For Immediate Release

OPERA PARALLÈLE CELEBRATES 16TH ANNIVERSARY WITH BOLD 2025–26 SEASON OF CONTEMPORARY OPERA PHILIP GLASS/JEAN COCTEAU'S *LA BELLE ET LA BÊTE,* DOUGLAS CUOMO/JOHN PATRICK SHANLEY'S *DOUBT* PLUS, *HELLO, STAR* – HANDS-ON-OPERA DEBUT

www.operaparallele.org

Hadleigh Adams as La Bête

Matthew Worth, Rhoslyn Jones in *Doubt*

San Francisco, Calif. (May 29, 2025) — **Opera Parallèle** today announced the repertory for the company's 16th anniversary season, presenting three contemporary operas in bold productions that exemplify the company's commitment to innovative storytelling and community engagement. The 2025–26 season features the world premiere of *Hello, Star*, by composer **Carla Lucero** and librettist **Jarrod Lee**, the company's commissioned opera for its Hands-On Opera community engagement program; an encore presentation of the bold multimedia staging of **Philip Glass** and **Jean Cocteau's** *La Belle et la Bête*; and the Bay Area debut of **Douglas Cuomo's** gripping opera, *Doubt*, based on playwright **John Patrick Shanley's** Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning work.

HELLO, STAR – WORLD PREMIERE OCTOBER 25 & 26, 2025

Opera Parallèle launches its season with the world premiere of *Hello, Star*, a family-friendly opera that celebrates curiosity and the contributions of Black women to science. Composed by **Carla Lucero** with a libretto by **Jarrod Lee**, the opera is based on the book by **Stephanie V.W.**

Lucianovic. Commissioned by Opera Parallele, this work is approximately 50 minutes in duration and produced as part of the company's "Hands-On Opera" community engagement program. *Hello, Star* will be presented in collaboration with the **University of San Francisco Chorus** and will be created during Opera Parallèle's residency with the non-profit organization, **836M** in North Beach.

Three performances are scheduled for Saturday, October 25, 2025, at 2 p.m. & 4 p.m., and Sunday, October 26 at 2 p.m, at the Creativity Theater, Children's Creativity Museum at Yerba Buena Gardens, 221 4th Street, San Francisco. Opera Parallèle Artistic Director **Nicole Paiement** will conduct and renowned director and actor, **L. Peter Callender,** will stage the new work. The full creative team and cast will be announced in early September.

Tickets for *Hello, Star* are $10—$50 and go on sale July 1 at www.operaparallele.org

LA BELLE ET LA BÊTE – MARCH 13 & 14, 2026

Continuing its exploration of **Philip Glass's** operatic adaptations of **Jean Cocteau's** films, Opera Parallèle presents a revival of *La Belle et la Bête* (*Beauty and the Beast*), a surrealist fairy tale brought to life through a fusion of live performance and cinematic projection. This dazzling multimedia production, previously lauded for its innovative integration of live action and film, features critically acclaimed New Zealand baritone **Hadleigh Adams** as La Bête/Avenant, a role he successfully originated for the company in 2022. Conductor **Nicole Paiement** and director **Brian Staufenbiel** will lead the creative team in this immersive experience, hailed by the *San Francisco Chronicle* as "… a multi-veined phantasmagoria of sights and sounds, drama, pathos and humor." The full cast will be announced in September.

For this innovative combination of opera and cinema, Glass stripped Cocteau's original 1946 soundtrack to integrate his own music, to be performed live with the film. The new score incorporates the original spoken dialogue, now sung to match the on-screen action. By transforming the characters of both La Bête and La Belle from childlike figures to complex adult characters living in a surrealistic dream world, Cocteau transforms the tale into a dreamlike vision of death and desire, while exploring themes that continue to resonate today—identity, compassion and inner beauty.

Glass' initial concept was for the opera to be performed by four singers taking on multiple characters along with a small instrumental ensemble while the film is projected in the background. With the exclusive permission of Philip Glass, the Philip Glass Ensemble and the Cocteau Estate, Opera Parallèle was allowed to develop a new hybrid approach for this production. This interpretation blurs the boundaries of film and opera even further to create a new music theater experience—honoring two of the great artistic minds of modern times, Cocteau and Glass.

Presented in collaboration with **Cal Performances**, *La Belle et la Bête* is scheduled for Friday, March 13, 2026, at 8 p.m. and Saturday, March 14, at 8 p.m., at Zellerbach Hall on the campus of UC Berkeley. Sung in French with English subtitles, the opera will be presented without

intermission for 90 minutes. Tickets start at $55 and go on sale August 1 at www.calperformances.org

DOUBT – BAY AREA PREMIERE MAY 29, 30, 31, 2026

Concluding the season, Opera Parallèle presents the Bay Area premiere o*f Doubt*, an opera with a gripping narrative that delves into themes of faith, morality, and uncertainty within a Catholic school. The opera is by prolific multi-genre composer **Douglas Cuomo** with a libretto by **John Patrick Shanley**, adapted from his Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning play; *Doubt* was later made into an Oscar-nominated 2008 film, starring **Meryl Streep**, **Philip Seymour Hoffman** and **Viola Davis**.

The production will feature baritone **Matthew Worth** as Father Flynn, a role he originated for the Minnesota Opera premiere in 2013, and in her company debut, mezzo-soprano **Roslyn Jones** as Sister Aloysius. Company Artistic Director **Nicole Paiement** will conduct and debut a new chamber-size orchestration. The creative team will be led by **Brian Staufenbiel** for this new production. The remaining cast and creative team will be announced later this year.

Doubt unfolds in 1964 at a Bronx Catholic school, where suspicion sparks a tense confrontation of beliefs and authority. Father Flynn, a charismatic and forward-thinking priest, attempts to modernize the rigid traditions of St. Nicholas Church School. These traditions are fiercely upheld by the stern and uncompromising principal, Sister Aloysius Beauvier. When the innocent and idealistic Sister James voices her concern that Father Flynn may be abusing the school's only African-American student, Sister Aloysius launches a determined quest to uncover the truth.

Presented in collaboration with the **Presidio Theatre**, three performances are scheduled: Friday, May 29, 2026, at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, May 30, at 7:30 p.m; and Sunday, May 31, at 2 p.m., at the Presidio Theatre, 99 Moraga Avenue, San Francisco. *Doubt* will be presented without intermission for 100 minutes. Individual tickets start at $66 and are available online at www.presidiotheatre.org.

Coming up next for Opera Parallèle: the West Coast debut of *Harvey Milk Reimagined*, for four performances May 31—June 7, at the Blue Shield of California Theater, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 700 Howard Street, San Francisco. Composed by **Stewart Wallace** with a libretto by **Michael Korie**, the opera features **Michael Kelly** in the title role with **Nicole Paiement** on the podium and a new production created by director **Brian Staufenbiel**.

On Thursday, August 7, Opera Parallèle , in collaboration with the San Francisco Transgender District, will present internationally acclaimed transgender baritone **Lucia Lucas** in the 4th iteration of *Expansive*, a showcase of transgender and non-binary classical artists. The one-night-only showcase will be at the A.C.T. Toni Rembe Theater, 415 Geary Street, San Francisco.

For more information please visit: www.operaparallele.org.

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Connect for feature interviews, artwork and press credentials
2025-26 Season calendar is attached

PLEASE NOTE
Hadleigh Adams as La Bête, foto credit Cory Weaver
Matthew Worth and Rhoslyn Jones in *Doubt*, foto credit Better Rugged Photography