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In partnership with Nashville Film Festival, Nashville Opera announces **OPERA NOIR** filmfest

Filmmakers' Launch Event

THU, FEB 6, 2020 | 6:30 PM

Noah Liff Opera Center

Black & White Bash Screening Event

SUN, MAR 1, 2020 | 6:00 PM

Noah Liff Opera Center

Nashville, TN— Nashville Opera and Nashville Film Festival are pleased to announce the first ever **OPERA NOIR filmfest**. Tennessee's most innovative filmmakers are invited to create short black-and-white films inspired by John Hoomes' new noir staging of Verdi's **RIGOLETTO**. **The winning film will be showcased as part of Nashville Opera's RIGOLETTO** at TPAC Jackson Hall, April 9 and 11.

On February 6, filmmakers are invited to the Festival launch event, where they will receive rules and information as well as have a chance to speak with Nashville Opera Artistic Director John Hoomes about the opera. Entrants will have two weeks to create their films, and finalists will be selected from the pool of films submitted by February 20, 2020. The finalists' entries will be screened at the **Black & White Bash** on Sunday, March 1, where the winners will be announced. In addition to being showcased as part of Nashville Opera's **RIGOLETTO**, the Grand Prize-winner will also receive VIP tickets to **RIGOLETTO** and **VIP badges to the 2020 NASHVILLE FILM FESTIVAL**, amongst other benefits. All prizes will be announced at the Launch Event on February 6.

John Hoomes remarked, "Elements of film noir have often found their way into my direction, and the dark plot of **RIGOLETTO** gives me a chance to fully express my love of this genre. I am delighted for Nashville Opera to partner with Nashville Film Festival and cannot wait to see how Tennessee's filmmakers interpret one of opera's greatest revenge stories."

"We are thrilled to collaborate with the Nashville Opera on this innovative opportunity for the Tennessee filmmaking community," said Jason Padgitt, Executive Director of Nashville Film Festival. "By introducing a challenge that blends film noir and opera into something new, we hope to inspire filmmakers to explore the dark alleys of their creativity."

Additional Festival information can be found at nashvilleopera.org/noirfilm

Black & White Bash information can be found at www.nashvilleopera.org/noir

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About Nashville Opera

Nashville Opera, Tennessee's largest professional opera company, creates artistic experiences that elevate our world. Among the most successful regional companies in the country, Nashville Opera has presented three different world premiere operas since its inception in 1981. Mainstage performances are presented at the Tennessee Performing Arts Center and the Noah Liff Opera Center, playing to over 10,000 people annually. Each year, Nashville Opera's extensive education and outreach touring program reaches approximately 25,000 students throughout Middle Tennessee. Visit nashvilleopera.org for more information.

About the Nashville Film Festival

The Nashville Film Festival (NashFilm) is a globally-recognized non-profit organization and cultural event presenting the best in world cinema, American independent films and documentaries by veteran masters, up-and-coming directors, and first-time filmmakers. NashFilm discovers, elevates, and honors filmmakers, screenwriters and music makers from Tennessee and around the world while engaging, connecting and strengthening the Nashville community. With Academy Award® qualifying status, the Nashville Film Festival celebrates innovation, music and the many voices of the human spirit through the art of film. Originally founded in 1969, the Nashville Film Festival is one of the first film festivals in the United States and will present its 51st annual festival October 1-7, 2020. Visit nashfilm.org for more information.