



April 2, 2012

## The Met and NCM Fathom Events Present Complete Ring Cycle in Cinemas

*"Wagner's Dream" Documentary Preludes Wagner's Series in U.S. Movie Theaters Nationwide Beginning May 7*

NEW YORK & CENTENNIAL, Colo.--(BUSINESS WIRE)-- NCM Fathom Events and the Metropolitan Opera will present Robert Lepage's new production of Wagner's *Der Ring des Nibelungen*, as well as *Wagner's Dream*, a new documentary chronicling the creation of this ambitious new staging this May. The series will begin Monday, May 7 with the documentary and continue on Wednesday, May 9 with *Das Rheingold*, the first opera in the cycle.

Tickets are available at participating theater box offices and online at [www.FathomEvents.com](http://www.FathomEvents.com). For a complete list of theater locations and schedule, please visit the website (*theaters and participants are subject to change*). Ticket prices vary by location.

Wagner's [Ring Cycle](#) series will be presented in more than 400 U.S. movie theaters through NCM's exclusive [Digital Broadcast Network](#). The series follows the successful sixth season of the Emmy® and Peabody award-winning [The Met: Live in HD](#) series for the 2011-12 Met season which featured 11 live operas broadcast to 167 U.S. markets.

The *Ring Cycle* series planned schedule\* is as follows:

Monday, May 7 - 6:30 p.m. local time

***Wagner's Dream*** — Met premiere of documentary by Susan Froemke

The stakes could not be higher as visionary director **Robert Lepage**, some of the world's greatest operatic artists, and the Metropolitan Opera tackle Wagner's *Ring* cycle. An intimate look at the enormous theatrical and musical challenges of staging opera's most monumental work, the film chronicles the quest to fulfill Wagner's dream of a perfect *Ring*.

Wednesday, May 9 - 6:30 p.m. local time

***Das Rheingold*** (The Rhine Gold)

In the first opera in the *Ring* cycle, the gods of Valhalla clash with underworld dwarves and brawny giants, with disastrous consequences. The evil Alberich (**Eric Owens**) steals gold from the Rhine and uses it to forge a ring of unimaginable power. Wotan (**Bryn Terfel**), the king of the gods, uses magic to steal the Ring, but Alberich places a curse that guarantees misery for whoever wears it. Wotan's unwillingness to part with the ring leads him to break a contract with the giants who have built the gods' new castle in the sky, setting in motion a chain of events that will end in his own destruction. **James Levine** conducts.

Original live broadcast: October 9, 2010

Monday, May 14 - 6:30 p.m. local time

***Die Walküre*** (The Valkyrie)

The mysterious hero Siegmund (**Jonas Kaufmann**) finds shelter in the strangely familiar arms of a lonely woman named Sieglinde (**Eva-Maria Westbroek**). Their forbidden love leads Wotan's daughter, the warrior maiden Brünnhilde (**Deborah Voigt**), to defy morality and intervene on behalf of the hero. Brünnhilde's transgression forces her father to choose between his love for his favorite daughter and his duty to his wife, the formidable goddess Fricka (**Stephanie Blythe**). Overcome with grief, Wotan takes away Brünnhilde's godlike powers and puts her to sleep on a mountaintop, surrounded by a ring of magic fire that can only be crossed by the bravest of heroes. **James Levine** conducts.

Original live transmission: May 14, 2011

Wednesday, May 16 - 6:30 p.m. local time

***Siegfried***

The young hero Siegfried grows up in the wilderness, raised by Alberich's conniving brother Mime (**Gerhard Siegel**). He puts together the broken pieces of the sword Nothung, uses it to slay the fearsome dragon Fafner, and takes the Ring for himself. To fulfill his destiny, he must overcome one more opponent—Wotan, now disguised as the Wanderer, who knows the world of the gods is coming to an end—and cross through the magic fire to awaken his true love, Brünnhilde. **Fabio Luisi** conducts.

Original live transmission: November 5, 2011

Saturday, May 19 - Noon local time

### **Götterdämmerung** (Twilight of the Gods)

Siegfried and Brünnhilde's love is torn apart by the curse of the Ring. A trio of scheming humans separates the two heroes in a desperate attempt to steal the Ring for themselves. Their villainous plan fails, but they succeed in murdering Siegfried. Heartbroken, Brünnhilde takes the Ring and leaps into the hero's funeral pyre, causing a global cataclysm and the twilight of the gods. **Fabio Luisi** conducts.

Original live transmission: February 11, 2012

*\*Programs and casting subject to change. For more details on the operas, please visit the Met's website at [www.metopera.org/hd/live](http://www.metopera.org/hd/live).*

"**Met Live in HD** series fans have been patiently awaiting the broadcast of Wagner's *Ring Cycle* into movie theaters but now the wait is over," said Shelly Maxwell, executive vice president of NCM Fathom Events. "Kicking off the series is the documentary, 'Wagner's Dream,' which chronicles the challenges of making the Met's landmark production — certainly a must-see for opera fans."

### **About National CineMedia (NCM)**

**NCM** operates NCM Media Networks, a leading integrated media company reaching U.S. consumers in movie theaters, online and through mobile technology. The [NCM Cinema Network](#) and [NCM Fathom](#) present cinema advertising and events across the nation's largest digital in-theater network, comprised of theaters owned by AMC Entertainment Inc., Cinemark Holdings, Inc. (NYSE: CNK), Regal Entertainment Group (NYSE: RGC) and other leading regional theater circuits. NCM's theater advertising network covers 177 Designated Market Areas® (49 of the top 50) and includes over 18,600 screens (approximately 17,700 digital). During 2011, nearly 671 million patrons (on an annualized basis) attended movies shown in theaters in which NCM currently has exclusive, cinema advertising agreements in place. The [NCM Fathom Events](#) live digital broadcast network ("DBN") is comprised of over 700 locations in 167 Designated Market Areas® (including all of the top 50). The [NCM Interactive Network](#) offers 360-degree integrated marketing opportunities in combination with cinema, encompassing 42 entertainment-related websites, online widgets and mobile applications. National CineMedia, Inc. (NASDAQ: NCMI) owns a 48.7% interest in and is the managing member of National CineMedia LLC. For more information, visit [www.ncm.com](http://www.ncm.com) or [www.FathomEvents.com](http://www.FathomEvents.com).

### **About the Metropolitan Opera**

Under the leadership of General Manager Peter Gelb and Music Director James Levine, the Met has a series of bold initiatives underway that are designed to broaden its audience and revitalize the company's repertory. The Met has made a commitment to presenting modern masterpieces alongside the classic repertory, with highly theatrical productions featuring the greatest opera stars in the world. For more information about the Metropolitan Opera, please visit [www.metopera.org](http://www.metopera.org).

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