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***For Immediate Release***

March 11, 2009

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***ELTON JOHN & TIM RICE'S AIDA AT THE WARNER***

**Original *AIDA* Broadway Musical Director works with Warner cast**

TORRINGTON, CT — The Warner Stage Company's **Main Stage Musical Series** continues with the Tony Award-winning *AIDA* May 2-9. The musical, originated from a children's storybook version of Verdi's opera written by the soprano Leontyne Price, features a grammy-winning pop-rock score from music legend Elton John and Tim Rice. The duo was part of the creative team behind the award-winning score for Disney's smash hit *The Lion King*. *Aida's* eclectic score includes "*Another Pyramid*", a modern reggae number; "*My Strongest Suit*" which draws heavily on Motown; "*The Gods Love Nubia*" a rousing gospel influenced number and "*Not Me*," "*Elaborate Lives*," "*A Step Too Far*" and "*Written in the Stars*," that reflect Elton John's pop style. *Written in the Stars* became a breakout pop hit when it was recorded for radio by Lean Rimes and Elton John.

*AIDA* is a story of forbidden and unrequited love. Aida, a Nubian princess (played by Gia Wright), is captured by an Egyptian captain, Radames (Tony Leone). He soon falls in love with her and saves her from a life of hard labor and instead gives her as a handmaiden to the Egyptian princess Amneris (Alyssa Fontana), his future bride. Set against a backdrop of loyalty, betrayal and forbidden love, *AIDA* is the story of three people who are forced to make difficult choices that will alter history forever.

The Warner's cast of *AIDA*, along with the production's Director Julian Krom, Musical Director Dan Koch and Choreographer Roxie Quinn recently met and worked with Paul Bogaeve, *AIDA's* original musical director/music producer and conductor on Broadway, who offered the creative team pointers and feedback as part of the preparation for the opening of the show. Koch, who had worked with Bogaeve on several projects in the past, extended an invitation out to the Broadway music producer to meet the cast and offer his perspective on the show to the Warner's creative team.

Julian Krom, the director of the Warner production, described the experience as a "Master Class in musical theatre for all of us." He added, "It turned into a defining moment in the evolution of this production. He really inspired us and gave us insight into the production from a fresh perspective."

See the Warner Stage Company's production of *AIDA* on Saturday, May 2 & 9 at 8pm, Sunday, May 3 at 2pm and Friday, May 8 at 8pm. Tickets for this production are \$18.50, \$21.50 and \$24.50. For more information on purchasing tickets, please contact the Warner Theatre Box Office at (860) 489-7180 or visit the Warner Theatre Online at [www.warnertheatre.org](http://www.warnertheatre.org).

*AIDA* is sponsored by Webster Bank. Season media sponsors are 97.3 WZBG, the Republican American newspaper and Fox 61

#### About the Warner

Built by Warner Brothers Studios and opened in 1931 as a movie palace, the Warner Theatre was described then as "Connecticut's Most Beautiful Theatre." Damaged extensively in a flood, the Warner was slated for demolition in the early 1980s until the non-profit Northwest Connecticut Association for the Arts (NCAA) was founded and purchased the theatre. The Warner reopened as a performing arts center in 1983, and restoration of the lobbies and auditorium was completed in November 2002. Today, the Warner is in operation year-round with more than 160 performances and some 92,000 patrons passing through its doors each season. NCAA's mission is to preserve the Warner Theatre as an historic landmark, enhance its reputation as a center of artistic excellence and a focal point of community involvement, and satisfy the diverse cultural needs of the region. To learn more about the Warner Theatre, visit our website: [www.warnertheatre.org](http://www.warnertheatre.org).