

PACIFIC OPERA PROJECT PRESENTS

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ICB

A NEW OPERA

MAY 13TH | 8PM

MAY 14TH | 6PM

MAY 15TH | 3PM

EL PORTAL THEATRE

THE WEST COAST PREMIERE



ABOUT POP

Pacific Opera Project was founded in July of 2011 with the purpose of bringing accessible, affordable, and ENTERTAINING opera to audiences across Los Angeles. We believe that in the future, opera will become a greater part of popular culture. As we develop a larger local community of opera lovers, we will also support the careers of opera makers.

OUR TEAM



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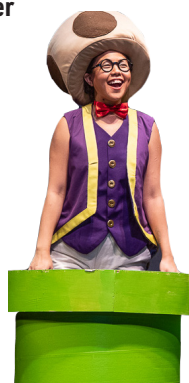


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MAGGIE GREEN | Costumer

JOAN FORD | Grant Writer



CONNECT WITH US!



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INTO THE WOODS

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SPECIAL THANKS TO:

David Handler

Make Staedler

Ellie Bloomfield for housing Ms. Hammond & Ms. Alilaw

Ketchum-Downtown YMCA Teens

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Program

SYNOPSIS

CONTENT WARNING: This opera features scenes with sensitive subject matter including racism, abuse, gun violence, police brutality, and murder. Many scenes will include loud sounds that are meant to simulate gunfire. These elements may be upsetting for some audience members.

I Can't Breathe tells the story of five individuals whose lives are forever changed by fatal encounters with the police. The opera is inspired by real events and is told in a series of monodramas.

The Athlete, a high school basketball player, is walking down the street while on the phone with his mother, giving her a play by play of the winning basketball game he played that night. He stops by the convenience store he visits regularly to buy some candy and peach iced teas. After leaving the store, he is stopped and questioned by a police officer. The officer assumes that he has stolen the items he carries and asks to see a receipt. In trying to reach into his pocket to show the officer his receipt, the officer assumes he is reaching for a gun, and shoots and kills the Athlete.

The Scholar is moving his last box of belongings into his brand new apartment. It was a challenge, and his new neighbor doesn't seem to be happy about his presence, but he knows how hard he worked for this. He reflects back on his life, being raised by two Black parents who instilled good grades, hard work, and respect for elders in his upbringing, even at the expense of looking cool and tough to his peers. After dedicating his life to his education, he is finally starting a new job as a chemical engineer. With that came the funds to get his very own apartment. Just as he starts to relax and unpack, police officers forcefully enter his new apartment and shoot and kill him, after receiving a call from one of the

Program **Synopsis** CONTINUED

building residents who assumed The Scholar was a robber when she saw him carrying boxes in the elevator.

The Mother is a widowed, single mother to two children, including her son named David. She met and married their father young, and soon after he was killed by police during a routine traffic stop. The Mother has big dreams for her son to be successful and respected, however, at the end of her story, she receives a phone call that David has also been killed by police at a routine traffic stop.

The Thug is a gay man in his early 30's. As a child, his mother was an addict who struggled with depression after his parent's divorce. His traumatic household saw severe drug and alcohol abuse, theft, and violence, and after spending some time in juvenile prison, they lost touch. Today The Thug is happy, living with his partner of many years. To make a living, he sells items, snacks, and jewelry outside a flower shop. When two police officers approach him and ask if he has a business license and permit, the interaction escalates, and the officers knock down The Thug's shop items and throw him to the ground. One officer puts his knee on the back of The Thug's neck, trying to arrest him. He suffocates and dies.

The Lover reflects on an incident where her boyfriend was killed by a police officer in front of her and her child. She laments about how she, a white woman, must explain to her daughter why this senseless act of racism occurred. She knows that this incident would have never happened to her, being a white woman. She looks at the engagement ring that was retrieved from her boyfriend's body, knowing now that he was planning to propose to her on this trip. She knows the anxiety and trauma she and her daughter will forever carry and wonders, "is it worse to be the killer, the killed, or me?"

