

## Rehearsals are just like going back to school, but with more singing

**Canadian tenor Michael Schade makes his debut as Eisenstein in the Canadian Opera Company's new production of *Die Fledermaus* at the Four Seasons Centre in Toronto, Oct. 4 to Nov. 3.** The only way to describe the start of rehearsals for *Die Fledermaus* back at the end of August was that it felt exactly like the start of a new year of school. There was the thrill of getting back to work,

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seeing old friends in the halls — such as Maestro Guidarini, tenor Ramón Vargas and baritone Russell Braun from the COC's other fall opera, *Il Trovatore* — and making new acquaintances, such as lovely soprano Tamara Wilson, my better half in this madcap opera about philan-

dering spouses. There was also that all-too-familiar annual new-school-year angst. Four weeks later everything is turning out to be OK, except at “opera school,” there's an opening night to cram for and not a mid-term test. *National Post*

