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For Immediate Release

Alberta Ballet and Calgary Opera in historical collaboration

Calgary, AB... Rehearsals are well under way for *Aida*, by composer **Giuseppe Verdi**, opening on **April 9**, with two additional performances on **April 13 & 15** at the **Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium**.

Today, Stage Director **Brian Deedrick** viewed the dance performance for *Aida*, choreographed by Alberta Ballet's **Edmund Stripe**. This is the first time in Calgary Opera and Alberta Ballet's history that such a collaboration featuring Alberta Ballet principal dancers has occurred.

"What makes opera the pinnacle art form is that it embraces and celebrates each and every art form, and brings them together for the event that is opera. Along with orchestral music, the voice, theatre, visual art and spectacle, dance has always been an integral component of grand opera. And what could be grander than *Aida*!" says Stage Director **Brian Deedrick**. "The coming together of Calgary Opera and Alberta Ballet is a wonderful collaboration for two of Calgary's flagship arts organizations."

The dancers performing in *Aida* are **Mark Biocca, Nicole Caron, Patrick Doe, Davidson Jaconello, Galien Johnston, Kelley McKinlay, Anthony Pina, Blair Puente, Peter Starr** and **Tara Williamson**.

The role of *Aida* is performed by **Michele Capalbo**, who last performed the title role in *Tosca* (2008) with Calgary Opera. Starring alongside her is **William Joyner** as Radames, **Stacey Rishoi** as Amneris, **Alain Coulombe** as Ramfis, **Gaétan Laperrière** as Amonasro and **David Bedard** as the King of Egypt. Also performing are Emerging Artists: Soprano **Erin Armstrong** as Priestess and Tenor **Martin Sadd** as Messenger.

Tickets are available by calling Calgary Opera at 403-262-7286 or visiting www.calgaryopera.com. *Aida* is generously sponsored by **Calgary Herald** and Production Sponsor **Nexen**.

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