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# the publicity office

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## THE AMERICAN POP CULTURE PHENOMENON

# ANTIGRAVITY

## JOINS FORCES WITH THE METROPOLITAN OPERA IN MARY ZIMMERMAN'S UPCOMING MET PREMIERE PRODUCTION OF ROSSINI'S

# “ARMIDA”

MONDAY, APRIL 12 THROUGH SATURDAY, MAY 15, 2010  
AT THE METROPOLITAN OPERA

This spring, **Christopher Harrison**, aerial choreographer and founder/director on the internationally celebrated aerial performance phenomenon **AntiGravity**, joins forces with **The Metropolitan Opera** to introduce the art of aerial choreography into its upcoming production of Rossini's *Armida*, set to play Monday, April 12 through Saturday, May 15.

This unique collaboration among **Harrison**, director **Mary Zimmerman** and choreographer **Graciela Daniele** marks the first time that the Met has incorporated dance aerials into an original production.

Since 1990, **AntiGravity's** unequalled live aerial spectacles and heart-pounding, one-of-a-kind arena performances have been wowing audiences throughout the world. In addition to its arena shows, **AntiGravity** has been featured in such recent high-profile events as Pink's show-stopping aerial performance at the 2010 Grammy Awards, the Neighborhood Inaugural Ball of President Barack Obama, Jane Krakowski's 2007 Tony Award-winning performance in *Nine* and touring rock concerts for Mariah Carey, Britney Spears and 50 Cent.

**AntiGravity's** latest partnership with the Met's production of *Armida* marks the company's first foray into the world of live opera.

The aerial choreography segment opens *Armida* as the character of "Love" enters the stage from the heavens, suspended from an AntiGravity Hammock. "Love" is portrayed by **Teela Ude**, a trained dancer who has had no previous aerial experience.

To prepare for her aerial dance debut, **Ude** has been training extensively in AntiGravity Yoga (an innovative new aerial fitness program created by **Harrison** in 2008) as a precursor to rehearsals for *Armida*.

- more -

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Although this production marks the first time that **Harrison** has created an aerial number for the Met, he has been involved with creating acrobatic elements in Met productions for ten seasons. His other opera credits include *Turandot* (dir. Zeffirelli), *La Traviata*, *Les Trojens*, *Pagliacci*, *Samson & Delilah*, *Parade*, *Manon*, *Faust* (dir. Hal Prince), *Un Ballo in Maschera*, *Aida*, *Susannah*, *Julius Caesar* and *Ariadne auf Naxos*.



In addition to ***Armida***, this month **Harrison** will also be directing ***Aerialists, Athletes & Arpeggios***, an aerial dance concert at Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center for The Little Orchestra Society on Saturday, April 17, 2010.

Conceived by **Harrison**, ***Aerialists, Athletes & Arpeggios*** will feature **AntiGravity** performers along with a 50-piece orchestra and performing athletes from the Wendy Hilliard Foundation. This is the second season at Avery Fisher Hall with The Little Orchestra Society for **AntiGravity**.

***Aerialists, Athletes & Arpeggios*** takes place at [redacted] p.m. and is free to the public.

#### **MORE ABOUT ANTIGRAVITY**

Since **AntiGravity** was founded in 1990, this native New York City company has performed in more than 500 different high-level international productions in 22 countries, employing hundreds of athletes (including Olympic and X Games athletes), while maintaining its core roster of acrobats, urban dancers and specialty artists known as Team AntiGravity.

Versatile and always on the cutting edge, **AntiGravity's** resume also spans numerous Tony Award-winning Broadway shows (*Nine*, *Swing!*, *The Rocky Horror Show*), concert productions, prestigious all-star sporting events and television specials, as well as many commercial advertisements. As pioneers in their field, from the Metropolitan Opera House to the 2002 Olympic Games in Salt Lake City, from the Grammy Awards and MTV's Video Musical Awards to Fashion Week in Milan, **AntiGravity** continues to expand its cutting edge style into uncharted territory.

**AntiGravity** has been commissioned to perform by some of the world's greatest history makers and trend setters including Sean "Diddy" Combs, Richard Branson, George Lucas, Steven Forbes, Bill Gates, Hal Prince, George Soros, Mariah Carey, Britney Spears, Paul Newman, Marc Jacobs, Giorgio Armani, Heidi Klum, Daddy Yankee, Franco Zeffirelli, Franco Dragone and Gwen Stefani.

Visit AntiGravity online at [www.anti-gravity.com](http://www.anti-gravity.com).

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