

Fortune Favours the Brave

The Community Players of New Hamburg are proud to present the

Waterloo Region premiere of Elton John and Tim Rice's *Aida*.

Contemporary, edgy, romantic, tragic and inspirational are only a few of
the words that can describe this epic musical.

Building on a rich history of memorable theatre—*Children of Eden*, *Titanic*,
Carousel, *The Wizard of Oz* and most recently *Cats*, TCP invites you to journey with us
in the spring of 2011 to Egypt and Nubia for what promises to be another amazing
theatrical journey: community theatre at its very best!

the community players of new hamburg

proudly present

Elton John & Tim Rice's

AIDA

the fearless love story

MAY 12-15, 2011
NEW HAMBURG ARENA

Music by Elton John, Lyrics by Tim Rice

director gord davis, **musical director** jennifer hoffman
choreographer richelle hirlehey, **artistic director** brent roth

Aida is presented through special arrangement with music theatre international

The *Aida* Story

Elton John and Tim Rice's *Aida* is a contemporary musical take on Giuseppe Verdi's grand opera about the timeless bond between an enslaved Nubian princess and an Egyptian soldier. As forbidden love blossoms between them, the young lovers are forced to face death or part forever. Together, they set a shining example of true devotion that ultimately transcends the vast cultural differences between their warring nations, heralding a time of unprecedented peace and prosperity.

With a pop-rock score that features stirring ballads and rousing choral numbers, Elton John and Tim Rice's *Aida* is a modern crowd-pleaser that embraces multicultural casting and exuberant dancing, staging and singing.

Aida opened in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1998, was revised for a run in Chicago starting in late 1999, and made its Broadway debut at the Palace Theater in March 2000. It was an instant audience favorite and received five Tony® nominations, winning for Best Original Score, Best Actress in a Musical and Best Lighting Design. The show also won the 2001 Grammy® for Best Musical Show Album. A national tour began in the summer of 2000. Meanwhile, back on Broadway, a plethora of high-profile pop stars stepped into the title role, including Toni Braxton, Michelle T. Williams and Deborah Cox.

In addition to the U.S. productions, *Aida* has been produced in Germany, Switzerland, Japan, South Korea, the Netherlands, Uruguay, Australia, the Philippines, Mexico, Croatia, Peru, Argentina, Estonia, Canada, Hungary, Brazil, Sweden, Denmark, China and Israel. The show has been translated into 14 languages. *Aida* closed on Broadway on September 5, 2004, after an impressive run of 1,852 regular performances. The production was seen by more than 2.5 million people and grossed more than \$150 million.

Director's Note

Who would have thought that after saying that I would not be returning to TCP in 2011 in order to concentrate on young people's theatre, that I would be writing director's notes for TCP's next production?

I am humbled by the faith the management team has in me, and I could not resist working with TCP's wonderful creative team on Elton John and Tim Rice's *Aida*.

Knowing the dedication and talent that makes TCP what it is, I am excited about creating a spectacular rendition of this amazing musical, which opened on Broadway only 11 years ago. The music is tremendously exciting, and I am looking forward to making use of the great choral sound that TCP has become known for.

Already my mind is spinning as I envision colours in light, fabric and sound. Pyramids and sails surround beautiful voices as they tell the tragic love story, set in ancient times, brought boldly and beautifully into the 21st century.

Artistically, musically and visually, TCP has set a standard that our team plans to uphold. I invite everyone to come and join us.

Gord Davis

Characters

AIDA (mezzo-soprano) Daughter of Amonasro and Princess of Nubia. With her royalty unknown to all except Mereb, she is taken into slavery with the rest of Nubia, but attracts the attention of Radames. She loves her people and will sacrifice everything for their happiness.

AMNERIS (mezzo-soprano) Princess of Egypt, daughter of the Pharaoh, and Radames' fiancée. She is known for her taste for fashion. Aida, given to her as a handmaiden, recognizes Amneris' true nature: that her fashion-driven identity hides her insecurities.

AMONASRO (non-singing role) Father of Aida and King of Nubia. An honorable and peaceful man. He is taken into slavery by the Egyptians after Aida and Radames have fallen in love, and commands Aida to break all ties with the Egyptians.

MEREB (tenor) A Nubian servant to Radames, who was taken captive by the Egyptians as a youth. He is the first to recognize Aida as Princess of Nubia, and the first to tell the other Nubian slaves about it, in the hope that she can set them free. He is faithful to his Nubian heritage and he dreams of a better life for his people.

NEHEBKA (mezzo-soprano) Nubian slave who speaks to Aida as a representative for the Nubian people.

PHARAOH (non-singing role) Father of Amneris and King of Egypt. One of the arrangers of Amneris and Radames' much-delayed wedding, he is secretly being poisoned by Zoser to speed up Radames' succession to the throne.

RADAMES (tenor) Captain of the Egyptian army, son of Zoser, and fiancé of Amneris. He is expected to succeed to the Egyptian throne after the Pharaoh's death, but instead finds himself intrigued by Aida. He enjoys the adventures of war without realizing its devastation. He is a good man who wants to be a better man.

ZOSER (baritone) Chief Minister of Egypt and father of Radames. He is eager for his son's succession to the Egyptian throne, and does all he can to bring it about—including poisoning the Pharaoh. He is power-hungry and unscrupulous.

