

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: Julie Behr, Communications Manager, 612-342-1612, jbehr@mnoopera.org

Stage director and choreographer Doug Varone named 2015 Doris Duke Artist

Varone returns to direct Minnesota Opera's 2015–2016 season-opener, *Ariadne auf Naxos*

MINNEAPOLIS (April 6, 2015) – A frequent stage director and choreographer for Minnesota Opera productions, Doug Varone was recently named a 2015 Doris Duke Artist, a prestigious honor awarded to only twenty artists this year. Twin Cities' audiences have enjoyed Varone's emotionally charged, animated and distinctive movement style in recent Minnesota Opera productions including *Hansel and Gretel* (2014), *Cinderella* (2010), *Faust* (2009) and the Minnesota Opera's world premiere of *The Grapes of Wrath* (2008). He will return to the Opera stage September 26, to direct the 2015-2016 Minnesota Opera season premiere of [*Ariadne auf Naxos*](#).

Varone is in high demand as an opera director and choreographer nationally. Among his four productions at the Met are *Salome*, with its sensational "Dance of the Seven Veils" for Karita Mattila, and the world premiere of Tobias Picker's *An American Tragedy*. He has staged multiple premieres and new productions for Minnesota Opera and Opera Colorado, and choreographed for Washington Opera and New York City Opera, among others. Varone is a frequent collaborator of composer Ricky Ian Gordon: choreography, *The Grapes of Wrath* (2008); and direction and choreography for *Orpheus and Eurydice* for Lincoln Center (2006 Obie Award).

As an award-winning choreographer and director, Doug Varone works in dance, theater, opera, film, television and fashion. His New York City-based company Doug Varone and Dancers has been commissioned and presented to critical acclaim by leading international venues for more than two decades. In 2008, Varone's *Bottomland*, set in the Mammoth Caves of Kentucky, was the subject of the PBS "Dance in America: Wolf Trap's Face of America."

View the complete 2015 Doris Duke Performing Artist Awards news release at ddcf.org.

The 2014–2015 Minnesota Opera season is supported by Target.

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