

SD OPERA Media Release

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San Diego Pride, Out at the Fair®, #NowTrending App, and San Diego Opera Present “Out at the Opera”

Friday April 5, 2019 performance of Bizet’s beloved opera *Carmen* to feature a pre-opera reception and special pricing to help support San Diego Pride’s community mission

San Diego, CA – San Diego Opera is incredibly honored once again to partner with SD Pride, Out at the Fair®, and #NowTrending App for “**Out at the Opera**” on **Friday, April 5, 2019** surrounding a performance of Bizet’s beloved opera, *Carmen*. This is the third “Out at the Opera” event the Company has hosted, with previous events surrounding *As One* (2017) and *Florencia en el Amazonas* (2018). The event will start at 6 PM with a private mix-and-mingle hosted reception featuring hors d’oeuvres, wine, and beer. Guests do have an option of taking an optional, exclusive, backstage tour prior to the reception at 5:30 PM. San Diego Opera’s own General Director, David Bennett, will welcome guests and lead the festivities until the 7 PM performance of *Carmen* at the San Diego Civic Theatre. San Diego Opera is providing a number of discounted tickets for this event which includes the reception, the opera, and a donation to SD Pride to enable the organization to continue its vital mission of fostering pride, equality, and respect for all lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities locally, nationally, and globally.

“Out at the Opera” was inspired by the Company’s desire to create a safe, inclusive, welcoming, and fun environment for everyone in our community and to celebrate the diversity within San Diego’s LGBTQIA community. San Diego Opera will also be providing a number of complimentary tickets to San Diego Pride Youth to the student dress rehearsal of *Carmen*.

“The arts provide a safe place to allow us to express our true identities, so partnering with San Diego Pride is a natural fit for San Diego Opera. The last two “Out at the Opera” events have been an incredible success and I look forward to welcoming both new and returning members of San Diego’s rich LGBTQ

community for a night of great music, comradery, inclusiveness, and fun,” shares San Diego Opera General Director, David Bennett.

"Creating civic spaces for the LGBTQ community to feel safe, welcome, and authentically themselves is at the core of our mission at San Diego Pride. Fighting for those spaces here in San Diego and around the world is a social justice issue that we are proud to stand up for," said Fernando Z. López, Executive Director of San Diego Pride. "It's an honor to partner with the San Diego Opera as we continue to open doors for our LGBTQ community to enjoy some of the best art and culture San Diego has to offer."

Tickets to “Out at the Opera” start at \$145 and include entrance to the pre-opera reception, the opera itself, and also includes a \$25 donation to San Diego Pride. \$174 and \$193 packages are also available with prime seating and includes all other benefits the \$100 level receives. Tickets are available online at: www.sdopera.org/out_carmen or through the “Out at the Opera” concierge representative, Vanessa Dining, at Vanessa.Dinning@sdopera.org.

“We are beyond excited about this third “Out at the Opera” event; it speaks volumes about San Diego Opera’s serious commitment to diversity and inclusion,” shares Luis Valdivia, Multicultural Marketing Specialist at San Diego County Fair and co-founder of Out at the Fair®. “We look forward to continue being part of this extraordinary team, and encourage the LGBTQ+ community to enjoy the world-class events that our city has to offer.”

About Carmen

Carmen is one fiery gypsy woman...a femme fatale who lives life on her own provocative terms. The next notch on her belt is the naïve soldier Don Jose who is bewitched by her passion and gives up everything to be with her, including his sweetheart Micaela. In her true heartless fashion, Carmen becomes bored and callously drops her young lover when her path collides with the macho bullfighting Escamillo. Obsessed and alone, will Don Jose’s jealousy ignites an emotional bonfire that destroys them all. Carmen is an archetype of literature and art set to passionate music that will burn up the stage with its unbridled drama and incredible music, including the “Toreador Song” and the seductive “Habanera.” This opera is sung in French with projected English translations. The approximate run time is three hours and fifteen minutes, including one intermission.

About San Diego Pride

San Diego LGBT Pride is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization which has distributed more than \$2 million in advancement of its mission of "fostering pride, equality, and respect for all lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities locally, nationally, and globally." All proceeds from the festival support San Diego Pride’s community philanthropy efforts and year-round LGBT-youth-serving programs. You can learn more about the organization by visiting www.sdpride.org

About Out at the Fair®

Out at the Fair® is an award-winning, family-friendly, all-day festival, celebrating the LGBTQ+ community, held in five Fairs in California and New Mexico. Conceived in 2011 by Will Zakrajshek as a Facebook group check-in at the San Diego County Fair, as “Unofficial Gay Days at the Fair,” OATF™ became an official Fair event in 2014, which is now produced by WZ Productions, LLC. The event is also held at an official capacity at the California State Fair in Sacramento, the New Mexico State Fair in Albuquerque, the Marin County Fair in San Rafael, CA, and the Santa Clara County Fair in San Jose, CA. WZP is the recipient of the Western Fairs Association’s Barham Award, the highest honor bestowed in the Fair industry, to recognize innovation, quality, and leadership in the field of service. More information: www.outatthefair.com.

About #NowTrending App

#NowTrending app is San Diego’s only LGBTQ+ app, providing information on community events and local businesses. The mission of NT is to connect the LGBTQ+ community with events and resources across the county. With nearly 16,000 downloads, and 7,000 active users, the app’s multi-faceted platform allows subscribers to interact in an unprecedented variety of ways. In addition to business and event listings, NT features photo galleries, music streaming, videos, raffles, music requests, and much more. More information: www.nowtrendingapp.com

Purchasing Tickets

Tickets for “Out at the Opera” are incredibly limited and be purchased at www.sdopera.org/out_carmen or by emailing the “Out at the Opera” concierge representative, Vanessa Dinning, at Vanessa.Dinning@sdopera.org

The 2018-2019 Season

<i>The Marriage of Figaro</i>	Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart	October 20, 23, 26, and 28 (mat), 2018
<i>All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914</i>	Peter Rothstein	December 7, 8, and 9 (mat), 2018
<i>Rigoletto</i>	Giuseppe Verdi	February 2, 5, 8, and 10 (mat), 2019
<i>Three Decembers</i>	Jake Heggie	March 8, 9, 10 (mat), 2019
<i>Carmen</i>	Georges Bizet	March 30, April 2, 5, and 7 (mat) 2019
<i>One Amazing Night –Stephen Powell and Stephen Costello</i>		May 15, 2019

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.

www.sdopera.org

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