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Opera on the Move

Present... **‘Pagliacci’**

(The Clowns)

By Ruggiero Leoncavallo

Co-Opera – Opera on the Move, is thrilled to announce its forthcoming 2005 tour of the Italian opera **PAGLIACCI** (The Clowns) by Ruggiero Leoncavallo. **PAGLIACCI** was first performed in Milan in 1892 and performed in the Metropolitan Opera House in New York in 1893, with Australian Soprano Nellie Melba singing the principal role of Nedda. Co-Opera will be performing the opera in its entirety. The music that is usually cut from **PAGLIACCI** when it is performed in a double bill as “Cav and Pag” has been fully restored and the piece abounds with sparkling comedy, chilling drama and rich harmonies...a traditional tale about love and betrayal with beautiful melodies made famous by Pavarotti and Domingo.

Co-Opera – Opera on the Move, have for the past ten years, toured professional opera performances to all states and territories within Australia and specialize in presenting affordable opera, fully costumed and dramatized and sung in English, frequently in a BYO cabaret style or picnic style setting.

A compelling opera, **PAGLIACCI**, is set in a small town where a troupe of traveling players has arrived to present a comedy. A play within a play, the first act tells about the players’ lives. Nedda falls in love with Silvio, a villager. Her husband Canio discovers this just before their play goes on. The second act is the company performing their

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play... Canio (as **PAGLIACCI**), in despair, has to perform and make people laugh. Two other members of the company, Tonio and Beppe (Taddeo and Harlequin in act two) provide plenty of hilarity in their supporting roles. However, reality and fantasy get confused... with tragic results.

PAGLIACCI has it all...A story of clowns with a love triangle gone horribly wrong. The tragedy of the private lives of Leoncavallo's character clowns is brilliantly offset by the down to earth humour of the Commedia. Thrill to the soaring melody of one of the great operatic duets of all time. Empathise with **PAGLIACCI** as he tries to suppress personal agony to put on the clown's smiling face.

"The clown who cries behind his make-up is the ultimate theatrical cliché but Co-Opera's highly effective conversion of Leoncavallo's mini-masterwork into a piece of cabaret theatre breaks new ground in opera." Adelaide Advertiser (Tuesday 28 September)

Co-Opera's **PAGLIACCI highlights the creative work of:**

Director - Tessa Bremner

Designer – Ian Macdonald

Musical Director - Brian Chatterton

CAST:

Canio Stuart Neilson Kemp

Silvio David Perry [Adelaide]

Tonio Jeremy Tatchell [Sydney]

Nedda Jillian Chatterton [Adelaide]

Beppe Tasso Bsuyessis / Benjamin Rasheed

CHORUS:

Joanna McWaters [Adelaide]

Ernest Ens [Adelaide]

Andrew Turner [Adelaide]

Lynette Harris