

For Immediate Release
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New York – August 31, 2022 - SavoyPR is announcing Shelley Cooper's single performance of the award-winning solowork: *La Divina: The Last Interview of Maria Callas*, at United Solo Theatre Festival™ on **October 8th at 7PM**. United Solo™ takes place at Theater Row, 410 West 42nd Street. Tickets are: \$46.50 including fees and may be purchased via his link: <https://bfany.org/theatre-row/shows/united-solo-theatre-festival-2022/>. **Scroll to the bottom of the list of shows and enter your date and time (Oct. 8 at 7PM)**. *La Divina: The Last Interview of Maria Calla* was conceived and written by Shelley Cooper and is directed by Mariangela Chatzistamatiou. Accompanying Ms. Cooper will be Saul Nache.

In *La Divina: The Last Interview of Maria Callas*, the audience eavesdrops on La Divina's interview with journalist Mike Wallace (silent and invisible) and journeys through the life of the extremely complex, tormented, legendary artist. They are treated to some operatic gems including "O Mio Babbino Caro," "Habanera," and "Vissi d'arte." by Ms. Cooper who is a classically trained soprano. The show provides fascinating tidbits from the singer's life — how opera kept Callas alive during World War II — and delves some into her complicated relationship with Aristotle Onassis while offering insight into the singer's own complications.

"Here on stage, the extraordinarily talented Shelley Cooper becomes Maria Callas!"

Jim Gilles, The Hollywood Times

Shelley Cooper is the winner of the Orlando Fringe Critic's choice award for best Individual Performance in a Drama and Hollywood Fringe "Pick of the Fringe" (among many others). She has performed all over the world for a number of companies such as Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra, Orlando Fringe, Walt Disney World, Universal Studios, Monroe Symphony, Chicago Summer Opera, Opera Quad Cities, Circa 21 Dinner Playhouse, Orlando Repertory Theatre, Shawnee Summer Theatre, Redhouse Arts Center, Varna Opera Theatre, Bangkok Theatre Festival, Simbiose Produções (MOVE Studio) in São Paulo, Brazil, and the Venetian Macao in Macau, China. Most noted performances are "Johanna" in *Sweeney Todd* starring Tony-Award Winning Actress, Faith Prince, "Nellie" in *South Pacific*, "Cinderella" in *Into the Woods*, "Ariel" in *The Little Mermaid*, "Armida" in *Rinaldo*, "Edith" in *Pirates of Penzance*, "Berta" *Il barbiere di Siviglia* at the Varna Opera

Theatre in Bulgaria and the Soprano soloist in *Handel's Messiah* with Bangkok International Orchestra. She is also an active director and educator.

The Annual United Solo Festival, the world's largest solo theatre festival, presents a selection of local and international productions including storytelling, puppetry, dance, multimedia, improv, stand-up, magic, musical, and drama. **Since its inaugural year in 2010, United Solo has featured more than 1,000 productions from all over the world.** In 2021, United Solo launched a new virtual platform (United Solo SCREEN) to present shows for its global audience and theatre enthusiasts.

Visit Shelley Cooper online: <https://www.shelley-cooper.com/>

Visit Mariangela Chatzistamatiou online: <https://www.mariangelach.com/>

United Solo Theatre Festival: <https://unitedsolo.org/>

General Press representative for La Divina: The Last Interview of Maria Callas, at United Solo Theatre Festival™ is Betsyann Faiella, SavoyPR.com, Bafaiella@savoypr.com or call/text: 310.283.2415

For additional biographies, Production list and Awards list, please contact: bafaiella@savoypr.com.

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Additional Information about *La Divina: The Last Interview of Maria Callas*.

Director: Mariangela Chatzistamatiou was born and raised in Greece. She specializes in Italian Baroque vocal music of the 17th and early 18th centuries, as well as in French post-romantic repertory of such composers as Debussy, Satie, Ravel and Poulenc. She is also a versatile performer whose repertoire ranges from Mozart to Schoenberg to traditional music and electronic music. Her paternal grandmother introduced her to singing and to traditional songs of Asia Minor.

Ms. Chatzistamatiou is also an active educator both in the fields of vocal technique and in language coaching for singers. She has been a faculty member of the College of Music in Mahidol University, Thailand, where she taught classical voice and languages-related courses. During the same period, she also served as a visiting specialist at the United Nations related New International School of Thailand in Bangkok, while maintaining a private studio, and collaborating with other ensembles and organizations, including the German and French embassies, The Goethe-Institute of Bangkok, the Southeast Asian Youth Chamber Orchestra, and the Thailand Philharmonic Orchestra. Ms. Chatzistamatiou now resides in her native Greece, regularly traveling to Belgium, Italy and England to perform.

Accompanist, Saul M. Nache, is a music director, vocal director, performer, and pianist in great demand across multiple genres and disciplines. As a performer he has been seen regionally and abroad in operas and as a soloist in concert masterworks including the role of “Figaro” in *The Marriage of Figaro* and “Papageno” in *The Magic Flute* with Opera Quad Cities; “Curio” in *Giulio Cesare* with Red River Lyric Opera Festival; “El Dancaïro” in *Carmen* with Teatro Lirico d’Europa; and “Dandy” in *Ballad of Baby Doe* with Opera Illinois. He has performed as an oratorio soloist with the Quad City Symphony Orchestra, Sinfonia da Camera, Peoria Bach Festival, Danville Symphony, and the Galesburg Community Orchestra. As a music director, Mr. Nache has worked with Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival on their productions of *Mr. Burns*, a post electric play, and *Romeo and Juliet* with new compositions added by singer/songwriter Heather Christian. Other credits include *Avenue Q* and *Pippin* with Nebraska Repertory Theater and a new underscoring to the Thornton Wilder classic *Our Town* composed by Craig Woerz; *Big River* and *Dames at Sea* with the Mississippi Bend Players; *Honk! Jr.* and *Big Fish* at St. Ambrose University; and six musicals with Illinois Wesleyan University.

La Divina Productions:

2010 Orlando Repertory Theatre (UCF MFA Thesis)
2011 International Performing Arts Institute in Germany
2014 Bangkok Theatre Festival
2015 KAD Performing Arts Center in Chiangmai, Thailand
2017 Augustana College
2017 Retzhof Castle in Austria
2021 The Black Box Theatre of the Quad Cities
2021 Orlando Fringe Festival
2021 Hollywood Fringe Festival
2022 Orlando Fringe Winter Mini-Fest
2022 Solofest at Whitefire Theatre
2022 Namba Performing Arts Space
2022 United Solofest

La Divina Awards List:

Pick of the Fringe-Hollywood Fringe 2021
Best Individual Performance in a Drama Orlando Fringe 2021
Best Musical Opera and Cabaret Award HFF21 TVolution.com
Gold Medal HFF21 TVolution.com
Finalist for Best Solo Show HFF21
Finalist for Solo Splash Award HFF21
Finalist for Soaring Solo Award HFF21
Official Selection of LA Women's Theatre Festival 2022