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## The Three Penny Opera postcard

Department of Theatre, Florida International University

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**3 PENNY OPERA**



FIU Theatre presents

# THE THREEPENNY OPERA

## by Bertolt Brecht and Kurt Weill

From its opening night which electrified a Berlin audience in 1928, sweeping the city with "Threepenny fever" and generating a 5-year run, *The Threepenny Opera* has repeatedly proved its ability to excite audiences. The 1954 off-Broadway New York production ran for 6 years and introduced all America to the song "Mack the Knife"—Bobby Darin's recording was the biggest selling record of the 1950's. Brooks Atkinson, dean of American drama critics, who had highly praised the production, mourned the end of its run for almost a year by tagging his subsequent reviews of what he considered inferior stuff with the cry: *Bring back the Threepenny Opera*. The next New York production, in 1976 at the Lincoln Center, which featured Raul Julia as Mack, was equally successful, winning critical praise and playing to sold-out audiences.

*Threepenny Opera* is a very free adaptation of John Gay's *The Beggars Opera*, itself a great hit in London in 1728. Brecht took Gay's bawds, beggars and bully boys, left them in London, but moved them up to the Victorian age. The traditional ballad tunes were replaced with Kurt Weill's brilliant, deceptively simple sounding jazzy music. The simple, catchy tunes combine with the biting, satirical lyrics to produce the unique combination of content and entertainment which audiences have found irresistible for more than 50 years.

Come see why Mack the Knife, Pirate Jenny, Polly Peachum and all the rest have had such enduring audience appeal. See why we have chosen *The Threepenny Opera* to continue our tradition of hit musical theatre productions, following *Cabaret*, *Sweet Charity*, *Man of La Mancha* and *Jesus Christ Superstar*.

The director will be Therald Todd, the musical director John Augenblick, the choreographer Karen Kennedy, the set and lighting designer Rolfe Bergsman and the costume designer Marilyn Skow.

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Telephone 554-2895 between 9:00am and 4:30pm weekdays