

Rose Theatre smells of success



Martin Knelman

Intoxicated with the hoopla about its long-awaited cultural renaissance, Toronto likes to see itself as the Paris of the New World, ready to show off its glittering new museums and arts' palaces.

In just two weeks, opera will finally be staged for the first time ever at Canada's first purpose-built opera house, the Four Seasons Centre. Not just any opera, but Wagner's epic 16-hour *Ring Cycle*.

But what if all the smaller cities, suburbs and sprawling regions rebel and refuse to play their role as cultural colonies of post-renaissance Toronto?

Consider, for example, the case of the Rose Theatre in Brampton — a \$55 million something-for-everyone performing arts centre.

On Oct. 5, Brampton will have its own night at the opera. But it won't have anything to do with

Wagner or Verdi. This one is a show about Queen, the rock band. But no, the original rock band won't be showing up. This event is part of something called *Classic Albums Live*, which takes a celebrated album and re-creates it live on stage, using other musicians to capture the essence of a legendary record note for note and cut for cut.

But don't get the idea that the Rose Theatre is a place where you will always be expected to settle for stand-ins rather than the real thing. As yesterday's announcement makes clear, Brampton's new theatre is prepared to give Toronto's presenters serious competition.

Here's a coup for Brampton that could rattle a few people in Toronto showbiz circles:

Diana Krall, a.k.a. Canada's reigning jazz diva, will make her one and only GTA appearance of the year on Sept. 29 — headlining the black tie \$400-a-ticket opening gala concert of the Rose Theatre. (Krall, who is expecting a child in December, has a very limited schedule of concert dates this season.)

Krall is not the only big name who will be heading north of the

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