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Woodminster Summer Musicals

SEPTEMBER 2015-- CALENDAR INFORMATION

WHAT: Elton John & Tim Rice's Aida

PERFORMED BY: Woodminster Summer Musicals by Producers Associates, Inc.

WHERE: Woodminster Amphitheater in Joaquin Miller Park, 3300 Joaquin Miller Road, Oakland

WHEN: September 4-13, 2015

PERFORMANCES: September 4, 5, 11, 12 - 8 p.m. and September 6, 10, 13 - 7 p.m. (Fridays and Saturdays 8 p.m., Thursday and Sundays 7 p.m.)

TICKETS: 510-531-9597, or www.woodminster.com, \$28-\$59 (\$2 discount for children/seniors)

PREVIEW PERFORMANCE: September 3, 8 p.m., All tickets \$18 at the door. (Since it's a rehearsal, the show may be stopped to solve technical problems.)

Music by Elton John, Lyrics by Tim Rice, Book by Linda Woolverton and Robert Falls and David Henry Hwang, Produced by arrangement with Music Theatre International.

PRESS RELEASE

Elton John & Tim Rice's Modern AIDA Opens September 4 at Woodminster Summer Theater Company's 49th Season Ends With Lively Pop Musical

August 21, 2015, Oakland, CA -- Producers Associates, Inc. announces that the 2015 season of



Woodminster Summer Musicals will end with Elton John & Tim Rice's Aida, playing September 4-13 at Woodminster Amphitheater. This production features a cast of 35 and a live professional orchestra.

Based on the 1871 Verdi opera of the same name, Aida tells the story of the love triangle between Aida, an enslaved Nubian princess, Amneris, an Egyptian princess,

and Radames, the soldier they both love. With music by Elton John & lyrics by Tim Rice, the musical opened on Broadway in 2000, won 4 Tonys, a Drama Desk Award, and a Grammy for the cast album, and played for nearly 2000 performances.

Says director Joel Schlader, "We think our audiences will love this show. It's a big, epic story with lots of compelling characters in thrilling situations. And Elton John's music is a wonderful pastiche of different musical styles ranging from pop to gospel to African and Indian."

Tickets are available by phone, at 510-531-9597, online at www.woodminster.com, or in person at Woodminster Amphitheater 11-4 daily or at the box office before any performance. Performances are September 4 (opening), and September 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, and 13. Friday and Saturday performances are at 8 pm, and Thursday and Sunday at 7 pm.

Tickets for summer musicals at Woodminster Amphitheater range from \$28 to \$59 with a \$2 discount for children and seniors. Groups of 25 and more can purchase blocks of seats for about half price, providing an affordable outing or fundraiser for a church or service group, neighborhood association, or any other group. For information about tickets, check www.woodminster.com or call 510-531-9597.

Woodminster continues its popular Kids Come Free program, where children and teens 16 or younger who are attending with paying adults can get free tickets on performance nights. Producers Associates is seeking sponsors for this longstanding program, which helps families introduce their kids to live theater in a relaxed and affordable environment.

The final dress rehearsal of Aida on September 3 will be open to the public as a "preview performance." It will start at 8 p.m., all tickets are \$18 at the door, and seating is open, first-come, first-choice. No group rates, Kids Come Free, or other further discounts apply for preview performances.

Aida was produced by Disney Theatrical after a planned animated version was halted in favor of a stage adaptation at the request of composer Elton John. He and Lion King partner Tim Rice worked together on the music and lyrics for this show. The book was written by Linda Woolverton, Robert Falls, and David Henry Hwang. After two troubled pre-Broadway productions in Atlanta and Chicago, the Broadway production was hit and ran from 2000 until 2004, serving as a vehicle for a number of pop stars including Toni Braxton and Michelle Williams, and spawning multiple tours and many regional productions worldwide.

The Woodminster production will be directed by Joel Schlader, with music direction by Michael Horsley and choreography by Jody Jaron. Woodminster shows are performed with live orchestras, and musicians are members of Musicians Local No. 6.

The title role of the enslaved Nubian princess, Aida, will be played by Majesty Scott. Her betrothed, the soldier Radames, is played by James Bock, and the Egyptian princess Amneris is portrayed by Megan Gallup. Nubian slaves Mereb and Nehebka are played by Rotimi Agbabiaka and Linda Dorsey. Calvin Smith (who just got rave reviews for his performance as Roger DeBris in The Producers) returns in Aida as Zoser, the Nubian king, and Dan Kapler plays the

Pharaoh. The cast of 35 includes professional AEA-member actors, aspiring actors, and talented community members.

Producers Associates has announced two of the shows for its 2016 season, its 50th consecutive year producing summer musicals in Oakland. In August 2016, the company will present Chicago, and in September it will present Into The Woods. The July show has not yet been determined.

Woodminster Summer Musicals are performed under the stars at Woodminster Amphitheater, an open-air performance facility in Joaquin Miller Park high in the Oakland Hills. The park's spectacular views and serene woodsy environment made it the perfect setting for the amphitheater, cascades, reflecting pool, and paths that were originally built as a WPA project in 1939-40. For many East Bay families, it is a long-standing summer tradition to enjoy a picnic in the park and then see a musical at Woodminster.

Producers Associates, Inc. was founded in 1967 by the late James Schlader and his wife Harriet to provide affordable live summer family entertainment in the East Bay, and to foster a love of live theatre. For more than four decades, the organization, in partnership with the Oakland Parks and Rec Department, has been producing summer musicals at Woodminster Amphitheater, attracting more than 20,000 ticket holders each season to Joaquin Miller Park in Oakland. For more information about the 2015 season or history of the organization, visit www.woodminster.com.

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