



### World Premier of *About Face – an opera experience*

December 5 performance explores Soprano Heidi Moss' experience with affliction

~ Free preview November 15 ~

**What:** [Festival Opera](#) presents the world premier of *About Face – an opera experience*, a two act thought provoking chamber opera that explores the issues faced by people with visible disabilities or afflictions. Inspiration for this pastiche came from Heidi Moss, a beautiful, award-winning soprano struck with Bell's Palsy in 2007, resulting in permanent, partial facial paralysis.



#### *About Face – an opera experience:*

- **Act One** — "Faces of Affliction" — explores the psychological effects of affliction, acceptance and compassion with a multimedia experience that blends classic opera and creative screen projections to take the audience on a visual journey through an emotional landscape. The production incorporates classic opera arias from *La Traviata* and *Rigoletto* with arias from a new work, *Mister Merrick*, based on the life of the so-called "Elephant Man."
- **Act Two** features a performance of the contemporary chamber opera *The Face on the Barroom Floor* by Henry Mollicone. The composer will conduct and play the role of the Piano Player. This imaginative story tells

two tales, separated by a century, of a femme fatale, and mysteriously links the characters of both tales with a surprising twist of fate.

**Featured performers:** Soprano [Heidi Moss](#), tenor Jorge Garza and baritone Eugene Brancoveanu. Stage director and projections designer for *About Face* is Keith Nealy. Composer of *Mr. Merrick* and music director of Act One is Kurt Erickson.

**When:** Free preview Monday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, 4 p.m. Two performances on Wednesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, at 4pm and 8 p.m.

**Where:** Performance: Margaret Leshner Theater, Leshner Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. Preview: Hosted by Rossmoor's Opera & Ballet in Rossmoor's Gateway Clubhouse Fireside Room, Club.

**Performance admission:** \$35 Premium, \$45 Elite, \$25 Students - Tickets: 925.943.SHOW

**For more information:** Please visit [www.festivalopera.org](http://www.festivalopera.org) or call Sara Nealy at 925-944-9610.

**About Festival Opera:** As the third-largest opera company in the Bay Area, Festival Opera showcases talented young artists and is committed to bringing professional opera productions at affordable prices to residents of Northern California.

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