

Press Release

COMIC-CON INTERNATIONAL – SAN DIEGO TO PRESENT  
TOO MUCH COFFEE MAN OPERA

Improbable Marriage of Classical Music and Comic Book Characters  
Gives Birth to Caffeinated Opera

In the first opera based on a comic book, the *Too Much Coffee Man Opera* – presented by Comic-Con International: San Diego – jumps to life in a staged concert presentation July 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> at the Horton Grand Theatre. The contemporary opera, based on *Too Much Coffee Man*, a syndicated comic strip featured in books and alternative weeklies nationwide, blends modern caffeine humor and traditional opera.

Created by Shannon Wheeler, co-written with Damian Wilcox and Daniel Steven Crafts, the one-act opera details the tragedy of *Too Much Coffee Man*, a caffeine-addled everyman in love with his Barista. Trouble brews when the cynical opportunist Espresso Guy also makes a play for the ambitious but frustrated young Barista. But, the Barista has other plans that have nothing to do with either of them. The characters must resolve the age-old dilemma: Can coffee and relationships co-exist?

The *Too Much Coffee Man Opera* cast features artists gaining prominence in the Pacific Northwest for their operatic performances. Singing the title role of *Too Much Coffee Man* is baritone Stacey Murdock, who recently made his debut with Portland Opera in the role of Junius in *The Rape of Lucretia*. Tenor Matt Dolphin performs the role of Espresso Guy. Dolphin was recognized with the Bishop Luers Award for best male vocalist and has performed solos with Oregon Lyric Opera, The Chehalem Symphony and The Portland Symphonic Choir. Mezzo-soprano Jasmine Presson performs the role of Barista. Presson's work follows recent accomplishments as an apprentice artist with Astoria Music Festival where she performed in Tchaikovsky's *Pique Dame* and the American premier of Mozart's *Der Stein du Weisen*.

The *Too Much Coffee Man Opera* received its premiere performance at the prestigious Portland Center for the Performing Arts in October 2006. The production was a hit with local audiences and critics and will return to the PCPA for an extended engagement in April 2008. The musical score, written by Emmy Award winning composer Daniel Steven Crafts, will be musically directed by Joseph Prather, known for his collaborations and performances with Portland Opera, Portland State University and Central City Opera in Colorado.

The *Too Much Coffee Man Opera* will be performed in concert for five performances at the Horton Grand Theatre. Shows are scheduled for Fri July 27<sup>th</sup> at 3pm, 4:30pm and 11pm and Sat July 28<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm and 11pm. The daytime performances are free for attendees of Comic-Con and the evening shows are open to the public with tickets at \$20 available through Ticketmaster 619-220-TIXS (8497).

Cast

Stacey Murdock	Too Much Coffee Man
Matt Dolphin	Espresso Guy
Jasmine Presson	Barista

Randy Rollison	Stage Director
Joseph Prather	Music Director and Pianist

TOO MUCH COFFEE MAN OPERA

Music by:	Daniel Steve Crafts
Libretto:	Shannon Wheeler and Damian Wilcox
Lyrics:	In English

Ticket Information

Single Tickets are \$20.00 and can be purchased through Ticketmaster:

By Phone:

Online: [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com)