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“WHO WILL ACKNOWLEDGE THINGS OF DARKNESS AS THEIR OWN?”

AMERICAN OPERA PROJECTS ANNOUNCES THE WORLD PREMIERE OF “DARKLING”

NEW YORK, NY, January 4, 2006— On Tuesday, February 28, 2006 **AMERICAN OPERA PROJECTS** will present the world premiere of **DARKLING**, a multimedia theater piece conceived and directed by **Michael Comlish**. Interweaving a landscape of spoken word, song, original music, live actors, and projected films and images, **DARKLING** brings to the stage award-winning New York poet **Anna Rabinowitz’s** nationally acclaimed book of the same name. The production features music by rising young talent **Stefan Weisman** and performed by singers accompanied by members of **The FLUX Quartet**, and the new art song, “The Darkling Thrush,” by renowned composer **Lee Hoiby**.

American Opera Projects developed **DARKLING** into a music theater work that gives voice to those who failed to survive—lovers separated by sudden catastrophe, the displaced seeking refuge, disembodied human voices responding to the terrors of disjunction and imminent death. It is a riveting theater experience that focuses on the emotional components of cataclysm, devastation and annihilation.

The book-length poem **DARKLING** has been hailed as “a daring masterpiece,” a work that makes “a unique contribution to Holocaust literature,” and one of the “ineradicable Twin Towers of Holocaust poetry in English.” Sold out audiences reacted with similar praise when excerpts from AOP’s theatrical adaptation were presented by The Guggenheim Museum as part of the *Works & Process at the Guggenheim* series on November 13 and 14, 2005.

With **DARKLING**, American Opera Projects continues its exploration and remembrance of the horrors of World War II and the Holocaust. American Opera Projects has returned to the subject frequently because, AOP Executive Director **Charles Jarden** states, “**the Holocaust remains a story that wants to be told.** Over the last several years we have received more submissions concerning this theme than in any other category. I think that world disasters, natural ones such Hurricane Katrina and the Tsunami, and especially man-made ones, like the war in Iraq and 9/11, resonate to such a degree with creative artists that they are led back to collective memories, like the Holocaust, and to lessons about humanity and compassion that we learned, or did not learn.”

*American Opera Projects’ **DARKLING** opens February 28, 2006 at the East 13th Street Theater in NYC and runs through March 18, Tuesdays & Thursdays-Saturdays at 8pm. Panel discussions with the creators will follow the Feb. 26, March 4 & March 7 performances.*

To purchase tickets to **DARKLING** at the East 13th Street Theater (136 E. 13th St. in NYC), call Ticket Central M-F 12-6PM, Tel: 212-279-4200. Tickets are \$45.

Founded in 1988, **American Opera Projects (AOP)** has gained international recognition as an arts organization devoted to creating, developing, and presenting new American opera and experimental music theatre. AOP is led by Charles Jarden, Executive Director, and Steven Osgood, Artistic Director.

Press material is available at: www.operaprojects.org

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DARKLING: A POEM by Anna Rabinowitz (© Tupelo Press, 2001). www.tupelopress.org