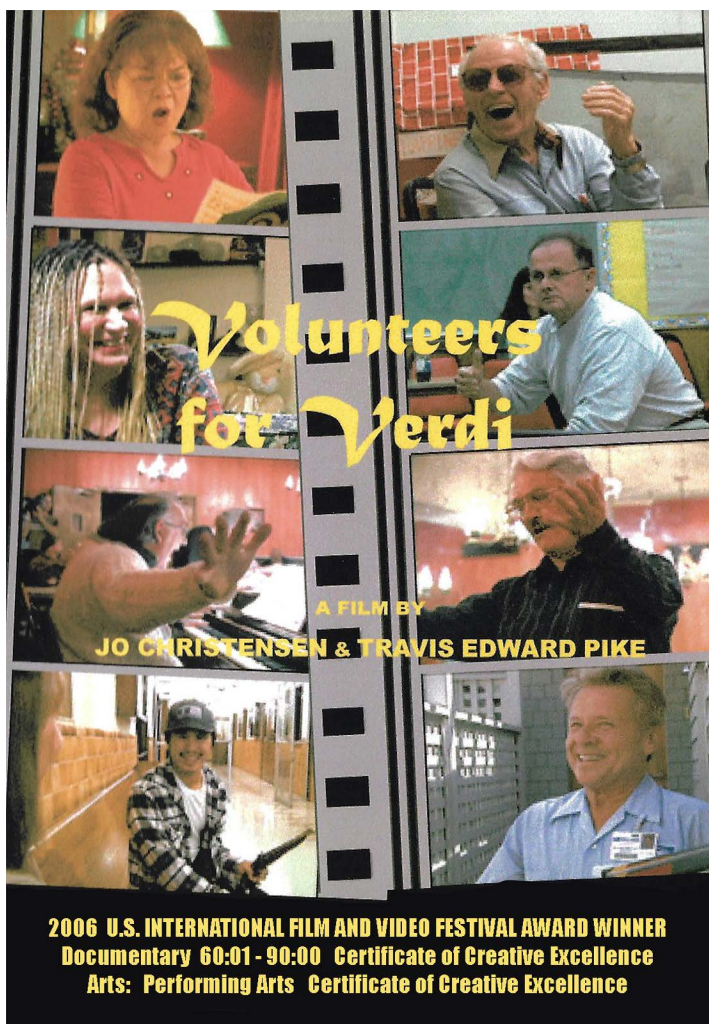


# VOLUNTEERS FOR VERDI SYNOPSIS

## A NEW PLAYWRIGHTS FOUNDATION PRODUCTION



Located at the northernmost border of Los Angeles's Chinatown, the Casa Italiana is home to as eclectic a crowd as ever appeared in any major Hollywood production. Drawn together by unflagging passion, dreadful tenacity and the notion that opera goes down better with a plate of spaghetti, these VOLUNTEERS FOR VERDI embody the rich cultural mix of Southern California, where America's melting pot continues to bubble and individual dreams can and do come true, even into the twilight years.

To mount their 30th Anniversary production of Verdi's Don Carlo, the company called upon the talents of Korean-born homemaker, Yunghee Kavanagh, for the role of Elizabeth, Queen of Spain; Doug "Roberto" Falcone, owner of a local fence-building firm for Don Carlo, Infante of Spain; retired Argentinian mechanic, Mario Biscaldi, for Rodrigo, Marquis of Posa; David Odekirk as King Philip of Spain; and cheerful mail carrier Bill Bartlett tripled as a monk, courtier and the Grand Inquisitor.

Princess Eboli was played by kindergarten teacher Victoria Brago; Jeff Bergquist appeared as the Ghost of Charles V; Sylvanna Vienne as Countess of Aremberg; real estate appraiser Paul Junger as Count Lerma; Carolyn Rogoff as Tebald; business administrator Phyllis Elliot as the Voice of Heaven and Dr. George Murphy, emeritus professor of economics as the entire Flemish Delegation.

## VOLUNTEERS FOR VERDI

Dir of Photography: MARCO GIACOMETTI | Editor: TRAVIS EDWARD PIKE | Exec Prod: JEFF BERGQUIST  
Written and Produced by TRAVIS EDWARD PIKE and JO CHRISTENSEN | Directed by JO CHRISTENSEN  
A New Playwrights Foundation Production | 2005 | Color | Approx. 87 min. | Original Aspect Ratio 4:3

### WHAT PEOPLE SAY ABOUT VOLUNTEERS FOR VERDI . . .

["Fascinating behind-the-scenes revelation of an opera company's production process" -- Robert Stacey](#)

["Absorbing, true to life and inspiring" -- Angela Parkins](#)

["Personalities and attitudes are sure familiar" -- Priscilla Compton](#)

To learn more about the New Playwrights Foundation, visit  
[New Playwrights Foundation.org](http://NewPlaywrightsFoundation.org)