The five characters come together in a final scene and ask the question,

I CAN'T BREATHE

MUSIC BY LESLIE BURRS
LIBRETTO BY BRANDON J. GIBSON

MAY 13 | 8:00PM
MAY 14 | 6:00PM
MAY 15 | 3:00PM

Two Hour Runtime including intermission
Sung in English with orchestra

CO-SPONSORS

LA CITY DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
LA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND CULTURE

Conceived and Commissioned by Kathryn Frady & Marble City Opera
Co-Commissioners: Pacific Opera Project, Opera Columbus, & Cleveland Opera Theater.

This performance is supported, in part, by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
through the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture.



Cast

JAYME ALILAW | The Mother

ORSON VAN GAY | The Athlete

MICHAEL WASHINGTON | The Thug

GEOFFREY PETERSON | The Scholar

AUDREY YODER | The Lover

Orchestra

VIOLIN | Mishkar Nunez, Xenia Deviatkina-Loh

VIOLO | Sharon Ray

CELLO | Benton Preciado

FLUTE | Eve Banuelos

CLARINET | Virginia Figueiredo, Ken Fisher

OBOE | Phil Popham

BASSOON | Summer Arano

Artistic Team

JOSH SHAW | Co-Director

SIERRA HAMMOND | Co-Director

JOSH FOY | Music Director

LISA TATUM | Costume Designer

CAMILLE JASENSKY | Production Manager

MAGDA TRAVIS | Stage Manager

BO TINDELL | Lighting Designer

ISABELLA WYLDER-GARCIA | Supertitles Operator

[VIEW CAST & ARTISTIC TEAM BIOS](#)

El Portal Theatre

Originally built in 1926

5269 Lankershim Blvd.

North Hollywood, CA 91601

www.elportaltheatre.com

Owned by Gary Goodgame & Bernard Kaufman

Management – Jay Irwin/Pegge Forrest

Box Office: 818-508-4200



SIGN UP TODAY FOR POP'S YOUTH SUMMER PROGRAM!

OPEN TO KIDS AGES 5-11 | COST: \$20

Introducing POP's new summer workshop series! The new **My First Opera** summer education program offers fun, creative, and expressive activities on all things opera, theater, and music. Get a special behind-the-scenes look on everything it takes to bring our next show, *Into the Woods*, to life!

TIMES

Thursdays | June 2-July 7

Belvedere Community Regional Park
4914 E. Cesar Chavez Ave. LA, 90022

Saturdays | June 4-25

City Terrace Park
1126 N. Hazard Ave. LA, 90063

Register by June 11th at
[**reservations.lacounty.gov**](https://reservations.lacounty.gov)



REGISTER FOR A FALL 2022 POP EDUCATION PROGRAM!

4-8 Week **My First Opera** Program

Discounted tickets
for children and families

Performances & Assemblies

Programming available for both
in-person and virtual settings



Follow us on Facebook to register for our community events!

To bring POP to your school, extracurricular, or summer program

[email learn@pacificoperaproject.com](mailto:learn@pacificoperaproject.com).

POP's Education Program is supported by community members like you.

Email us to become a donor or volunteer, and help us bring high-quality performing arts education to youth members.

POP IS **SUPPORTED** BY

Eastside Arts Initiative
Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture
National Endowment for the Arts
Department of Cultural Affairs, City of Los Angeles



POPERACAST



Join thousands of fellow opera lovers in listening to "Poperacast" - the official podcast of Pacific Opera Project! It's a chance to go behind the scenes of how an opera is made, meet the cast, and learn about how we bring one of the oldest forms of popular entertainment into the FACEBOOK age!

Find Poperacast on iTunes, iHeart Radio, or wherever you listen to your podcasts!

