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DENVER FILM SOCIETY & OPERA COLORADO PRESENT Two Films and One New Opera

With humor and empathy, through an opera and two films, these cultural experiences chronicle a transgender person's inner journey

Denver, CO (January 23, 2017) The Denver Film Society and Opera Colorado present two films and one new chamber opera as a cultural experience package, featuring Opera Colorado's production of *As One*, which the Denver Post described as "game-changing" - at the Performing Arts Complex at PCS, and the Denver Film Society's screenings at the Sie FilmCenter of *52 Tuesdays* and *Prodigal Sons*. The two non-profit organizations have collaborated for these two films and opera package, all three of which tell stories surrounding a transgender person's inner journey, with humor and empathy. All three artistic pieces chronicle different experiences surrounding the transgender journey from different perspectives, and bring to light adventures involving self-discovery, desire, responsibility and transformation.

"Because *As One* is based on the experiences of the award-winning filmmaker Kimberly Reed, coupled with Opera Colorado's desire to broaden our community partnerships, this partnership with the Denver Film Society seemed like a perfect fit." - said Opera Colorado's General Director Greg Carpenter. "It is our goal to introduce our respective audiences to each other's cultural programming. "



Talkbacks following the films:

Following the film *52 Tuesdays* the Talkback will be lead by Daniel Ramos, Executive Director at One Colorado. Members of Opera Colorado's *As One* cast and director will participate in a Talkback discussion following *Prodigal Sons* along with Eden Lane host of *In Focus* on Colorado Public Television.

PACKAGE DETAILS

Price: \$74

Each package includes one ticket to each film (*52 Tuesdays* and *Prodigal Sons*) and one ticket to the opera *As One*, on the date of choice.

Tickets

- For package tickets please visit operacolorado.org/filmsandoperapackage or call Opera Colorado's Patron Services at 303.468.2030
- OR visit denverfilm.org or at the box office located at the Sie FilmCenter, 2510 East Colfax Ave, Denver. For more information please call [720-381-0813](tel:720-381-0813)
- To purchase individual tickets to the films contact the Denver Film Society at denverfilm.org or at the box office located at the Sie FilmCenter, 2510 East Colfax Ave., Denver, CO 80206. For more information please call [720-381-0813](tel:720-381-0813)
- To purchase individual tickets to the opera contact Opera Colorado at 303.468.2030 or operacolorado.org. Opera Colorado's administrative office and Patrons Services is located at 695 S Colorado Blvd Suite 20, Denver CO 80246.

Performance Locations

- Films: Sie FilmCenter, 2510 East Colfax Ave, Denver CO 80206
- Opera: Performing Arts Complex at Pinnacle Charter School, 1001 W 84th Ave, Denver CO 80260



52 TUESDAYS

Director SOPHIE HYDE

Nominations [Teddy Award - Siegestsäule Readers Award](#)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2017 | 7:30PM

16-year-old Billie's reluctant path to independence is accelerated when her mother reveals plans for gender transition and their time together becomes limited to Tuesday afternoons. Filmed over the course of a year, once a week, every week – only on Tuesdays – these unique filmmaking rules bring a rare authenticity to this emotionally charged story of desire, responsibility and transformation.

Talkback following the film with Daniel Ramos, Executive Director at One Colorado.

<http://www.one-colorado.org/>

PRODIGAL SONS

Director KIMBERLY REED

Nominations GLAAD Media Award for Outstanding Documentary

<http://prodigalsonsfilm.com/drupal/html/drupal/index.html>

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2017 | 7:30PM

Returning home to a small town in Montana for her high school reunion, filmmaker Kimberly Reed hopes for reconciliation with her long-estranged adopted brother, Marc. But along the way she uncovers stunning revelations, including a surprise relationship to Orson Welles and Rita Hayworth, intense sibling rivalries and unforeseeable twists of plot and gender that force them to face challenges no one could imagine.

Talkback following the film will feature the cast from *As One*. Jeffrey Buchman, Director; Kelly Markgraf, Hannah Before; Blythe Gaissert, Hannah After and Eden Lane, host *In Focus* — weekly show on Colorado Public Television.



AS ONE

MARCH 2, 3 or 4, 2017 | 8PM

*A CHAMBER OPERA FOR TWO VOICES | MUSIC & CONCEPT BY LAURA KAMINSKY
LIBRETTO BY MARK CAMPBELL & KIMBERLY REED*

By arrangement with Bill Holab Music

AS ONE was commissioned and developed by American Opera Projects (AOP)

Andres Cladera, Conductor
Jeffrey Buchman, Director

Kelly Markgraf, Hannah Before
Blythe Gaissert, Hannah After

With humor and empathy, *As One* chronicles a transgender person's inner journey.

Hailed by *The Denver Post* as "game-changing," this new, 75-minute chamber opera depicts the experiences of its sole transgender protagonist, Hannah, as she endeavors to resolve the discord between herself and the outside world. Two singers, a baritone and a mezzo-soprano, both portray the character Hannah. Inspired in part by the life experiences of acclaimed filmmaker Kimberly Reed, *As One's* rich libretto – and evocative melodies and harmonies – make it an unforgettable work.