ENSEMBLE Men: Low G - High A Women: Low B flat - High A flat

**cast of characters and singing/acting roles subject to change*

Song List

ACT ONE

Every Story Is a Love Story, Amneris

Fortune Favors the Brave, Radames and Soldiers

The Past Is Another Land, Aida

Another Pyramid, Zoser and Ministers

How I Know You, Mereb and Aida

My Strongest Suit/Fashion Show, Amneris and Women of the Palace

East Indian Dance

Enchantment Passing Through, Radames and Aida

Strongest Suit (Reprise), Amneris and Aida

Dance of the Robe, Aida, Nehebka and Nubians

Not Me, Radames, Mereb, Aida and Amneris

Elaborate Lives, Radames and Aida

The Gods Love Nubia, Aida, Nehebka and Nubians

ACT TWO

A Step Too Far, Amneris, Radames and Aida

Easy as Life, Aida

Like Father Like Son, Zoser, Radames and Ministers

Radames' Letter, Radames

How I Know You (Reprise), Mereb

Written in the Stars, Aida and Radames

I Know the Truth, Amneris

Elaborate Lives (Reprise), Aida and Radames

Finale, Radames, Aida and Amneris

Elton John's music for Aida is stylistically eclectic. "Another Pyramid" is a modern reggae number; "My Strongest Suit" draws heavily on Motown, "The Gods Love Nubia" draws on gospel. There are numbers— "Not Me," "Elaborate Lives," "A Step Too Far," "Written in the Stars"— that reflect Elton John's pop style. There is also a strong influence of African or other "exotic" music. These styles are used without much attention to historical authenticity. Rather, there is a mix of African (mostly west African), Indian and Middle Eastern influences. Probably the nearest stylistic parallel to the work as a whole is Elton John's The Lion King, another musical with strong ethnic elements.

Directing Team

Gord Davis, Director

Gord's work in theatre across Waterloo Region has thrilled audiences and earned him the respect of his peers and his audiences. After building the drama program at Elmira District Secondary School into one of the highest-profile and highest-quality programs in Ontario, he retired from teaching theatre to become a freelance director. In the past nine years he has directed countless productions for various groups and organizations. Gord is currently the Resident Director for The Singer's Theatre, a company that excels in innovative and challenging musical works for young people in Waterloo Region. One of his greatest joys has been working with The Community Players of New Hamburg, and he is excited about, and looking forward to, coming back in 2011.

Jen Hoffman, Musical Director

Jen, who teaches at Rockway Mennonite Collegiate in Kitchener, has been the musical force behind TCP since 2000. She remains humbled by the musical talent of the TCP orchestra, amazed by the vocal abilities the cast manages to deliver year after year, and grateful for the amount of time and energy everyone puts into our shows.

Richelle Hirlehey, Choreographer

Richelle's involvement in dance began as a young child. After receiving degrees from the University of Western Ontario, Richelle was delighted to return to her home school, the Carousel Dance Centre, University of Waterloo, as a teacher. In 2005, she took on the roles of Dance Company Director and Assistant Director of the school. She is currently the Director of Carousel and Educational Director of Dance Extreme. In addition to teaching, she choreographs for the Original Kids Theatre Company; high schools in southwestern Ontario; London Musical Productions; and her own company, Barefoot Creative. Richelle is now pursuing her master's in dance at York University. She is thrilled to be working with The Community Players for a second season.

Brent Roth, Artistic Director

Brent has been a part of TCP's amazing journey for the past 21 years. His love of theatre, combined with his love of community, make this one of the best jobs ever. Working with so many talented individuals, each of whom has left his or her mark on the group, whether for one show or for dozens, and whether onstage or behind the scenes, has been inspiring. Helping to bring TCP to its current level of excellence has been the most rewarding kind of challenge. Brent's day job is as a creative director in Toronto, but he always looks forward to the spring, when an empty arena is transformed into a spectacular theatre, and "community theatre at its very best" once again proves itself to be true.



Production History

Aida is a musical drama in two acts, based on Giuseppe Verdi's Italian-language opera of the same name, which was in turn based on a story by Auguste Mariette. The musical was produced by Hyperion Theatricals, a unit within Disney Theatrical, with music by Elton John, lyrics by Tim Rice and book by Linda Woolverton, Robert Falls and David Henry Hwang.

Elaborate Lives: The Legend of Aida had its world premiere at the Alliance Theatre in Atlanta, Georgia, in September 1998. A revised production opened on November 12, 1999, at the Cadillac Palace in Chicago. The Broadway production, named Elton John and Tim Rice's *Aida*, ran at the Palace Theatre from March 23, 2000, to September 5, 2004. Its 1,852 performances (and 30 previews) make it the 18th-longest-running show ever.

Important Upcoming Dates

November 28, 2010

TCP Fall Open House

Ernie Ritz Room, 121 Huron Street, New Hamburg

January 14-16, 2011

Auditions for Elton John and Tim Rice's *Aida*

St. Agatha Community Centre, St. Agatha

May 12-15, 2011

TCP presents Elton John and Tim Rice's *Aida*

New Hamburg Arena, 251 Jacob Street, New Hamburg

For more information, be sure to visit our 2011 show page at www.thecommunityplayers.com, or email us at onstage@thecommunityplayers.com.

Sources and Resources

www.stageagent.com; www.mtishows.com; www.ibdb.com





TCP - a tradition of excellence

In the 27 years that The Community Players of New Hamburg have been presenting musical productions, the group has earned a widespread reputation for creating visually stunning, professional-calibre theatre. The Community Players are a charitable and volunteer organization with the mandate of giving back a portion of the proceeds of each show to the community.

Since 1984, TCP has proudly given more than \$50,000 back to the community. Whether in support of the local food bank or counseling centre, backing community projects such as the Wilmot Recreation Complex or simply helping out other community groups like ourselves, TCP keeps the community at the forefront of all our activities.

Every year these musicals are made possible by the dedication and excitement of hundreds of volunteers— people just like you. It takes an entire team to create the magic of a TCP production. And we'd like you to join that team. If you can sing, sew, paint, dance, build or act, and whether this is your first show or your 27th, we'd love to have you join the TCP family.

community theatre at its very best