



# PAPILLON

KAIJA SAARIAHO  
ALIANA DE LA GUARDIA

# SALT

BAHAR ROYAEI  
DENIZ KHATERI

**15<sup>th</sup>**  
*Anniversary*  
**SEASON**

APRIL 8, 2022

7:30 PM

**GUERRILLA**  
CINCOYEEDIN



## COMPANY HISTORY

**Guerilla Opera is one of Boston's most thrilling young companies creating brave new works.** Founded in 2007, the ensemble has accumulated a repertoire of 40 new works, which continues to grow, by the most exciting composers of our generation. In daring performances, they have garnered a national reputation for innovative contemporary opera, with The Boston Globe raving that "radical exploration remains the cornerstone of everything it does."

This artist-led ensemble wields a mission to commission and envision new experimental works that are custom-tailored to their artists; champion cutting-edge music; immerse audiences in profound experiences; be a model for creative authenticity and inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility (IDEA); and inspire, influence and amplify emerging generations of artists.

Their vision is to generate a unique body of work that ferociously confronts the status quo, eschews antiquated and stereotypical traditions of the art form of opera, examines stories through culturally focused and contemporary lenses, and brings new music to new audiences.

Guerilla Opera is a BIPOC organization, Boston's only experimental chamber opera company, and one of only a few in the world with a mission to exclusively present only new works. The Boston Musical Intelligencer wrote that GO is "one of the most ambitious groups of Boston's lively new music scene".

Their works investigate and explore what is "operatic," which allows them to explore, bend and break traditional and stereotypical notions we inherit with euro-centric opera. Opera News writes: "Guerilla Opera redefines the opera experience."

### STAFF

**Aliana de la Guardia**  
*Artistic Director & Co-Founder*

**Sarah Schneider**  
*Artistic Projects and Production Manager*

**Keithlyn B Parkman**  
*Associate Producer*

**Alexis Peart**  
*Development & Marketing Coordinator*

**Maggi Chauby**  
*Artistic Associate*

**Julia Noulin-Mérot**  
*Artistic Advisor*

**Mike Williams**  
*Artistic Advisor & Co-Founder*

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Nathan Troup**  
*President*

**Aliana de la Guardia**  
*Treasurer*

**Mike Williams**  
*Clerk*

**Dana Grider**  
*Director*

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# GUERRILLA

## UNDERGROUND

## WELCOME TO THE UNDERGROUND

A VIRTUAL SPEAKEASY EXPERIENCE & PERFORMANCE SERIES

A plethora of streaming performances are in The Guerilla Underground, including broadcasts of groundbreaking live productions, new works interpreted through cinematic mediums of film and animation, invigorating chamber music concerts, guest artists and more!

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# THE GUERRILLA UNDERGROUND

# PAPILLON

KAIJA SAARIAHO, music  
ALIANA DE LA GUARDIA, poetry

featuring the  
**Guerilla Opera Ensemble**

ALIANA DE LA GUARDIA.....performer  
STEPHEN MAROTTO.....cello

DENIZ KHATERI  
Stage Director  
Animation Designer

JULIA NOULIN-MÉRAT  
Set Design

KEITHLYN B PARKMAN  
Associate Producer  
Lighting Designer

*PAPILLON was created with the support from HC Media and the Haverhill Cultural Council, a local agency funded by the Mass Cultural Council.*

# SALT

BAHAR ROYAEI, music  
DENIZ KHATERI, libretto

featuring the  
**Guerilla Opera Ensemble**

ALIANA DE LA GUARDIA.....soprano

DENIZ KHATERI  
Stage Director

BAHAR ROYAEI  
Sound Design

KEITHLYN B PARKMAN  
Associate Producer  
Lighting Designer

SARAH SCHNEIDER  
Stage Manager

NUOZHOU WANG  
Video Projection  
Designer

*The development of SALT was supported by a CIP Project Grant from Mass Cultural Council in partnership with Boston's Museum of Science, and with the help of HC Media and Puppet Showplace Theater*