***As One* is sponsored by the Bonfils Stanton Foundation, The Francis Goelet Charitable Lead Trusts and media partner *Out Front Magazine*.**

DENVER FILM SOCIETY

Sie FilmCenter, year round home of The Denver Film Society, 2510 East Colfax Ave., Denver, CO 80206.

ABOUT OPERA COLORADO'S EXECUTIVE/ARTISTIC TEAM

Greg Carpenter, General Director

The fourth General Director in Opera Colorado's 31-year history, Greg Carpenter guides both the artistic and administrative operations of the company. His role as General Director began in 2007, prior to which he served as Opera Colorado's Director of Development from 2004 – 2007, overseeing all fundraising and Board of Directors activities. Prior to joining Opera Colorado, he

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worked for four years for the National Symphony Orchestra at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. His work there included Special Projects Manager for the President of the National Symphony Orchestra from 2000 – 2001 and Manager of Development from 2001 – 2004. Carpenter’s extensive experience working in the arts also includes two years as the Artist and Event Services Manager for the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center at the University of Maryland and Special Projects Coordinator for the University of Maryland School of Music. From 1986 – 1998, Greg Carpenter performed as a professional opera singer. His work as an opera singer included both lead and supporting roles at Glimmerglass Opera, Central City Opera, Sarasota Opera, Opera Theatre of Northern Virginia, Cleveland Opera and Lyric Opera Cleveland. Carpenter has served on the Board of Directors for OPERA America, the national service organization for the opera industry. For the 2008 National Performing Arts Convention held in Denver, he served as Chairman of the Fundraising Committee. In 2009 Carpenter received a Livingston Fellowship Award in Leadership from the Bonfils-Stanton Foundation. He also regularly serves as a judge for the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions and has served as a judge for the Fritz and Lavinia Jensen Foundation Competition. Greg Carpenter received a Bachelor of Music degree in vocal performance from Wittenberg University, a Master of Music degree in vocal performance from Michigan State University, and he completed post-graduate studies at the University of Maryland School of Music.

Ari Pelto, Music Director

Ari Pelto, music director of Opera Colorado, is widely known for performances, which have been called poetic, earthy, vigorous and highly individual. He is in demand in opera houses and with symphony orchestras throughout the United States. At age of 24 Pelto was appointed Assistant Conductor at the Spoleto Festival and has gone on to conduct on stages worldwide. His international appearances include symphonic performances with the Bochumer Philharmoniker, productions of *Le Nozze di Figaro* and *Falstaff* at New National Theatre of Tokyo, and *Faust* at the Teatro Nacional Sucre in Quito, Ecuador. In 2004 he made his highly-praised debut with New York City Opera conducting *La Traviata*, after which he became a regular guest conductor, returning for productions of *Madama Butterfly*, *La Boheme*, and *Carmen*. In 2015, Pelto was named Opera Colorado’s first ever Music Director, where he has conducted acclaimed performances of *Don Giovanni*, *Madama Butterfly*, *Aida* and the recent world premiere of Lori Laitman’s long-awaited work, *The Scarlet Letter*, a recording of which will be released in fall 2017 on the Naxos label. This season at Opera Colorado Pelto lead a production of *La Fanciulla del West* and will lead *Lucia di Lammermoor*, as well as *La Bhoème*



and *Falstaff* in the 2017-2018 season. Highlights of his 2015/16 season included *Aida* at Utah Symphony and Opera, for which the *Salt Lake Tribune* raved “Whether in the grandeur of the triumphal scene or the exquisite beauty of the Nile scene, one couldn't have asked for a more inspiring performance of Verdi's score,” a double bill of *La Voix Humaine* starring Patricia Racette and *Gianni Schicchi* at Chicago Opera Theater, and return appearances at Atlanta Ballet and at Opera Memphis. He conducted a variety of symphonic programs with orchestras in the US, including Omaha Symphony and the NYU Symphony. After earning his Bachelor of Music in violin performance at Oberlin Conservatory, he studied conducting at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki, Rubin Academy in Jerusalem and with Imre Pallo at Indiana University.

About Opera Colorado

Great cities need great art, and for more than three decades, Opera Colorado has brought world-class performing arts to Colorado audiences. Today Opera Colorado serves as a cornerstone of Denver’s cultural community, bringing grand opera to the Ellie Caulkins Opera House, its Denver home since its opening in 2005. Alongside standard repertoire in the grand opera tradition Opera Colorado presents new works or rarely performed productions each season. The company reaches more than 37,000 students and adults through its many education and community engagement programs throughout the Rocky Mountain region. Opera Colorado’s Young Artists, singers at the beginning stages of their careers, perform during their eight-month residency with the company in schools and community centers across the State – including an annual tour on the Western Slope. Recognized nationally for its excellence, the Young Artists program provides training for the next generation of American opera singers. The 2016-2017 Season productions at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House featured Puccini’s *La Fanciulla de West* in November 2016 and will feature Donizetti’s *Lucia di Lammermoor* in May 2017, and *As One* by Laura Kaminsky, Mark Campbell and Kimberly Reed, at the Performing Arts Complex at PCS in March 2017. www.operacolorado.org

Music Director Ari Pelto is sponsored by Mike and Julie Bock. Season sponsors for the 2016-2017 Season include Ellie Caulkins, the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), Colorado Creative industries, Marriott The Residence Inn, Kevin Taylor’s at the Opera House, Rassman Design.

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