

Press Release



ALEX JENNINGS JOINS KRISTIN CHENOWETH AND TOBY SPENCE

IN ENO PREMIERE OF ACCLAIMED NEW PRODUCTION OF

LEONARD BERNSTEIN'S CANDIDE

Alex Jennings, currently starring in *Present Laughter* at the National Theatre, will make his ENO debut as Doctor Pangloss/Voltaire in Robert Carsen's new production of Leonard Bernstein's *Candide*, part of the ENO 2007/08 SkyArts Season. This ENO co-production, with the Théâtre du Châtelet, Paris and Teatro alla Scala, Milan, where it played to great acclaim, opens **June 23, 2008** at the London Coliseum for 13 performances only.

Alex Jennings joins the previously announced British tenor **Toby Spence** (as Candide) and Broadway's Tony® Award-winning star **Kristin Chenoweth** as Cunegonde. Further casting to be announced.

The Olivier Award-winning actor **Alex Jennings** is currently playing Garry Essendine in Noël Coward's in *Present Laughter* at the National Theatre and recently starred as Prince Charles in the internationally acclaimed film *The Queen* and as Rev Hutton in the BBC's acclaimed series *Cranford*. His acclaimed performances at the National Theatre include: *The Alchemist* (Subtle); David Hare's *Stuff Happens* (George W Bush); *His Girl Friday* (Walter Burns); *The Relapse* (Lord Foppington); *The Winter's Tale* (Leontes) and *Speer* (title role). With the RSC he has starred in *Hamlet* (title role); *Much Ado About Nothing* (Benedick); *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Theseus/Oberon) and *Peer Gynt* (title role). In the West End he starred as Gloumov in *Too Clever By Half*, Jack Worthing in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, opposite Maggie Smith, and as Henry Higgins in Trevor Nunn's production of *My Fair Lady*. In addition to *The Queen*, his film appearances include: *Babel*; *Five Children and It*; *The Four Feathers* and *The Wings of a Dove*. On television he has starred in: *Riot at the Rite*; *Bad Blood* and as Alastair Campbell in *A Very Social Secretary*.

Rumon Gamba, who recently conducted *Candide* with the BBC Concert Orchestra at the Royal Festival Hall, conducts Robert Carsen's production. The sets are by **Michael Levine** (Anthony Minghella's Olivier Award-winning *Madam Butterfly*) with costumes by **Buki Shiff** and lighting by **Robert Carsen & Peter Van Praet**. The choreography is by Tony® Award-winner **Rob Ashford** (*Parade*, *Evita*, *Guys & Dolls*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*), also making his ENO debut.

ENO's production of *Candide* opens at the **London Coliseum** on **June 23, 2008** for 13 performances only - June 23 (*Preview*), 25 (*Press Night*), 27, 28 (2pm & 7.15pm) & 29 (*matinee only at 3pm*) and July 4, 5 (2pm & 7.15pm), 6 (*matinee only at 3pm*), 9 & 12 (2pm & 7.15pm) at 7.15pm.

This production is supported by **Lord and Lady Laidlaw**.

Box Office now open: + 44 (0) 871 911 0200 or www.eno.org

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