



*For Immediate Release*

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**FIRST LOOK: Sally Wingert readies for her upcoming role as the legendary virtuoso Maria Callas in Terrence McNally’s scathingly humorous play with music *MASTER CLASS***

*“I have been reading books about Callas, watching interviews about Callas and listening to Callas and I’m getting bitten by the opera bug. She was a different animal.”*  
–Sally Wingert

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(Minneapolis/St. Paul) Theater Latté Da opens Season 17 with Terrence McNally’s funny and fascinating play with music *Master Class*—a fictionalized account of the glamorous and commanding Maria Callas coaching opera students at the Julliard School on the art of performance. *Star Tribune* 2013 Artist of the Year and Twin Cities favorite **Sally Wingert** takes on the iconic role of the quick-witted, sometimes caustic, vocal virtuoso Callas under the direction of Theater Latté Da Artistic Director **Peter Rothstein**. *Master Class* is in performance October 8 – November 2 at MacPhail Center for Music in the stunning Antonello Hall (501 S. 2nd St, Minneapolis, MN). Season subscriptions for Theater Latté Da are on sale now and can be purchased at [latteda.org/subscribe](http://latteda.org/subscribe) or by calling 612-339-3003. Single tickets for *Master Class* will be made available at a later date.

Wingert most recently appeared with Theater Latté Da in her turn as the practical, no-nonsense Fräulein Schneider in the critically acclaimed production of *Cabaret*. Rothstein

offers, “Sally Wingert and I have collaborated extensively over the past decade. She is one of my most cherished colleagues and friends. I look forward to tackling Maria Callas with her. Callas—as poignantly drawn by Terrence McNally—is a fascinating, funny, tragic and profound character.”

Wingert offers insight into her preparation for the role of Maria Callas:

**What excites you most about the upcoming production of *Master Class*?**

“*Master Class* has been on my radar for years. Peter Rothstein talked to me about it a couple of years ago. I read it and immediately got excited about the prospect (Of course! Working with Peter? Trying to capture La Divina?). But you know one of the most exciting aspects of this production is the combination of the play/venue. Maria Callas is giving master classes to vocal students and we'll be performing in that gorgeous space with the soaring window at MacPhail. It's intimate without being tiny. There isn't a bad seat and it's what that room was designed for—music!”

**What are you doing to prepare for your role?**

"So I'm not an opera person and I'm not proud to say that. I have never taken the time to really explore the music and live with it in a way that makes it familiar. There are a few arias that I recognize and enjoy. Some, like "The Flower Duet," I love. But here's the deal: I have been reading books about Callas, watching interviews about Callas and listening to Callas and I'm getting bitten by the opera bug. She was a different animal. She had a natural instrument but she worked harder than anyone, wanted to be a prima dona (first singer) above all else and what made her the international star she was is her acting! It was revolutionary in the opera world. AND she was troubled and burdened and had a very difficult love life. She is a perfect woman to try to embody—a mess of contradictions, ferocious, vain, insecure, all of it. What's not to like??!"

**Anything else?**

"Peter and I share one of the best working relationships I've ever had and we are dear friends to boot. I think he can direct anything—but a play with music about an opera singer? That is SO in his wheelhouse. *Master Class* is elegantly simple and there lies the challenge. There are no bells and whistles to distract an audience. We just have to be really good—really amazing would be better—mind blowing would be best. We'll shoot for that. A couple of hours spent with an accompanist, a couple of beautiful singers and Callas. I think it's going to be a gas."

*Master Class* by Terrence McNally  
Directed by: Peter Rothstein  
Musical Direction by: Andrew Bourgoin

Featuring: Sally Wingert

Performance Dates: October 8 – November 2

Venue: MacPhail Center for Music/ Antonello Hall (501 S. 2nd St, Minneapolis, MN)

*Master Class* is a fictionalized account of the series of classes the glamorous, caustic and commanding Maria Callas coaching opera students at the Julliard School on the art of performance. In these classes, Callas—the most influential vocal artist of the 20th century-- shares recollections about the glories and struggles of her own career and private life, including her scandalous affair with the formidable Aristotle Onassis. *Master Class* is a scathingly humorous piece about following your passion and the sacrifice of leading a life of art.

**MacPhail Center for Music** is a community resource for music education, events and community partnerships. A successful, independent nonprofit organization, MacPhail's flagship site is in Minneapolis, with access sites in Apple Valley, Chanhassen and White Bear Lake, plus 80 partnership locations. From its inception in 1907, MacPhail Center for Music has grown to become a passionate organization at the forefront of music education and appreciation for the arts, and a leader in music therapy, Suzuki Talent Education, Early Childhood Music and community partnership programs. [macphail.org](http://macphail.org)

**Theater Latté Da** is an award-winning Twin Cities musical theater company that combines music and story to illuminate the breadth and depth of the human experience. The company seeks to create new connections between story, music, artists and audience by exploring and expanding the art of musical theater. [latteda.org](http://latteda.org)

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