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Lyric Opera Produces Special Program to Address Bullying Among Teen Girls

Area Students Bring Opera to Life

KANSAS CITY, MO. (March 30, 2010) – Female bullying, a silent threat that is often unaddressed by parents and teachers, will be the focus of a special youth opera produced by the Lyric Opera Education Department. *One False Move* will be performed by area middle school and high school singers from the Lyric Opera vocal and dramatic training program, “Opera Heroines.”

One False Move, by composer Susan Kander was inspired by *The New York Times* best-selling book *Odd Girl Out* by Rachel Simmons. The opera will focus on the issue of female bullying - which Simmons's book describes as the hidden culture of girls' aggression.

“When I read *Odd Girl Out*, I knew the topic would be perfect for our Opera Heroines program, which gives adolescent girls a chance to examine life choices through opera study,” said Paula Winans, director of education for Lyric Opera of Kansas City. “I immediately contacted the author and not only was she excited about the idea, she agreed to come to Kansas City to facilitate a two-day workshop with the original cast of *One False Move* in 2002. Because of the response that the book, has generated from readers across the nation, we are particularly enthusiastic about producing a public dialogue on this subject through such an exciting program.”

The Company’s national award-winning Opera Heroines program consists of educational workshops which provide a platform for discussing and musically acting out difficult situations. The program also covers production, costume design and makeup, and offers young teenage girls the opportunity to attend Lyric Opera rehearsals and performances.

One False Move is an examination of the fictional lives of Amy and Bonnie, two girls who have been best friends since fourth grade and are now in high school. When a new girl, Joanne, moves into town she and Amy spread untrue, malicious gossip about Bonnie.



Unlike most Lyric family operas this one has a heartbreaking ending when Bonnie becomes the odd girl out.

One False Move will be performed Wednesday, March 31, at 6:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. at Kansas City Academy and Monday April 12 at 7:00 p.m. and Tuesday, April 13 at 7:00 p.m. at Notre Dame de Sion Upper School. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the door or by calling the Lyric Opera Ticket office at 816-471-7344. Seating is limited.

Cast:

Principals:

Amy: Annie Yungmeyer
Bonnie: Sarah Hennessey
Joanne: Hillary Laaker
Mary Ann: Elizabeth Ernst
Teacher: Alexandra Tiller
Mother: Kristen Alley

Chorus:

Julia Ade Brand, Sydney Benton, Olivia Derman, Ruby Dibble, Aleshia Hammons, Brianna Hammons, Mallory Harrington, Anna Kain, Emma King, Elizabeth Lacy, Sara Laughlin, Sophia Mauro, Maria Milazzo, Sicily Mathenia, Cecelia Peak, Kristina Pearl, Christine Rosa, Katrina Trost, Lili Tucker, Nicole Vescovi, Madaline Walter-McCrary, Sarah Whittaker, Emma WitbolsFeugen

The Lyric Opera Education Department offers a variety of programs for elementary, middle and high school students to encourage opera knowledge and appreciation. For more information about the education programs or about the Lyric Opera of Kansas City, visit www.kcopera.org.

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