



A Day at NYC Met Opera House Backstage
March 4, 2018

It was Sunday March 4 and we were off to New York City's Metropolitan Opera.

Another Brookdale Community College day trip. I would take more if I found them. Or if they happened when I was home. You might recall that they are not all that well organized but I have more of an understanding why and I appreciate being able to see new things and meet new people.

Neighbor Kathy and I started out with plenty of time to meet the bus but little did we realize there would be a road closure for the E. Murray Todd half marathon. Just seeing those runners reminded me it was my very first ever run. That was probably in 2002 and I did it again three or four more times. It is famous for bad weather whether it be hurricanes or heat or cold or snow. Today was brisk and lovely.

Friday and Saturday had been a doozy of a northeaster but today everyone was lucky that there was only a bit of flooding and bits of downed trees left. Yesterday I found a major road totally closed due to a tree down. We had been without electricity for 15 to 20 hours, but of course we are spoiled with a full house generator.

Was it only about a week ago that I was in the Paris opera house? Last November in this opera house with Beverly to see *Madame Butterfly* and the December before with Tom and Marie to see *The Magic Flute*. I have likely been at many of the world's famous opera houses either for a backstage tour or a performance.

But first we went to brunch at one of my favorite restaurants in the city. From their website: **MARSEILLE EXPERIENCE** - Take a step out of the heart of Manhattan and step into the vibrant and colorful world of Marseille. The restaurant, inspired by its namesake French port city, has incorporated the cultural melting pot that is France's gateway to the Mediterranean into all the dishes served on the menu. Since 2001, Marseille has been an integral landmark and favorite dining locale for locals and Broadway veterans alike. Chef Andy D'Amico, also of the Upper West Side staple eatery *Nice Matin*, creates exciting, flavorful, and authentic cuisine celebrating Marseille's mix of French, Italian, Greek, and North African influences. Popular yet unique dishes such as Bouillabaisse, savory tagines, perfect steak frites, gourmet "five-napkin" burgers, succulent short ribs, fresh pastas, and a wide variety of tasty hors d'oeuvres. Marseille offers its guests the opportunity to experience the ambiance of a French restaurant while never leaving the island of Manhattan.

Then onto **Backstage Tour Of The Metropolitan Opera House** - Go behind the scenes for an exclusive look at what it takes to make operatic magic at the Met! Known as the venue for the world's greatest voices, the Met is one of the most technologically advanced stages in the world. Experience

a fascinating backstage look at one of the world's premiere performing arts organizations, including visits to the scenic and carpentry shops, rehearsal rooms, dressing rooms, and stage area.



From inside the Opera looking out. Then on the way home. I always enjoy the NYC buildings and especially the extreme mix.

The Met Opera pics are obviously from the web. In about a week I may get inside Milan's La Scala again.



