

## News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Daniel Zillmann, 612.342.1612 or dzillmann@mnopera.org

### Minnesota Opera presents the world premiere of *Doubt* on January 26

Composer Douglas J. Cuomo and librettist John Patrick Shanley create the opera based on his Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning play

Christine Brewer, Denyce Graves, Matthew Worth and Adriana Zabala  
star in this New Works Initiative production

- What:** World premiere of *Doubt*; music by Douglas J. Cuomo; libretto by John Patrick Shanley, based on his play and film. Sung in English with English captions projected above the stage.
- Where:** Ordway, 345 Washington Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102
- When:** Saturday, January 26, 7:30pm      Tuesday, January 29, 7:30pm  
Thursday, January 31, 7:30pm      Saturday, February 2, 8pm  
Sunday, February 3, 2pm
- Tickets:** \$20 – \$200. Call the Minnesota Opera Ticket Office at 612.333.6669, Monday–Friday, 9am–6pm, or purchase online at mnopera.org.
- Media:** An online press kit (available now on Dropbox at [bit.ly/mnoperapressroom](http://bit.ly/mnoperapressroom)) includes full bios, artist headshots, design renderings, production photos and other useful resources.  
Contact Communications Manager Daniel Zillmann to take advantage of the following interview, photo and video opportunities at dress rehearsals at Ordway: **Wednesday, January 23, 7:30pm** and **Thursday, January 24, 7:30pm**.
- Preview:** Minnesota Opera hosts its third **Social Media Preview Night** of the season for bloggers and tweeters, including complimentary appetizers, a social hour and pre-rehearsal discussion with a special guest from the creative team at Kincaid's Restaurant, and exclusive access to the dress rehearsal on **Thursday, January 24, 5:30pm**. Email Daniel Zillmann by January 21 to R.S.V.P.

**Minneapolis**—In this new opera based on JOHN PATRICK SHANLEY's play and film, suspicion ignites a battle of wills at a Catholic school in the Bronx, circa 1964. The charismatic and progressive Father Flynn is trying to loosen the stranglehold of St. Nicholas Church School's strict customs, which are fiercely guarded by its iron-fisted principal, Sister Aloysius Beauvier. When the young, innocent Sister

*continued ...*

James shares with the principal her suspicion that Father Flynn may be abusing the school's only black student, Sister Aloysius embarks on a personal crusade to find the truth and ruin the priest. With no proof besides her moral certainty, Sister Aloysius engages in a battle of wills with Father Flynn in this riveting new work, which poses questions to ponder long after the curtain goes down.

THE CREATIVE TEAM

Conductor . . . . . Christopher Franklin  
Stage Director . . . . . Kevin Newbury  
Set Designer . . . . . Robert Brill  
Costume Designer . . . . . Paul Carey  
Lighting Designer . . . . . Japhy Weideman

THE CAST

Father Brendan Flynn, *a parish priest* . . . . . Matthew Worth  
Sister Aloysius Beauvier, *the school principal* . . . . . Christine Brewer\*  
Sister James, *a teacher and a nun* . . . . . Adriana Zabala  
Mrs. Miller, *Donald's mother* . . . . . Denyce Graves

\*Minnesota Opera Debut

*Doubt: A Parable* was originally staged Off-Broadway at the Manhattan Theatre Club and starred **CHERRY JONES**, **BRIAN F. O'BYRNE** and **HEATHER GOLDENHERSH**. It transferred to Broadway's Walter Kerr Theatre in 2005, where it enjoyed a 525-performance run. The play won the 2005 Pulitzer Prize for Drama and the Tony Award for Best Play and was adapted for film in 2008. The film, starring **MERYL STREEP**, **PHILIP SEYMOUR HOFFMAN** and **AMY ADAMS**, was nominated for five Oscars (including Best Adapted Screenplay by the play's own author, **JOHN PATRICK SHANLEY**) and claimed 13 wins and 36 nominations in other prestigious film awards.

Grammy award-winning soprano **CHRISTINE BREWER** makes her Minnesota Opera debut as the steel-willed principal of St. Nicholas, Sister Aloysius Beauvier. According to *Musical America*, "Brewer's voice—big but pure, golden of tone, flawlessly produced and capable of great subtleties as well as great volume—puts her in the top tier of today's artists." Celebrated mezzo-soprano **DENYCE GRAVES**, whom *USA Today* called "one of the singers most likely to be an operatic superstar of the 21<sup>st</sup> century," returns after having made her role debut in Minnesota Opera's 1991 *Carmen*. Graves creates the role of Mrs. Miller, Donald's conflicted and compromised mother (a character made famous by **VIOLA DAVIS** in the film adaptation). The role of the charismatic Father Flynn is sung by rising American baritone **MATTHEW WORTH** (*Così fan tutte*), and mezzo-soprano **ADRIANA ZABALA** (*Wuthering Heights*) creates the role of the uncorrupted Sister James. The creative team includes set designer **ROBERT BRILL** (*La bohème*), costume designer **PAUL CAREY**, and lighting designer **JAPHY WEIDEMAN**. **KEVIN NEWBURY** (*Werther*) directs with **CHRISTOPHER FRANKLIN** (*Così fan tutte*) returning to conduct.

The Minnesota Opera season is sponsored by Ascent Private Capital Management of U.S. Bank.

Minnesota Opera combines a culture of creativity and fiscal responsibility to produce opera and opera education programs that expand the art form, nurture artists, enrich audiences and contribute to the vitality of the community.

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