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COOLIDGE CORNER THEATRE
CONTINUES POPULAR *DIVAS IN THE DARK* SERIES:
BEGINS SEPTEMBER 23 WITH MARX BROTHERS' *A NIGHT AT THE OPERA*

Brookline, MA – Back by popular demand and beginning Sunday, September 23 at 11:00 am the **Coolidge Corner Theatre** and cultural partner **Boston Lyric Opera** (BLO) continues **Divas in the Dark**, a series launched last year highlighting opera-based films shown on the silver screen. Each screening, hosted every other month throughout the coming year, will be preceded by a live mini-performance and/or introduction by professional opera educators. The series is one of many community-based programs being presented by the Coolidge, part of the theater's ongoing mission to ensure that the venue serves as a creative and educational resource to the neighborhood. The program is made possible by the generous support of the Trust Family Foundation in partnership with Finagle a Bagel.

The September 23 kick-off screening showcases the hysterical 1935 Marx Brothers' classic **A Night at the Opera**, directed by Sam Wood and written by George S. Kaufman. Perfect family entertainment for both movie buffs and opera fans, the story revolves around two lovers, both opera singers, prevented from being together by an egotistical tenor. Featuring wonderful performances from Kitty Carlisle and Alan Jones as the lovers, this Marx Brothers favorite also boasts one hilarious stunt after another from Groucho, Chico and Harpo – who collectively come to the rescue.

Continuing the **Divas in the Dark** series on November 18 is the 1975 **Moses and Aaron** from the French filmmaking duo of Jean-Marie Straub and Daniele Huillet. Based on the unfinished opera by Arnold Schoenberg, the story is drawn from the Old Testament book of Exodus. The film stars Gunter Reich and Louis Devos, with music performed by the Orchestra and Chorus of the Austrian Radio, conducted by Michael Gielen. On January 13 the 1994 **Farinelli (Handel)** takes center-screen, the story and stage name of Carlo Broschi, one of the most famous Italian soprano castrato singers of the 18th century. The rarely seen gem stars Stefano Dionisi as Farinelli and was directed by Belgian director Gerard Corbiau.

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On March 16 the Coolidge presents the stunning documentary **The Turandot Project** by director Alan Miller. Viewers are taken behind-the-scenes in one of the most intriguing cultural collaborations when musical conductor Zubin Mehta decides to stage Puccini's Chinese opera "Turandot," engaging renowned Chinese film director Zhang Yimou to direct the production. Mehta and Zhang mount the lavish production in the ancient Forbidden City in Beijing in a palace built in 1420. Boston-area audiences became familiar with the work of Zhang Yimou when he received the first annual Coolidge Award in 2004 and made a rare U.S. public appearance.

Cosi (1996) is presented on May 4, set in Australia in 1970 and based on a play by Louis Nowra. The film is a quirky comedy starring Toni Collette and tells the story of a group of psychiatric patients who stage Mozart's *Così fan tutte*. And finally, on July 13 the Coolidge presents **Phantom of the Opera**, the 1943 lavish Technicolor remake of the 1925 original, this one starring Claude Rains, Nelson Eddy and Susanna Foster.

The Coolidge Corner Theatre is one of the nation's few independently operated movie theaters, run by the not-for-profit Coolidge Corner Theatre Foundation. Over the past several years, the theater has won numerous awards and special acknowledgements -- most notably for an extensive capital campaign supporting upgrades, renovations and a stunning restoration to the theater's original Art Deco detail. The theater is renowned as one of the most successful independent movie-houses in the world and continues a rich tradition of independent film exhibition.

Divas in the Dark is co-presented by Boston Lyric Opera, founded in 1976 and recognized for its mission to produce artistically excellent productions of a diverse repertoire that entertain and inspire audiences, to feature emerging operatic talent, and to engage and educate the community of all ages about opera. For updated information about Boston Lyric call (617) 542-6772 go to www.blo.org.

The Coolidge Corner Theatre is located at 290 Harvard Street in the heart of Coolidge Corner, Brookline, Massachusetts. Tickets to the Divas in the Dark series are \$9.75/general admission and \$6.75 for Coolidge members. Tickets are \$3 to students with current student ID's and seniors over age 62, and those tickets must be obtained in-person from the Coolidge box office no more than two months in advance. For more information on Coolidge programming and tickets, call 617-734-2500 or visit the website at www.coolidge.org.

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