

SHAKESPEARE OFFERS OPERA SUBSCRIBERS FREE TICKETS

Three-Ticket Pass Offered by Orlando Shakespeare Theater for Each Paid 2009-2010 Orlando Opera Subscription

The Orlando Shakespeare Theater in Partnership with UCF is making a very special offer to Orlando Opera season subscribers. For those subscribers who have already purchased subscriptions to the Orlando Opera's cancelled 2009-2010 season, Orlando Shakespeare will provide three free tickets for each subscription.

"We want to recognize and reward the Opera subscribers as patrons of the arts," says Orlando Shakespeare Theater Artistic Director, Jim Helsinger. "No one wants to see an arts group fail, but if they do, we don't want patrons to be discouraged about participation in the arts. Orlando Shakes has cash reserves, no debt, and will produce a full, in fact, expanded season next year. There are other groups that are financially stable as well. We hope this will encourage Orlando Opera subscribers to remain active patrons of the Central Florida Arts community."

Since the Opera had three shows in their season, Orlando Shakespeare is offering free tickets to three productions during the Shakespeare season for each purchased Orlando Opera subscription. For those who subscribe both to the Opera and Orlando Shakespeare Theater, the same deal will apply. Dual subscribers will receive three additional tickets to bring friends and family to OST productions which include the musical *The Big Bang*; the new thriller from last year's PlayFest! The Harriett Lake Festival of New Plays, *Yankee Tavern*; back by popular demand, *Every Christmas Story Ever Told*; two of Shakespeare's plays performed in rotating repertory, *Hamlet* and *All's Well That Ends Well* and a second new play from PlayFest, *Shotgun*.

To receive this special offer, 2009-2010 Opera season subscribers should call the Orlando Shakespeare Theater box office at 407.447.1700 and explain that they are opera subscribers. The box office will exchange 09-10 Opera reservation tickets for any three shows in the Orlando Shakes season. Opera subscribers can either choose their plays and reserve tickets at the time of the initial call, or they may call on a show-by-show basis and reserve tickets individually.

Donna Law, Managing Director, concludes, "Orlando Shakespeare is thrilled to be working alongside United Arts and many other individual arts groups to ensure Orlando Opera's dedicated subscribers are being remembered in these difficult times and to work toward the survival and growth of the art form of opera in the future."

Orlando Shakespeare will be participating in other special discounts offered by United Arts, in addition to Orlando Shakespeare's own three free-tickets per opera subscriber deal.

Press Inquires may be directed to:

Patrick Flick

407-447-1700 ext. 212

patrickf@orlandoshakes.org