

'La Traviata' performed by Pomona's Repertory Opera Company is a must see!

By Jessie Gomez

Pomona's own Repertory Opera Company, presenting Giuseppe Verdi's classic opera *La Traviata* for the second time, once again utilizes every ounce of space and talent to captivate its audiences and draw them in to this catastrophic love story.

Musical director Brian Farrell opens the opera with its dramatic prelude. As he passionately hits every key on the piano, the cast of this tragic love story sings in angelic unison. Their melodic song quickly enralls audiences to the 1850's Paris setting of this opera.

Actress Leslie Dennis Rigney plays one of the show's main characters, Violetta. Her pure soprano tone highlights the conflict and passion her character will undergo throughout the story. Dennis' matchless voice mesmerizes many and emotes the on-going pain of her character.

Matt Dunn plays Violetta's love interest, Alfredo. He displays an electrifying performance with his Romeo and Juliet type of love. Dunn's tear-jerking character makes audiences sympathize for this unfortunate love.

Clearly, every member in-



Photo by Jessie Gomez
REPERTORY OPERA COMPANY PRESENTS 'LA TRAVIATA' -- 'The Dancers' perform during a presentation of 'La Traviata' by Pomona's own Repertory Opera Company. Pictured, from left, are Rochelle Firestone, Anne Henderson and Lauren Jorgensen. Pictured at rear are Brian Anderson and Monica Priscilla Dortha.

involved in this performance displays a unique talent and incomparable devotion to this opera, offering spot-on singing and acting.

Beautiful harmonies and jaw dropping solos hit the walls of this church and bounce right into the hearts of audiences. Such a display of creativity and passion is hard to find.

Although performed for the second time, this show has once again proven its professionalism and breathtaking story line. Director Lizbeth Lucca continually refines the talent of every actor in order to provide the finest performance possible.

The Repertory Opera Company is a small group of devoted singers who contribute their time and talent to put on the best shows possible for the community of Pomona. The group's work is complete in every aspect. "La Traviata" is a definite must see!

The final performance of this series of three is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. tomorrow at Pomona's First Christian Church, 1751 N. Park Ave.

For more information, visit the web site at www.repertoryoperacompany.org.