[LISTEN NOW](#)





POP FAMILY

\$25,000+ Top Hat & Tails

Cathy Jurca & Scott Fraser
Jennifer Diener
Sharon & Rick Ellingsen
Small Business Administration (SVOG)

\$15,000+ Smoking Jacket

Alice Coulombe
Priscilla & Bill Kennedy
Eastside Arts Initiative
LA City Department of Cultural Affairs
LA County Department of Arts and Culture
National Endowment for the Arts

\$10,000+ Silk Gloves

Celestial Opera Company, founded by Judith Townsend
Colburn Foundation

\$5,000+ Vest

Amanda & Rob Webb
Patricia O'Brien & Christopher Reed
Penny Donnelly

Phil Meyer & Kenneth Robbins
Robert Ronus
Valerie & Bruce Merritt

\$2,500+ Monocle

Benevity Causes
Jona & Robert Bailey
Ellen & Bill Ireland
Frances Joan Wells

Kathryn Lane
Monica and Trevor Roper
Pasadena Showcase House
Scott Cruitt

\$1,000+ Ascot

Alison & Simon Holt
Barbara & Ian White-Thomson
Barbara and Charles Schufreider
Bettyna Bluwal
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David Redding
Dick Johnson
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Guadalupe Arriola
Herminia & Manuel Balboa
Jessica Mamey
Luvi Avendano

Mimi Rotter
Nancy & Fred Golden
Robert Robinson
Steve Dunham
Susan & Frank Malinowski
Susan & Phil Hopkins
Teri & Jeri Kohl
Valerie & Bruce Merritt
Yoko & Joe Yamaguchi

POP **FAMILY** CONTINUED

\$500+ Wingtips

Alan E. Muraoka
Alana & Matt Miles
Amanda Boesche
Andreas Kraemer
Bill Wall
Carole & Donald Roback
Colin Gibson
David Mason

Ellie Bloomfield
Fred Chapel
Gavin Troster
Irene Sang
Jeffery M. and Laura E. Scott Sellers
Judy Hopkins
Kathleen Crandall

Kevin Maguire
Mia Unson
Michael and Nan Miller
Nora Manella
Patrick Hare
W Allan Edmiston
Walt Fidler

\$250+ Bowler Hat

Amazon Smile
Andrea M Corcoran
Anonymous
Benjamin W G Barnes
Christina Teodorescu

Cynthia & Michael Perry
Cynthia Ison
Dennis Simanaitis
Elaine Kramer
Gerald Faris

Kathy & Louis Moret
Keri Levitus and Marc Millman
Pat Cross
Rosalie Kornblau
Susan & Phil Hopkins

\$120+ Handlebar Mustache

Alan Schack
Alice Bennett
Amy Miller & Matthew Hanser
Anne Schwarz
Chloe Renee
Cynthia Skale
David Hickman
Devin Agran
Eve Norel & Jefferson Lanz
Fred Manaster
Frederick Dear

Geoff Nelson
Grace Gaerlan
Graham and Carla Balzun
Janet Boswell
Julie Rogers
Larry Nash & Felix Racelis
Leslie & Bernard Fischer
Lynn Fairbanks
Marie Vester
Marilyn & Curtis Robertson

Marisa Rubino
Michael Miller
Naoko Suga
Nicholas Burlett
Patricia Bollendorf-Perez
Patrick Quion
Rose Aleman
Russell Cinque, JR
Sara McGah
Thomas Metzler

This list reflects donations made between April 1, 2021 - May 1, 2022

LOOKING TO **DIRECTLY SUPPORT** POP'S ARTISTS?

- Host an artist at your house during their work with POP
- Donate airline miles for their trip
- **Sponsor their roles**

Many are tax-deductible gifts!

Contact info@pacificoperaproject.com
to learn about ways you can help!



Join the POP Family

\$120 (\$10/mo)

**HANDLE BAR
MUSTACHE**

- Get insider POP updates and invitations to special events in our donor e-newsletter
- Name recognition in production & special event programs

\$250

BOWLER HAT

- Invitation for two to a donor appreciation reception, plus all benefits above.

\$500

WINGTIPS

- Invitation to a salon with artists and artistic team, plus all benefits above.

\$1,000

ASCOT

- Invitation for two to a rehearsal and reception with the artists, plus all benefits above.

\$2,500

MONOCLE

- Lunch with the Artistic Director, plus all benefits above, other benefits to be discussed with POP leadership.

\$5,000

VEST

- Dinner with the Artistic Director, plus all benefits above, other benefits to be discussed with POP leadership.

