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# LA Opera Debuts New Children's Program *Opera Tales*

Emmy Award-Winning Actress **Doris Roberts** to be Special  
Guest Reader at Inaugural Performance

Saturday April 8 at 11:00am

(LOS ANGELES, CA) April 2006 – **Doris Roberts** will join LA Opera to help launch its newest education outreach program called *Opera Tales* on Saturday, April 8 at 11:00am in the Founders Room of the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. For this special premiere, the Emmy-winning actress will retell stories from such Mozart operas as *Don Giovanni*; *The Marriage of Figaro*; and *The Magic Flute* in celebration of the composer's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday.

*Opera Tales* is a 45-minute touring program for children and families during which opera stories will be read by renowned celebrities and community leaders who are joined by costumed "Opera Pals," performing some of the key dynamic scenes in the story. An invited audience of 150 children and families are expected to arrive at 10:00 am, when the doors open for hands-on art and music activities. At 10:45, guests will proceed to the Founders Room on the second level where the children will sit on pillows on the carpeted floors, surrounded by chairs and sofas for the adults.

Under the leadership of General Director Plácido Domingo, *Opera Tales* represents the next great step in LA Opera's history of outreach to and partnership with the County of Los Angeles Public Library. Through its annual *Library Project*, the Company works with 20 Los Angeles County libraries, offering monthly speakers who give talks that include history, literature, philosophy and the fine arts within the context of opera. These presentations, offered by members of the Opera's Speaker's Bureau, include introduction to opera, elements of opera production (costuming, wigs, make-up, props, set design) and in-depth study of individual operas. Each library hosts Los Angeles Opera's Resident Artists in a culminating June concert. Libretti, CDs, and opera books are also offered on loan to each library and are displayed throughout the season. *Opera Tales* will further the Opera's important relationship with local libraries, and is deliberately scheduled to occur during National Library Week to draw attention to the treasured contribution that libraries make to communities.

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The artistic programming of *Opera Tales* will be produced by LA Opera's Education and Community Programs staff, currently offering 15 award-winning programs that offer students, teachers, families, colleges, seniors and various underserved members of the community the opportunity to enjoy and participate in the arts. Over 115,000 Los Angeles County residents participate annually. An estimated 3,000 additional people will enjoy *Opera Tales* annually via the library tour which is open to the public.

Opera Tales has been made possible by generous support from the  
**Flora L. Thornton Foundation** and **Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe**

For more information on these and other LA Opera Education and Community Programs visit [http://www.losangelesopera.com/company/community\\_programs.asp](http://www.losangelesopera.com/company/community_programs.asp)

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