



For Immediate Release
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**MANITOBA OPERA PRESENTS "A CLOSE SHAVE"
THE BARBER OF SEVILLE AL SIMMONS STYLE**

Roll over Rossini. Everyone's favourite children's performer, Al Simmons, has translated and condensed your opera to a 45-minute comical look at love, greed, deceit, and close shaves.

Presented by Manitoba Opera, "A Close Shave" has been created expressly for in-school presentations and coincides with the Manitoba Opera production of the all-time comedy classic, *The Barber of Seville*, November 21, 24, and 27 at the Centennial Concert Hall.

"Who better than Al Simmons to introduce kids to the wonderful comedy of Rossini's madcap opera? He's the master of the one-man show and, of course, kids love him," commented Larry Desrochers, General Director & CEO.

In "A Close Shave," Al Simmons gives us the bald facts. It appears that Rosina is in love with the Count who is pretending to be someone else and Figaro, the jack-of-all-trades town barber, is having a bad hair day. Al heightens the hilarity of *The Barber of Seville* as he plays ALL the characters. Now that is a jack-of-all-trades!

"A Close Shave" is suitable for grades K to 6. Bookings are now being taken for two shows daily from October 7 to 30, 2009. To book call Sally Sweatman 942-7470 (Monday to Wednesday 9 am to 4 pm); email ssweatman@manitobaopera.mb.ca; or go to www.manitobaopera.mb.ca and click student night/school programs. The cost is \$400 + GST per performance.

Al Simmons:

The popular Manitoba-based performer has been in the entertainment business for almost 40 years and is likely Canada's most versatile comedian, instantly morphing from Scotsman to Eye Doctor and Parisian bon vivant to Rock Star. His creative genius, charm and humanity have won over a legion of fans at theatres and festivals around the world. His highly original performances of profound wackiness and array of off-the-wall inventions takes the arts of music and comedy to unparalleled heights of hilarity.

**FUNDING PARTNER: CANADA COUNCIL
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