\$10,000

SILK GLOVES

- Acknowledgement of Co-Sponsorship of a production, plus all benefits above, and other benefits to be discussed with POP leadership.

\$15,000

**SMOKING
JACKET**

- Recognition as Lead Sponsor of a production of your choice, plus all benefits above, and other benefits to be discussed with POP leadership.

\$25,000+

**TOP HAT AND
TAILS**

- Recognition as Season Sponsors, plus all benefits above, and other benefits to be discussed with POP leadership.



POP

POP

POP



POP Volunteers

WE NEED YOUR HELP to keep POP doing our best work!

Opportunities

- Pick ups from the airport
- Be an usher
- Help provide Cast Dinners
- Be a speaker at schools
- Connect with patrons to show POP's appreciation
- Support our education events



Perks

- Opportunity to meet artists
- Invitations to exclusive events!
- Earn POP swag!
- Visit Dress Rehearsals
- The more hours your work, the more perks to earn
- A fun way to meet opera lovers like yourself!

Contact us at

info@pacificoperaproject.com
to get started!





Into the Woods

AT DESCANSO GARDENS

JULY 8-10 & 15-17 | 7:30PM

DIRECTOR JOSH SHAW
CO-DIRECTOR CARSON GILMORE
MUSIC DIRECTOR DESIREE LAVERTU

JACK WILKINS EMILY DYER JULIA AKS JEFFERSON LANZ JAKE STAMATIS
LENESSA AGE RACHEL REICH FREED DALLAS PERRY CHARLOTTE MUNSON
AMY LAWRENCE MORGAN PAIGE PHIL MEYER HOLLY SEDILLOS
CHRIS HUNTER MINTA MULLINS WILLIAM GRUNDLER ANNIE FITCH



TICKETS ON SALE NOW

TICKETS & INFO

pacificoperaproject.com/into-the-woods

22-23 SEASON ANNOUNCED



ELIXIR OF LOVE by G. Donizetti

Sept 9-18, 2022 | El Portal Theater

A reprisal of our 2017 smash hit production, *Elixir of Love* will be set in a 1950's diner a la *Happy Days* or *Grease*. Sung in Italian with supertitles sourced from classic 1950s song lyrics, you won't want to miss it! Stage and Cinema wrote, "This astoundingly enjoyable production easily proves why Donizetti's opera was one of the most frequently performed of its time."



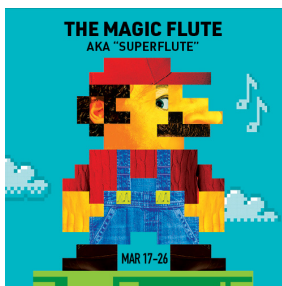
ERCOLE S'UL TERMODONTE

by A. Vivaldi

U.S. PREMIERE PRODUCTION

Jan 6-21, 2023 | The Highland Park Ebell Club

POP presents Antonio Vivaldi's recently rediscovered opera based on the 9th Labor of Hercules. Premiered in 1723 during the Pope's ban of women in opera, the original cast featured seven castrati and one tenor, but POP will employ a mix of countertenors, mezzos, tenors, and sopranos as well as a period orchestra. The Ebell Club will be transformed into a baroque opera house, complete with box seating. This will be an experience not to be missed!



MAGIC FLUTE

AKA #SUPERFLUTE

by W.A. Mozart

Mar 17-26, 2023 | El Portal Theater

POP's tour-de-force production returns! #Superflute transports Papageno, Tamino, and the gang to the land of 1990's video games (notably Mario Bros/Zelda.) Opera Magazine wrote that the new production "could bring in a new generation of opera-goers."



PIRATES OF PENZANCE

by Gilbert & Sullivan

May 19-28, 2023 | Heritage Square Museum

What better setting could there be for *Pirates of Penzance*, than the quaint Victorian backdrop of Heritage Square? Come in Victorian costume, come dressed as a Pirate, come in shorts and t-shirt, but please do not come in Caractacus' uniform. Picnicking is highly encouraged! Table, regular, and bring your own chair options available.

22-23 SEASON TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW!



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