

# SAN JOSE NEIGHBORHOODS

Autos | Real Estate | Jobs

News ▾ Sports ▾ Business ▾ Entertainment ▾ Lifestyle ▾ Opinion ▾ My Town ▾ Tech ▾ Marketplace ▾ Tools ▾



Valley leaders call for higher minimum wage

 **OVER 500 FRESH DEALS WEEKLY**    [SHOP NOW](#)

Home →  
San Jose Neighborhoods  
Story

## Puccini's 'Tosca' presented by Opera San José at California Theatre

By *Leeta-Rose Ballester* | lballester@community-newspapers.com

POSTED: 09/02/2015 06:05:14 PM PDT

UPDATED: A DAY AGO

0 COMMENTS

Opera San José raises the curtain for Puccini's "Tosca" as its opening show for the season. Spoiler alert: Everyone dies in this intense 115-year-old melodrama, known to be one of opera's bloodiest.

What changes to a classic, impassioned opera should a director make? Not many, says director Brad Dalton, but he has worked in a few surprises for the production running Sept. 12-29.

"I don't have anything radical I'm doing; it's not on a moon station or anything," he said, but added that the leading lady may have an extra level of complexity compared to other versions of the tale. "You can reinvent [the classics] in a certain way but I feel like they are realistic dramas. That's how Puccini envisioned it."

The audience will still be thrust into the year 1800, when Napoleon threatened to rip control of Rome from the Kingdom of Naples.

Corrupt and demented police chief Scarpia (baritone, company resident Matthew Hanscom) will stop at nothing to prevent the French invasion, including torturing and killing those he believes are not aligned with his political vision.

Caught in the line of fire is painter Mario Cavaradossi (tenor, resident artist Kirk Dougherty), who is deemed a traitor by Scarpia for hiding away a political activist.

Also in the chief's line of sight is the painter's lover and title role Floria Tosca, a beloved



**2.99%** APR\* (FIXED)

**HOME EQUITY LINE OF CREDIT FOR 12 MONTHS**

**3.75% indexed APR (as of 4/1/15) thereafter**



[\\*Learn More](#)

\*Click for disclosure and details.

### MOST POPULAR

[POPULAR](#) [HOUR](#) [NEWS](#) [SPORTS](#) [BIZ](#) [A&E](#) [LIFE](#)

Thompson: Imagining a winning 49ers season ... don't laugh

San Jose jail death: 3 officers arrested on suspicion of murder, Santa Clara County sheriff's office says

Quinn: Netflix, trying to be hero, can't win here

Exclusive: Latest Oakland Raiders stadium plan violates team's 'terms and conditions' for deal

Fall TV 2015: Premiere dates, times for every show

[See the full most-popular-of-the-day list](#)

singing star with a jealous streak.

Advertisement

Scarpia's lust for Tosca leads to bloodshed when he convinces her to give herself to him by promising to spare her lover's life. Tosca agrees and Cavaradossi's execution is to be faked, so long as the starlet will let Scarpia have his way with her.

In the heat of the moment, Tosca kills the chief of police only to find that the man hadn't kept his word and her boyfriend is dead.

The triangle of deceit ends in tragedy all around just as always, but Opera San Jose audiences may pick up on a slightly different interpretation of Tosca herself.

"A lot of people think of a woman who is jealous and could kill you, but she is driven to that point," Dalton says. "She doesn't come on stage as a killer. She doesn't breathe a word of politics, yet she's the only one who can get rid of [Scarpia]."

"He's so psychopathic that he loves when women hate him. The more she hates him, the more he's turned on and the more he creates a killer."

The role is to be performed in four shows by Olga Chernisheva in her company debut and by returning soprano Elizabeth Baldwin for the final two performances.

Chernisheva, who has starred in the role with other companies, said she feels Tosca isn't so much a spoiled diva but a "vulnerable but powerful creature."

"She is played," the singer said. "She doesn't believe that people could be that bad. She just couldn't even guess the real thoughts and motives [of Scarpia]."

It's in the second act of the opera--when the character murders her stalker--that those familiar with other portrayals of Tosca might have their eyes opened by some tweaks that give a glimpse into her fragility.

"Rather than walking out confidently after the kill, there's a surprise," Dalton said.

The music, conducted by Joseph Marcheso, won't be modified, but the director said that each production of Tosca is unique simply because of the imprint of all involved with putting the show together.

"This is what he wrote and I have to trust it," he said. "It's so juicy and beautiful."

Tosca will be performed at the California Theatre, 345 S. First St.

Tickets are on sale at the Opera San José Box Office, online at [operasj.org](http://operasj.org) and by phone at 408.437.4450 for \$50 to \$151.

**FROM AROUND THE WEB**  
selected for you by a sponsor



This woman's bikini waterslide video just went viral on...

*Viraltopia*



1 Stupid Reason Behind All Sluggish Computers

*Speed Fix Tool*



29 Clever License Plates That Slipped Past The DMV

*Odometer*



You Have To See These Hilarious Wedding Photos

*Inside Grind*

Recommended by 

### MORE FROM THE WEB

Drone photographs incredible hobbit home on the... *From the Grapevine*

33 Actors Who Tragically Died Young *Your Daily Dish*

How one California start-up is changing dinnertime *Din*

Avoid These Foods That Trigger Migraines *Excedrin*

Ex-Microsoft Exec Looks to Turn Wall Street on its Head *Yahoo! Finance*

Unboxing the Worst Burger in America from a Fast-Food... *Eat This, Not That*

### YOU MIGHT ALSO LIKE

San Jose: Third suspect arrested in Lundy Avenue...

Fabian Nuñez: On climate change, California matters

Burlingame woman caught on video slapping, jerking dog...

Stanford football: Ukropina puts best foot forward

Women removed from Napa Valley Wine Train mull legal...

San Jose: Suspect arrested in July 30 fatal stabbing

Recommended by 

- [Article commenting rules of the road](#)

Sorry, the browser you are using is not currently supported. Disqus actively supports the following browsers:

[Firefox](#)

[Chrome](#)

[Internet Explorer 10+](#)

[Safari](#)

comments powered by 

---

## San Jose Mercury News



---

[Copyright © 2015 Digital First Media](#) [Copyright](#) [Privacy Policy](#) [Site Map](#) [Digital First Media](#)