

Pittsburgh Opera NEWS RELEASE

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Pittsburgh Opera Seeks Super Men for AIDA

- WHAT:** Auditions for male supernumeraries (extras) for Verdi's opera *Aida* opening March 29 at the Benedum Center
- WHEN:** Thursday, February 28, 2008 at 7:00 PM
- WHERE:** Pittsburgh Opera Offices, 801 Penn Ave., Downtown
- REQUIREMENTS:** Fit men of any ethnicity ages 18+ for non-singing roles as ancient Egyptian soldiers, priests, attendant, and slaves. Evening and weekend rehearsals March 10-27; four performances March 29; April 1, 4 & 6 at the Benedum Center. Honorarium \$100. Call 412-281-0912 x245 and leave name, age, and phone number.

Pittsburgh, PA . . . Pittsburgh Opera is recruiting a small army of men for Verdi's *Aida*—the big daddy of grand operas—that's set in ancient Egypt. Fit men of any ethnicity who want to strut their stuff on the Benedum stage are needed for non-singing roles as supernumeraries—that means “extras” in the opera world. “Supers” will fill out the ranks of Egyptian and Ethiopian soldiers, priests, attendants, and slaves.

Men over the age of 18 may audition on Thursday, February 28 at 7:00 PM at the Pittsburgh Opera Offices, 801 Penn Ave., Downtown. Rehearsals will be evenings and weekends from March 10-27, with four performances at the Benedum Center on March 29 and April 1, 4 & 6. Honorarium is \$100. Enthusiastic future opera stars should call 412-281-0912 x245 and leave their name, age, and phone number. These are easy, open auditions with no individual time slots. For more information, e-mail questions to opera.assistant@hotmail.com. Phone calls will not be returned.

Aida is famous for the Egyptian splendor of the Triumphal Scene, with its grand procession, exotic ballet, and sumptuous choral music. The excuse for all this pomp and circumstance is a parade to celebrate the victory of the Egyptians over the invading Ethiopians.

Pittsburgh Opera, celebrating 69 years of opera in southwestern Pennsylvania, is a member of OPERA America, the national organization for opera companies, and the Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council. Pittsburgh Opera's performances are supported, in part, by the National Endowment for the Arts, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, the PA Department of Community and Economic Development, and Allegheny Regional Asset District. The *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* and KDKA are season media sponsors.

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