

SD OPERA Media Release

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San Diego Opera Announces “*Pretty In Pink*” A Fabulous Folly Honoring Dame Zandra Rhodes Saturday, April 7, 2018 6:30 PM The US Grant Hotel

San Diego, CA – San Diego Opera is proud to announce “**Pretty in Pink,**” the 2018 San Diego Opera Ball honoring the creative and inspiring spirit of Dame Zandra Rhodes whose contributions to the Company, art form, and community will be honored on Saturday, April 7, 2018 at The US Grant Hotel. Taking Zandra’s ethos to heart of making one’s own rules, the San Diego Opera Ball is not a regular gala but a night for fun firebrands, pink provocateurs, rosy raconteurs, for those who will strut (or dance) down the pink carpet to their own beat and anyone who is tired of the status quo. The event will begin at 6:30 PM with a cocktail hour full of fun and unexpected surprises all inspired by Zandra’s kaleidoscopic imagination. Dinner begins at 7:30 PM. The evening concludes with drinks and dancing. Suggested attire is pink tie.

With her bright pink hair, theatrical make-up and art jewelry, Dame Zandra Rhodes has stamped her identity on the international world of fashion. She was one of the new wave of British designers who put London at the forefront of the international fashion scene in the 1970s. Her unique use of bold prints, fiercely feminine patterns and theatrical use of color has given her garments a timeless quality that makes them unmistakably a Rhodes creation. In 1977 she pioneered the pink and black jersey collection with holes and beaded safety pins that earned her the name of “Princess of Punk”. Her posters from this period have been a continuous inspiration for make-up artists and are collectors’ items. She has designed for clients as diverse as Diana, Princess of Wales, Jackie Onassis, Elizabeth Taylor and Freddie Mercury of the rock group ‘Queen’. She continues to clothe and design for the rich and famous around the world from royalty to rock stars including: HRH Princess Michael of Kent, Debbie Harry, Bianca Jagger, Kylie Minogue, Anastasia, Paris Hilton, Joan Rivers and the late Isabella Blow. Helen Mirren, star of “The Queen” wore a Zandra Rhodes when she received her award from BAFTA and Sarah Jessica

Parker dressed up in a Zandra for “Sex and the City”. Her vintage pieces have long been collected by Tom Ford and Anna Sui and have been worn by Kelly Osborne, Ashley Olsen, Kate Moss and Naomi Campbell.

Dame Rhodes began her relationship with San Diego Opera when she designed the costumes for the 2001 production of *The Magic Flute*. In 2004 she designed both the sets and costumes for *The Pearl Fishers*, which has been seen around the world and cemented Zandra’s reputation as an opera designer. *Aida* was the next opera she designed, a co-commission between English National Opera and Houston Grand Opera, which was seen locally in 2013. Zandra also sits on the board of San Diego Opera and was instrumental in the Company’s reinvention in 2014.

The pink-tie attire event will begin at **6:30 PM on April 7, 2018** at **The US Grant Hotel** (326 Broadway, San Diego, CA 92101) with a cocktail reception followed by a delicious three-course dinner conceived by The US Grant Executive Chef **Mark Kropczynski**. The event will continue with entertainment by **Encore Event Entertainment**. Flowers and table centerpieces will be by **CT Designs**.

Single tickets to “Pretty in Pink” start at \$350 per person. Special \$500 seats include a scarf or pocket square designed by Zandra Rhodes specifically for the Opera Ball. This price level also includes premium wines at dinner and “First Out” valet service. \$1,000 VIP seats include admission to a pre-Ball cocktail reception, premiere placement in the room, a wine concierge service with premium wines, and all other benefits that the \$500 tickets receive. Table sponsorship is available for \$10,000 (for a table of 10) and includes everything at the \$1,000 VIP level as well as a private backstage tour for 10 prior to a San Diego Opera performance, a meet-and-greet/photo op with the principal performers at an orchestra dress rehearsal, and lunch for five and a behind-the-scenes look at a staging rehearsal of an opera performance. Tables of 10 are also available for \$5,000 (with the same benefits as the \$500 level).

The San Diego Opera Ball is being chaired by Sherry Ahern. The host committee is Sara Zaknoen, Kiyani Yazdani, Nancy Walters, Brianna Ahern, June Chocheles, Mishelle Belice, Zandra Rhodes, Coy Thompson, Bridget Thompson, Estella Lipschultz, Armando Cepeda, Susan Foster, Christiane Hoffman Frank, Rose Camacho, Veronica Leff, Dana Rosa, and Maria Yarza.

To purchase tickets, or more information, please visit <https://www.sdopera.org/opera-ball>

Purchasing Tickets to San Diego Opera

A subscription for the two remaining Main Stage operas begins at a low \$72.

Single tickets start at \$48 for all mainstage performances. Single tickets start at \$35 for all dētour Series operas. Children prices exist, please visit www.sdopera.org or call 619.533.7000 for more information.

Senior citizen discounts of 15% are available to the Main Stage series on Tuesday and Friday subscription packages. Senior citizen discounts of 15% are available to the dētour Series on Saturday subscription packages.

Military discounts (active and retired) of 50% are available to the Main Stage series on Tuesday and Friday subscription packages. Military discounts of 50% are available to the dētour Series on Saturday subscription packages.

For information about tickets please visit www.sdopera.org or call 619.533.7000

The 2017-2018 International Season

<i>The Pirates of Penzance</i>	Gilbert & Sullivan	October 14, 17, 20, and 22 (mat), 2017
<i>As One</i>	Laura Kaminsky	November 10, 11 and 12 (1 PM, mat), 2017
<i>Maria de Buenos Aires</i>	Ástor Piazzolla	January 26, 27 and 28 (mat), 2018
<i>Turandot</i>	Giacomo Puccini	February 24, 27, March 2, and 4 (mat), 2018
<i>Florencia en el Amazonas</i>	Daniel Catán	March 17, 20, 23, and 25 (mat) 2018
<i>One Amazing Night – Greer Grimsley & Lise Lindstrom in Concert</i>		May 5, 2018

San Diego Opera Mission Statement

The mission of San Diego Opera is to deliver exceptional vocal performances and exciting, accessible programs to diverse audiences, focusing on community engagement and the transformative power of live performance.

San Diego Opera Vision Statement

The San Diego Opera will be recognized internationally as a leading example of adaptability, innovation and sustainability in the operatic arts, promoting diversified programming and unique performance venues with world-class and emerging talent.

San Diego Opera Core Values Statement

Through excellence in innovative programming and education, SDO provides a lasting cultural service to the community.

- Our tradition of excellence in fully staged opera is augmented with new models of opera and venues. Our unique and deep commitment to the community propels us to explore ways of increasing affordability and accessibility.
- Through fiscal responsibility and nimble adaptation to the changing marketplace, we protect the future of San Diego Opera.
- Our educational and community involvement coupled with relevant programming will build the audience of the future.

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