

PROTOTYPE: OPERA | THEATRE | NOW
Announces Tenth Anniversary Season
January 7-16, 2022

PROTOTYPE

OPERA | THEATRE | NOW

The premier festival of music-theatre
and opera-theatre

Celebrating its tenth anniversary season and return to live performances, PROTOTYPE will present an array of new opera and music-theatre projects with a hybrid online and in-person festival.

The festival will present four world premieres and one United States premiere, and will feature a diverse group of 600 artists.

(New York, NY) - June 30, 2021 - **PROTOTYPE: Opera | Theatre | Now**, Beth Morrison Projects and HERE's annual festival announces its tenth anniversary season running from January 7-16, 2022. Curated by festival directors **Kristin Marting, Beth Morrison,** and **Jecca Barry** this season will mark PROTOTYPE's return to live performances following COVID-19, with a hybrid online and in-person festival. The festival will present four world premieres and one United States premiere, and will feature a diverse group of 600 artists, including composers, librettists, performers, and more.

Headlining the festival is an interactive piece by Daniel Bernard Roumain (DBR) and Marc Bamuthi Joseph called *The All Sing*, bringing together more than 1000 people to weave a vibrant tapestry of sound under the public programming initiative, "Out of Bounds". *The Hang* is a transcendental new jazz-opera on the last days of Socrates by Taylor Mac and Matt Ray, directed by Niegel Smith. Composer Emma O'Halloran,

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librettist Mark O'Halloran, and director Tom Creed will create a double bill of two one-act operas of psychological portraits entitled *Trade | Mary Motorhead. Cannabis! A Viper Vaudeville* is a cross-discipline musical exploration of the history of cannabis by Grace Galu and Baba Israel, directed by Talvin Wilks. Huang Ruo and Basil Twist will create *Book of Mountains and Seas*, a new work of vocal-theatre inspired by a 4th-century B.C. Chinese myths.

Full programs, dates, and cast & creative teams will be announced at a later date.

THE ALL SING

WORLD PREMIERE

COMMISSIONED, DEVELOPED, AND PRODUCED BY PROTOTYPE

CO-PRESENTED WITH TIMES SQUARE ARTS ALLIANCE

Music Composed by Daniel Bernard Roumain (DBR)

Libretto and Creative Direction by Marc Bamuthi Joseph

Conducted by Carolyn Kuan

The All Sing brings more than 1,000 people together to weave a vibrant tapestry of sound, poetic justice, and hope. From the voices who tread the boards of some of our most hallowed stages to those who tread the tiles of their shower, all are welcome in this ebullient celebration of connection, community, and our capacity to love. Together as one we will craft an unforgettable moment and sing for a return to a more just, healthy, and music-filled life in a post-COVID world.

THE HANG

WORLD PREMIERE

COMMISSIONED, DEVELOPED, AND PRODUCED BY HERE

Book and Lyrics by Taylor Mac

Music by Matt Ray

Directed by Niegel Smith

The Hang imagines the final moments of Socrates' life as a centuries-long hang. The show invites audiences to a joyous ritual that celebrates queerness, consideration, and the eternity of the moment.

TRADE | MARY MOTORHEAD

WORLD PREMIERE

COMMISSIONED, DEVELOPED, AND PRODUCED BY BETH MORRISON PROJECTS

Music by Emma O'Halloran

Libretto by Mark O'Halloran

Direction by Tom Creed

Conducted by Julian Wachner

This double bill of two one-act operas come together in their searing psychological portraits of people in moments of self-doubt and turmoil. *Trade* delves into the complexities of coming to terms with your true self through the story of a confused young male prostitute. While *Mary Motorhead* brings to life a woman working through her violent past as she lives out her prison sentence for killing her husband. Together through these vivid characters, we investigate the search for truth and clarity in the midst of society's expectations.

CANNABIS! A VIPER VAUDEVILLE

WORLD PREMIERE

COMMISSIONED, DEVELOPED, AND PRODUCED BY HERE

Music Composed by Grace Galu

Libretto and Co-Direction by Baba Israel

Dramaturgy and Co-Direction by Talvin Wilks

Created by Baba Israel, and composed by Grace Galu with their band Soul Inscribed, leverages the effervescent cross-discipline music stylings of these musicians toward a brand-new exploration of the history of cannabis in the US and tracing its impact on humanity. Based on Martin A. Lee's book *Smoke Signals: A Social History of Marijuana*, this immersive theatrical concert weaves a time-traveling tale of jubilation, injustice, and transformation with spoken word, original and remixed music, video, and conversation.

BOOK OF MOUNTAINS AND SEAS

U.S. PREMIERE

COMMISSIONED, DEVELOPED, AND PRODUCED BY BETH MORRISON PROJECTS

Music and Libretto by Huang Ruo

Direction and Production Design by Basil Twist

Conducted by Paul Hillier

A daring new work of vocal-theatre, *Book of Mountains and Seas* is inspired by a 4th-century B.C. collection of Chinese myths about the creation and power of nature itself. Seizing the power of these ancient myths, the piece posits a new 21st-century relationship with the world around us. Equal parts fanciful and strange, this large ensemble work seeks to conjure a sense of respect and awe for the environment and challenges us to be good stewards of the natural resources we have been given.