



**For immediate release
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Cast Change Announcement – San Diego Opera

Emmy Award Winning Stage Director Sonja Frisell Replaces John Copley in Carmen.

San Diego, CA – Emmy Award winning stage director **Sonja Frisell** will direct *Carmen* in May, replacing the originally announced director John Copley. Mr. Copley has asked to be released from this production to attend to pressing family matters in England.

Sonja's staging was last seen in San Diego for the Company's production of *Otello* in 2003 with Maestro Edoardo Müller on the podium. Maestro Müller will also conduct these performances of *Carmen*.

"John is already scheduled to return in 2012 and 2013 and I look forward to welcoming him back," adds San Diego Opera General and Artistic Director Ian Campbell. "With Sonja, the cast has an incredibly experienced stage director who has worked both with the conductor and Salvatore Licitra who makes his Company debut with us as Don José. I've been a fan of Sonja's work for a long time and look forward to seeing her treatment of this masterpiece."

Carmen opens Saturday, May 14, 2011 for four performances and was last performed by San Diego Opera in 2006.

Sonja Frisell, Stage Director

British Stage Director Sonja Frisell made her San Diego Opera debut directing *Otello* in 2003. Recent productions include *Salome* for Arizona Opera and a return to La Scala for *L'occasione fa il ladro*. Previous seasons include *Don Carlo* in Chicago and Washington

DC, *La Gioconda* and *La Cenerentola* at La Scala, *A Masked Ball* in Bologna, *Maometto II* and *Khovanschina* in San Francisco, *La forza del destino*, *Otello* and *The Magic Flute* in Washington DC, *Elena da Feltre* at the Wexford Festival, *Turandot* in Trieste and Calgiari, *Eugene Onegin* with the Arizona Opera, and *The Italian Girl in Algiers* at Covent Garden, San Francisco and in Verona. She has directed at the Metropolitan Opera, Teatro Colon in Buenos Aires, La Fenice in Venice, Teatro dell'Opera in Rome, Teatro Regio in Turin, Theatre de la Monnaie, Geneva Opera, Paris Opera, Bregenz Festival, Teatro Liceo in Barcelona, Houston Grand Opera, Washington National Opera, Seattle Opera, Canadian Opera Company and The Dallas Opera. Frisell received an Emmy Award in 1990 for the television broadcast of the Metropolitan Opera's production of *Aida*.

Carmen Performance Schedule

Saturday	May 14, 2011	7 PM
Tuesday	May 17, 2011	7 PM
Friday	May 20, 2011	8 PM
Sunday	May 22, 2011	2 PM

Purchasing Tickets

Single tickets for all operas are now on sale. Single ticket prices start at \$35 and can be purchased by calling (619) 533-7000 or online at www.sdopera.com.

Three-opera subscriptions for the 2011 International Season are still available. Subscriptions range from \$108 - \$880 and can be purchased by calling (619) 533-7000 or online at www.sdopera.com

The 2011 International Season

<i>Turandot</i>	Giacomo Puccini	January 29, February 1, 4 and 6 (mat), 2011
<i>Der Rosenkavalier</i>	Richard Strauss	April 3 (mat), 6, 9 and 12, 2011
<i>Faust</i>	Charles Gounod	April 23, 26, 29 and May 1 (mat), 2011
<i>Carmen</i>	Georges Bizet	May 14, 17, 20 and 22 (mat), 2011

General Information

A widely respected member of the international opera community, *San Diego Opera* brings the world's finest artists to San Diego. Founded in 1965, and led for the last 27 years by General Director and Artistic Director Ian D. Campbell, San Diego Opera produces performances of the highest artistic quality while remaining financially stable.

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