



Martile Rowland, Founder/Artistic Director

Christopher Wilkins, Music Advisor

P.O. Box 8110 Colorado Springs, CO 80933 719-570-1950 www.operatheatreoftherockies.org operarockies@qwest.net

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
Jan. 22, 2008

Contact: David Skolnik
à la carte productions; 719-633-9373; alacarteproductions@msn.com

Carmen Temptations for Valentine's Day:
Opera Theatre of the Rockies' Carmen has its own
sinful chocolate creation courtesy of Patsy's Candies



*Imagine premium dark chocolate in perfect proportion to that which it contains within: rich, fresh red raspberry cream. Top off this rectangular wonder with a sugary red rose and green stem and you still won't be able to come close to the sensation and excitement that this candy creation offers to the eyes, mouth and taste buds. You have only one choice: Get your teeth into a **Carmen Temptation**.*

Last year as a sponsor for the **Opera Theatre of the Rockies'** Pikes Peak Center production of *Hänsel and Gretel*, Patsy's Candies, a Colorado Springs-based and internationally renowned candy

manufacturer, had an obvious role- offer tours of their 21st Street retail store and candy factory hosted by those two candy-loving kids themselves. They also donated numerous gift baskets for give-a-way and distributed free chocolates to all the “children” attending the opera. But how could they be a part of an opera in which cigarettes, swords and knives are the predominant props?

Patsy’s owners Wes and Annette Niswonger came up with a perfect answer: Carmen needed to have her very own decadent candy creation that could match the allure and seductive powers of this legendary literary and musical vixen!

So was born the *Carmen Temptation*. “I eagerly took on the challenge to make this the most irresistible creation ever to leave our doors,” said Wes. “After two months of delicious trials, the candy was ready for Opera Theatre. And I was so pleased with the product that *Carmen Temptations* will continue to a part of our candy line up long after the opera is over.”

But the good news for candy and opera lovers is that Patsy’s is donating unlimited supplies of these handmade truffles to the Opera Theatre. All sales will go directly into the operating budget of Southern Colorado’s only professional opera company.

Carmen Temptations will continue to be on sale as a benefit to the opera through the two scheduled Pikes Peak Center performances of the Opera Theatre of the Rockies’ 10th Anniversary production of Carmen on Sat. March 1 at 7:30 pm and Sun., 3:00 pm. Tickets are currently on sale at all TicketsWest outlets including the Pikes Peak Center Box Office (no fees), by calling 520-SHOW or (866) 464-2626 or online at www.ticketwest.com.

Here’s how to purchase your own deluxe box of nine Carmen Temptations for the price of \$16:

- 1) Visit Patsy’s Candies at 1540 S. 21st. Street in Colorado Springs. They are open Monday-Friday 9:00-5:30 and Saturday 10:00-5:00 and can be reached by telephone at 633-7215
- 2) Contact Opera Theatre’s *Carmen Central* at 719-633-9373 or at alacarteproductions@msn.com to place an order
- 3) Attend any of the five *Carmen Collection* events scheduled between Jan. 27 and Feb. 21 at various locations in the Pikes Peak region. Carmen Temptation will be on sale. Details are available at www.operatheatreoftherockies.org
- 4) Place an order at the Pikes Peak Center performances of Carmen

Sponsors for Carmen and all the *Carmen Collection* events leading to the production include the Gazette, News First 5&30, KCME-FM 88.7, The Colorado Springs School, the Sound Shop and Patsy’s Candy. Foundation supporters include Bee Vradenburg Foundation, the Hester E. and Edwin W. Giddings Foundation, the Cowan-Fouts Foundation, and the Pikes Peak Opera League.

Additional information about *Carmen Temptations* or any of the special activities and events leading up to the performances of Carmen is available at 719-633-9373 or at alacarteproductions@msn.com.

#####