

***Of Mice & Men*– Fact Sheet (updated 4/29/08)**

COMPOSER & LIBRETTIST: Carlisle Floyd, after the novel by John Steinbeck

FORT WORTH OPERA DATES / TIMES / LOCATION:

Saturday, May 31, 2008 at 8:00 pm

Sunday, June 8, 2008 at 2:00 pm

All Performances will be held at Bass Performance Hall, downtown Fort Worth, Texas

CHARACTERS & PRIMARY CAST:

George Milton	Phillip Addis
Lennie Small	Anthony Dean Griffey
Curley's Wife	Brandi Icard
Curley	Matt Morgan
Candy	Stephen West
Slim	Stephen Mumbert
Carlson	Adam Sattley
Ballad Singer	Scott Scully

Conductor	Joe Illick
Director	Richard Kagey

PRODUCTION: Performed in English with projected English supertitles. Scenery and Costumes provided by Utah Symphony and Opera. Estimated running time: 2:35 with two intermissions.

The role of Candy's dog, which is "shot" offstage, will be performed by a dog Arts Council President Jody Ulich recently found injured on the side of the road and has since adopted.

TICKETS:

Season Tickets: Include *Lucia di Lammermoor*, *Turandot* and *Of Mice and Men*. Complimentary vouchers to *Angels in America* will be included in all Friday, Saturday and Sunday Series packages. Weekend Packages include guaranteed seating to *Angels in America*. \$50-\$412 each. Call 817.731.0726, toll-free 1.877.FWOPERA (396-7372) or go online at www.fwopera.org

Single tickets: \$19 - \$145. Students & military half-price with ID. Student rush pricing is \$5 for any available seat starting 30 minutes prior to curtain with ID. Call 817.731.0726 or toll-free 1.877.FWOPERA (396-7372) or go online at www.fwopera.org.

BACKGROUND: Carlisle Floyd is one of the foremost composers and librettists of opera in the United States today. *Of Mice and Men* was premiered by Seattle Opera in 1970 and is one of his most performed works. It is based on John Steinbeck's classic 1937 novel of the same name. Anthony Dean Griffey is considered by many to "own" the role of Lennie. He also starred in the Metropolitan Opera's production of *Peter Grimes*, featured on Met at the Movies and other roles.

STORY: Two migrant ranch hands, George and Lennie, have always dreamed of a farm of their own. Lennie is physically far superior, but has the mind of a child and is always getting himself into trouble; George looks after him. They have just arrived at a new ranch, a new job, working for Curley and his brazenly flirtatious wife. George finds a want-ad with a small ranch he thinks they might be able to afford when another ranch-hand, Candy, says he will go in with them. Lennie gets a new puppy, but inadvertently kills it by handling it too roughly. He hides it as Curley's wife comes into the barn. She encourages him to stroke her hair, but when she asks him to stop Lennie panics and inadvertently kills her too. The ranch hands and Curley are looking for Lennie with the intent to lynch him. Lennie goes to a clearing by the river to wait for George. George meets up with him and tells him to watch the river as he once again describes their dream life on a ranch to him. As Lennie ecstatically imagines it, George aims a pistol and fires, killing his friend.