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## **Opera Atelier's 2017-2018 Season continues with Monteverdi's *The Return of Ulysses***

- Starring tenor **Krešimir Špicer**, the world's greatest interpreter of the title role -

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (March 12, 2018): Toronto, ON – Opera Atelier's 2017-2018 season continues in April with Monteverdi's ***The Return of Ulysses***, based on the Greek myth immortalized by Homer in *The Odyssey*. Monteverdi's deeply moving opera centres on Ulysses' return to his homeland and his reunion with his heroic wife Penelope and his son Telemachus after a twenty-year absence fighting in the Trojan War. This production abounds with gods, goddesses, flying machines and magical transformations, and celebrates the 450<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Monteverdi's birth. Sung in Italian with English surtitles, ***The Return of Ulysses*** runs at the Elgin Theatre (189 Yonge Street) **Apr. 19 - 28, 2018**.

Opera Atelier is thrilled to present dramatic tenor **Krešimir Špicer** in the title role. Špicer is internationally recognized as the world's greatest interpreter of this role. His definitive performances have received superlative reviews in major theatres and festivals throughout Europe and the US, including BAM (New York), the Barbican (London), the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées (Paris) and the Berlin State Opera. At Aix-en-Provence, his performance with William Christie and Les Arts Florissants created a sensation and was recorded for DVD by Virgin Classics.

Špicer is joined in this production by **Mireille Lebel** (Penelope), **Carla Huhtanen** (Fortuna/Melanto), **Christopher Enns** (Telemaco), **Isaiah Bell** (Eurimaco), **Aaron Sheehan** (Eumete), **Douglas Williams** (Suitor/Time), **Kevin Skelton** (Suitor/Jupiter), **Michael Taylor** (Suitor), **Laura Pudwell** (Nurse), **Stephen Hegedus** (Neptune), and **Meghan Lindsay** (Minerva/Cupid).

*The Return of Ulysses* will be directed by **Marshall Pynkoski** and choreographed by **Jeannette Lajeunesse Zingg**, with set design by **Gerard Gauci** and lighting design by **Michelle Ramsay**. It will feature the full corps of **Artists of Atelier Ballet**, and **Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra** under the baton of **David Fallis**.

*The Return of Ulysses* runs April 19 (media night), 21, 22 (3:00pm), 24, 27, 28 (4:30pm). Time is 7:30pm except as noted. Performances take place at the **Elgin Theatre** (189 Yonge Street) in Toronto. For more information visit Opera Atelier's website: [www.operaatelier.com](http://www.operaatelier.com).

Tickets for *The Return of Ulysses* start at \$39 and can be purchased through Ticketmaster at **1-855-622-ARTS(2787)** or [www.ticketmaster.ca](http://www.ticketmaster.ca), or at the Elgin Theatre Box Office (189 Yonge Street). Group discounts (10+ people) are available by calling 416-703-3767 x222. **\$15 Operatix tickets** may be purchased by patrons aged 15-30 in person at the Elgin Theatre Box Office or online with the code OPERATIX. (Subject to availability. Valid I.D. required at pick-up.) Opera Atelier will host a special Operatix Evening on Friday Apr. 27, featuring a post-performance party with Opera Atelier artists for ticket-holders age 30 and under. The Operatix program is proudly sponsored by **TD**.

**2017-2018 Major Sponsors**

Season Presenting Sponsor: BMO Financial Group

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Opera Atelier gratefully acknowledges the ongoing support of The Canada Council for the Arts, the Ontario Arts Council, and the City of Toronto through the Toronto Arts Council.

*Opera Atelier is North America's premier period opera/ballet company, producing the opera, ballet and drama of the 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. While drawing upon the aesthetics and ideals of the period, Opera Atelier goes beyond "reconstruction" and infuses each production with an inventive theatricality that resonates with modern audiences. Led by founding artistic directors Marshall Pynkoski and Jeannette Lajeunesse Zingg since 1985, Opera Atelier has garnered acclaim for its performances at home as well as in the United States, Europe and Asia. Opera Atelier is committed to the development of young Canadian artists and offers innovative education programs for youth, as well as \$15 tickets for ages 15 to 30.*

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