

# Opera and ballet fill Peace Center screen

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Opera and ballet fans should mark their calendars; The Peace Center for the second year is presenting its Opera and Ballet in Cinema series, featuring high-definition broadcasts from the world's great opera and ballet companies.

Ten operas and six ballets, featuring today's top opera and ballet stars, will be broadcast to the Peace Center's Gunter Theatre. Opera's reigning diva, Angela Gheorghiu, for instance, appears in at least three of the productions.

Most of the operas originate from London's Royal Opera House or Milan's Teatro alla Scala, while the ballets feature Moscow's Bolshoi or London's Royal Ballet companies.

The broadcasts of operas and ballets are a relatively new addition to the Upstate's performing arts scene. Only seven years ago, no local theater carried broadcasts of operas or ballets. This season, more than two dozen of these performances will be broadcast to two local theaters — the Peace Center and Greenville's Regal Hollywood 20.

Both venues offer separate broadcasts.

The Peace Center's series started only last year, but the Regal Hollywood 20 began carrying live Metropolitan Opera broadcasts six years ago. The Hollywood 20 is once again offering 11 live Met broadcasts this season, beginning in October.

The Peace Center broadcasts feature mostly very popular works from the core operatic repertoire ("Tosca," "La Boheme" and "Rigoletto") but also include an occasional rarity such as Jules Masse-



The rollicking ballet "Le Corsaire" will be presented by the Bolshoi Ballet on March 11. COURTESY PHOTO

net's "Cendrillon," based on Charles Perrault's "Cinderella" fairy tale.

Meanwhile, fans of Giacomo Puccini, one of opera's most popular composers, can catch three of his works in less than a month's time, on Feb. 19 ("Il Trittico"), March 4 ("Tosca") and March 18 ("La Boheme").

The Opera and Ballet in Cinema series is a Peace Center partnership with Emerging Pictures, which also brings the Downtown Films series of independent and international movies to the Gunter Theatre.

Following is a list of the performances in the Opera and Ballet in Cinema series through January. For a complete listing, see [greenvilleonline.com](http://greenvilleonline.com).

The operas are sung in the original languages with English subtitles. Tickets for performances range from \$20 to \$25.

**Sept. 25, 3 p.m.:** "Macbeth." Baritone Simon Keenlyside stars in Verdi's 1847 opera, based on Shakespeare's play of the same name. The opera is presented by the Royal Opera House from a live performance on June 13.

**Oct. 2, 7:30 p.m.:** "Faust." Gounod's opera, loosely based on Goethe's

tragic play, is presented by the Royal Opera House from a live performance on Sept. 28. The opera stars Angela Gheorghiu, Vittorio Grigolo, Rene Pape and Dmitri Hvorostovsky.

**Oct. 9, 11 a.m.:** "Esmeralda." The classic ballet, inspired by Victor Hugo's "Hunchback of Notre Dame," is being carried live from Moscow's Bolshoi Ballet.

**Nov. 20, 7:30 p.m.:** "The Sleeping Beauty." The performance of the ballet, with music by Tchaikovsky, marks the grand reopening of Moscow's Bolshoi Theatre.

**Dec. 18, 2 p.m.:** "La Donna del Lago." Rossini's opera stars Juan Diego Florez in a performance from Milan's Teatro alla Scala.

**Jan. 8, 2 p.m.:** "Don Giovanni." Mozart's opera stars Anna Netrebko in a Dec. 7 performance from La Scala.

**Jan. 15, 2 p.m.:** "Cendrillon." Jules Massenet's opera based on the "Cinderella" fairy tale stars Joyce DiDonato in a performance from the Royal Opera House.

For more information or for updates, call the Peace Center at 864-467-3000 or see the website [www.peacecenter.org](http://www.peacecenter.org).