?

Patrons can find additional information on these films at:

“La Strada”

<http://www.nwfilm.org/screenings/27/273/#1699>

“Babette’s Feast”

<http://www.nwfilm.org/screenings/27/273/#1716>

Portland Opera opens the 2010/11 Season with *Pagliacci/Carmina Burana* on September 24, with additional performances on September 26, 30 and October 2. *Hansel and Gretel* opens on November 5, with additional performances on November 7, 11 and 13.

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