



Press Release

**MUSICAL PHENOMENON LES MISERABLES TO
HAVE GCC PREMIERE AT DUBAI OPERA**

**THE WORLD'S LONGEST RUNNING MUSICAL
ANNOUNCED FOR DUBAI OPERA'S OPENING
SEASON**

TICKETS TO GO ON SALE 9am, 26 MAY 2016

Dubai - UAE; 25 May, 2016, Sir Cameron Mackintosh's production of the legendary musical *LES MISERABLES* will have its GCC premiere at Dubai Opera, situated in the heart of Downtown Dubai from 10 to 24 November. The much-loved and critically acclaimed show has been added to a truly impressive inaugural season of performances scheduled at the city's first purpose-built performing arts theatre. Tickets will go on sale to the general public on 26 May at 9am.

LES MISERABLES is the world's longest running musical and has been seen by over 70 million people in 44 countries and produced in 22 languages. It is one of the most popular musicals ever written and has gone on to break box office records around the world, winning more than 100 major awards along the way. The musical further inspired filmmakers to make a movie version which won three Oscars, three Golden Globes and four BAFTA awards.

Sir Cameron Mackintosh commented "I am delighted to be bringing my hugely acclaimed new production of '*LES MISERABLES*' to the stunning new Dubai Opera which is destined to be the home of the best international musicals in Dubai and the GCC. The production will be sung in English by a sensational international cast, led by my current Broadway stars John Owen-Jones as Jean Valjean and Hayden Tee as Javert.



“For many years I have lamented that my major musical successes have not been able to play in the Middle East because there was no auditorium with the right scale and facilities able to house my spectacular productions. Boublil and Schönberg’s legendary musical which has one of the greatest scores of all time is based on Victor Hugo’s universal tale of love, righteousness and redemption and has proved a huge success all around the world. Though the original production is still running to sold-out houses in London after 30 years, this new production which I created for the show’s 25th anniversary is even more spectacular with its settings inspired by Victor Hugo’s own paintings. Audiences worldwide have embraced this new production as much as the original and I very much hope that this will be the first of many of my own musical productions to play this wonderful opera house”.

Based on Victor Hugo’s classic novel, *LES MISERABLES* is an epic and uplifting story about the survival of the human spirit. The magnificent score of

LES MISERABLES includes the classic songs “I Dreamed a Dream”, “On My Own”, “Stars”, “Bring Him Home”, “Do You Hear the People Sing?”, “One Day More”, “Empty Chairs at Empty Tables”, “Master of the House” and many more.

Jasper Hope, Chief Executive at Dubai Opera commented: “*LES MISERABLES* is a musical phenomenon, I could not have wished for a more important title to be the very first to be staged at Dubai Opera. Sir Cameron Mackintosh is giving residents and visitors alike a fantastic opportunity to see his production of the world’s longest running musical here in Dubai itself and I, for one, can’t wait for November.”

Ali Haidary, Founder and CEO of Dubai based Sport & Entertainment Solutions (SES) said “We are extremely proud to be the first company to partner with Dubai Opera on this historic event. It is also both an honor and a privilege to be working with Cameron Mackintosh Productions to bring *LES MISERABLES*, the longest running and most popular musical in history, to the Middle East for the very first time”.



Cameron Mackintosh's production of *LES MISERABLES* is written by Alain Boubill and Claude-Michel Schonberg and is based on the novel by Victor Hugo. It has music by Claude-Michel Schonberg, lyrics by Herbert Kretzmer and original French text by Alain Boublil and Jean-Marc Natel and additional material by James Fenton. The original London 1985 production of *LES MISERABLES* was adapted and directed by Trevor Nunn and John Caid.

- **Ends** -

Note to Editors

About Dubai Opera:

Dubai Opera will be a truly unique venue and the city's first purpose built multi-format performing arts theatre situated in the heart of Downtown Dubai. Set to open late 2016, Dubai Opera will offer the ultimate flexibility of a proscenium arch theatre, an acoustic concert hall and a 2,000m² flat floor event space. The configuration will allow for approximately 2,000 seats for a concert and up to 1,000 for a gala dinner. Outside of the main auditorium, the venue has a smaller performance space and rehearsal room and a stunning rooftop restaurant and sky garden with views of Burj Khalifa and The Dubai Fountain.

ABOUT SPORT & ENTERTAINMENT SOLUTIONS

Dubai based Sport & Entertainment Solutions (SES) is revamping the Live Entertainment scene in the Middle East by promoting globally recognized family entertainment brands across the region. In 2013 the company expanded from a sports focused agency to incorporate an Entertainment Division. The agency, previously known as Sport Solutions, was established in 2005, and has since played a leading role in the sports events and sponsorship sector in the Middle East.

Led by its CEO & Founder Ali Haidary, Sport Solutions brokered one of the most lucrative and ground breaking sponsorship deals between FC Barcelona and UAE telecommunication giant Etisalat in 2009. In addition to securing several Regional Brand Endorsement deals for global superstars such as Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo, the agency has also helped to stage some of the largest events in the region including the 2009 FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup in Dubai, EPL Masters Football and the FIVB Beach Volleyball Open.

Sport & Entertainment Solutions became the exclusive promoter of Disney on Ice and Disney Live! events in the Middle East in 2013, partnering with FELD Entertainment to bring quality, authentic family entertainment to the region.

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