

MIXEDPRECIPITATION

PRESS RELEASE / FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Scotty Reynolds 612.619.2112
mixedprecipitation@gmail.com

Opera in the urban eco-system!

Alcina's Island: A Picnic Operetta

WHAT: Alcina's Island: *A Picnic Operetta*

WHO: Director Scotty Reynolds in collaboration with music director Marya Hart, choreographer Nancy Nair, chef Nick Schneider and fourteen singers and musicians

WHEN: Opening Saturday August 20th at 4:00 pm at the Eat Street Community Garden, community garden tour continues on Saturdays and Sundays through October 1st. See calendar listing below for information about locations and performance times.

WHERE: Fifteen selected community gardens in Minneapolis, St. Paul, St. Louis Park, Burnsville, West St. Paul and Falcon Heights (a listing of dates follows). Rain or shine! Check our web-site for information about rain sites.

TICKETS and INFORMATION: Please call 612.619.2112 or visit mixedprecipitation.org for reservations. Seating is very limited, please call ahead for reservations. The performance requires some movement for the audience, voluntary donations collected at the end of the performance, no one turned away for lack of funds.

(Minneapolis, St. Paul, St. Louis Park, Burnsville, West St. Paul Falcon Heights MN) In a unique marriage of the theatrical arts and the sustainable foods movement, Mixed Precipitation presents Handel's 1735 masterpiece Alcina, in a unique adaptation touring to community garden spaces during the 2011 harvest season. In our third season, this celebration of music and food is becoming a neighborhood tradition.

Handel's 1735 opera is based on an episode from the swashbuckling epic poem *Orlando furioso* by Ludovico Ariosto—a tale of spells, rings of invisibility and magic lances. In our colorful re-imagining, the garden becomes a truck stop on the American highway and scheming sorceresses Alcina and Morgana become magical truck stop waitresses. Through the power of their dark magic, they lure brave truckers astray and transform them into the enchanted flora and fauna that populates their island paradise. We combine Handel's early baroque with trucker songs and classic country from the likes of Merle Haggard, Tammy Wynette and Buck Owens. This magical story is family friendly and full of adventure.

The magic of this island is all the more savory, with Chef Nick Schneider's five course sampling menu of locally sourced treats created especially for this performance Our story is told in Italian, Spanish, English and the universal language of food!

Mixed Precipitation enters its third year presenting work in the Twin Cities. Helmed by **Scotty Reynolds**, Mixed Precipitation is dedicated to exploring text, space and dramatic form with live

performance events that highlight possibilities for socialization. Our signature event is the annual PICNIC OPERETTA, *Orpheus and Eurydice* and *Tales of Hoffmann* played to capacity crowds throughout the metro area.

Collaborating chef Nick Schneider is a master gardener and has worked at Cafe Brenda and Spoon River specializing in Mediterranean inspired seasonal farm-to-table cuisine. The cast features **Laura Hynes Smith** in the role of Alcina. Laura is a recent Minnesota transplant from Paris. Following a concert performance at Alice Tully Hall, the New York Times stated, “*She cornered the market on fireworks and high notes*”. She will appear opposite **Jameson Jon Baxter** as Ruggiero the trucking hero. Expect thrilling renditions of emotional Handel classics “*A mio Cor*”, “*Si son quella*” and others. **Lauren Drasler** returns to the picnic operetta as Alcina's love lorn sister, Morgana. Lauren stole the show last year as Olympia, the wind powered automaton, in *Tales of Hoffmann*. Lauren will lend her comic and musical chops to “*Tornami a vegheggiar*” following her appearance with Skylark Opera in June.

This activity is made possible in part by a grant provided by the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council through an appropriation by the Minnesota State Legislature from the Minnesota arts and cultural heritage fund with money from the vote of the people of Minnesota on November 4th, 2008.

Mixed Precipitation presents

Alcina's Island: A Picnic Operetta

August 20th – October 1st

Voluntary Donations Appreciated \$10 - \$20

All performances at 4pm unless noted

Rain sites are selected in the neighborhood of each site

Call or check our web-site for more information.

Performance Calendar

SATURDAY August 20th OPENING!

Eat Street Community Garden, 2416 1st Avenue South, Whittier, Minneapolis

SUNDAY August 21st

Eat Street Community Garden, 2416 1st Avenue South, Whittier, Minneapolis

ASL Interpreted Performance

SATURDAY August 27th:

Eleanor Graham Community Garden, 1335 Ashland Avenue, Union Park East, St. Paul

SUNDAY August 28th:

JD Rivers Children's Garden

Glenwood and Washburn Avenue North, Theodore Wirth Park, Minneapolis

SATURDAY Sept. 3rd:

The Women's Environmental Institute at Amador Hill, 15715 River Road, North Branch

SUNDAY Sept. 4th:

Greater Community Development Corporation Community Garden

1533 North Dale Street, Frogtown, St. Paul

FRIDAY Sept. 9th
7:00pm at Dodge Nature Center, 365 Marie Avenue West, West St. Paul

SATURDAY Sept. 10th
Skidmore Community Garden, 1085 4th Street East, East St. Paul

SUNDAY Sept 11th
Jardin Parasio / Paradise Community Garden
3405 Chicago Avenue, Powderhorn Park, Minneapolis
ASL Interpreted Performance

FRIDAY Sept 16th
NOON for PARKING DAY in the Warehouse District on North 1st Street and 3rd Avenue North

SATURDAY Sept 17th
Swede Hollow Park, East Beaumont Street and Payne Avenue, East St. Paul

SUNDAY Sept 18th
IOC Community Garden, 1512 Woodhill Road, Burnsville

SATURDAY Sept 24th
Bronx Park Community Garden
2500 Georgia Avenue and Cedar Lake Bike Trail, St. Louis Park
Audio Described Performance

SUNDAY Sept 25th
CornerCopia Student Organic Farm
West Dudley Avenue and Lindig Street, U of M St. Paul Campus

SATURDAY October 1st
Nicollet Island Farm, Nicollet Street and Maple Place, Minneapolis)

ASL Interpreters—Jenn Welna and Rachel Grise
Audio Describer—Rick Jacobson

Tickets: 612.619.2112
Donation appreciated, but no one will be turned away for lack of funds.
www.mixedprecipitation.com

A note on access: We are prepared to provide reasonable accommodation to patrons with physical disabilities and those who require access services. Our performance is designed for an outdoor garden venue, with some movement required of the audience. A sighted guide is suggested for visually impaired patrons. Patrons are encouraged to call ahead to inquire about parking suggestions and access to each unique venue.

PHOTO CREDITS—Clare Gardner, featuring Jameson Jon Baxter as Ruggiero and Laura Hynes Smith as Alcina, with Sun Ra, the rooster.