

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 11, 2012

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FIONA REID TO REPLACE MARY WALSH
IN MANITOBA OPERA'S COMEDY,
THE DAUGHTER OF THE REGIMENT
APRIL 21, 24, 27

Manitoba Opera announced today that one of Canada's most respected and talented actresses, Fiona Reid, will replace Mary Walsh as the Duchess of Krackenthorp in the upcoming production of *The Daughter of the Regiment*, April 21, 24 and 27, at the Centennial Concert Hall.

Ill health has prohibited Ms. Walsh from joining the cast in the cameo speaking role as the outspoken Duchess.

"We are very sorry that Mary will not have her operatic debut with Manitoba Opera and wish her a speedy recovery," said Larry Desrochers, General Director and CEO. "And we are very pleased that Fiona Reid was available to step in on short notice. The cast, and all of us at the company, are looking forward to working with her."

Ms. Reid's most recent Winnipeg appearance was in the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre's production of *Calendar Girls* last season. Over the years, she has graced the stages of theatres across the country including the Shaw and Stratford Festivals, appeared in numerous TV shows and movies including the hit TV show, *King of Kensington* for three seasons, and even spent a season with Second City. Fiona Reid is a Dora Mavor Moore Award winner and a recipient of the Order of Canada.

Spectacular singing, toe-tapping melodies, and sheer fun are the order of the day in Manitoba Opera's final production of the 2011/12 season, *The Daughter of the Regiment*, which tells the story of a feisty orphaned girl raised by soldiers.

The all-Canadian cast will also feature former Winnipegger, coloratura soprano, **Nikki Einfeld** in the lead role of Marie, the orphan. Ms. Einfeld sang the role of Rosina in the 2009 production of *The Barber of Seville* to great acclaim and garners rave reviews for her performances all over North America.

2. Fiona Reid to appear in *The Daughter of the Regiment*

Joining Ms. Einfeld is the Juno Award-winning tenor, **John Tessier** in the role of Tonio. Mr. Tessier has recently performed at Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, Wiener Staatsoper, and Carnegie Hall and appeared previously with the company in productions of *The Barber of Seville* and *Così fan tutte*.

The fatherly sergent, Sulpice will be sung by **Theodore Baerg**, who last appeared with Manitoba Opera as Germont Sr, in *La Traviata* (2008). The versatile mezzo-soprano **Rebecca Hass** will sing the Marquise of Berkenfeld.

Ann Hodges will direct this high-energy comedy which will also feature the **Manitoba Opera Chorus** and the **Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra** conducted by **Tadeusz Biernacki**.

Last presented by Manitoba Opera in 1991, *The Daughter of the Regiment (La Fille du Régiment)* was composed by Gaetano Donizetti, with the libretto by J.H. Vernoy de Saint-Georges and J.F. Bayard.

It will be sung in French with English dialogue and projected English translations.

TICKETS: Manitoba Opera Box Office (9:30 am – 4:30 pm, Mon to Fri.)

- Phone: 944-8824
- Online: tickets.manitobaopera.mb.ca
- In Person: Lower level, Centennial Concert Hall

Prices from \$42 to \$130 (includes GST and the Centennial Concert Hall \$1.50 surcharge). Senior and student discounts available. Children are 50% off the adult prices.

Special 2 for 1 Ticket Offer: Valid for the April 24 and 27 shows. Sections B and C only. Applies to adult, student, and senior prices. Online coupon code: Marie

FOR MORE PRODUCTION INFO, GO TO WWW.MANITOBAOPERA.MB.CA

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