# THE 2022 GUERILLA UNDERGROUND SEASON

GUERILLA OPERA'S

## RUMPELSTILTSKIN

MARTI EPSTEIN, MUSIC  
DENIZ KHATERI, ANIMATION

JAN  
14

7:30 PM

## THE CELLOS! DIALOGUE

UN-آن THEATRE ENSEMBLE

FEB  
11

7:30 PM

## THE COLONY

ANNA LINDEMANN, MUSIC & LIBRETTO  
EMMA KOMLOS-HROBSKY, LIBRETTO

MAR  
11

7:30 PM

GUERILLA OPERA'S

## PAPILLON

KAIJA SAARIAHO, MUSIC  
DENIZ KHATERI, DIRECTOR

## SALT

DENIZ KHATERI, LIBRETTO & DIRECTOR  
BAHAR ROYAAE, MUSIC

APR  
8

7:30 PM

## QUAKING ASPEN

JASON ECKARDT  
FEAT. STEPHANIE LAMPREA

## INTERIM

SARAH GRACE GRAVES

## SHE WEARS BELLS

JO REYES BOITEL  
FEAT. TEATRO PALO ALTO

MAY  
13

7:30 PM



## ABOUT THE WORKS

**Papillon** is a story of flight, freedom and transformation. Beginning with “Mi madre era una gusana,” a poem by Aliana de la Guardia, it tells a folkloric account of her mother’s flight from Cuba, through the metaphor of the everchanging life cycle of a butterfly. Papillon features animation and direction by Iranian theater artist and animator Deniz Khateri with Cuban dance-inspired shadow theater and poetry by Aliana de la Guardia on top of a wonderfully fragile rendition of Kaija Saariaho’s ephemeral Sept Papillons performed by Stephen Marotto.

**Salt** is a portrait of an elder woman who, as she cooks soup, reflects on her salty life of feeling trapped in an abusive marriage, performed by soprano and Artistic Director Aliana de la Guardia with electronic sound design.

## LAND BLOOD ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Although Guerilla Opera is a nomadic troupe, we would like to acknowledge that the land we have performed on in Boston for many years, is the original homelands of the Mashpee Wampanoag, Aquinnah Wampanoag, Nipmuc, Pawtucket, and Massachusetts tribal nations. Our work in Haverhill, MA is on the traditional lands and waterways of the Abenaki, Pennacook, and Wabanaki Peoples past and present. We acknowledge the truth of violence to these Peoples perpetrated in the name of this country. We acknowledge the truth of the enslavement of African people and the violence perpetrated to them in the name of this country.

The land we each stand on, wherever we are, holds deep history. It holds success, pain, connection, partnership, life, death, love, abuse, growth, genocide, discovery, community, and violence. The history of the space that we occupy has meant different things to different people who have occupied that same space throughout its history. By acknowledging the land and all that it holds, we will learn and care more deeply about the places we occupy and the people who are our neighbors.



PAPILLON

## MEET THE COMPANY

### KAIIJA SAARIAHO

*Composer, Papillon*

Kaija Saariaho is a prominent member of a group of Finnish artists who are making a worldwide impact. She studied in Helsinki, Fribourg and Paris. At IRCAM, Saariaho developed techniques of computer-assisted composition and acquired fluency in working on tape and with live electronics. This experience influenced her approach to writing for orchestra, with its emphasis on the shaping of dense masses of sound in slow transformations. Significantly, her first orchestral piece, *Verblendungen* (1984), involves a gradual exchange of roles and character between orchestra and tape. And even the titles of her, linked, pair of orchestral works, *Du Cristal* (1989) and *...à la Fumée* (1990) suggest her preoccupation with colour and texture. Although much of her catalogue comprises chamber works, she has turned increasingly to larger forces and broader structures, such as *Orion* (2004), *Laterna Magica* (2008), *Circle Map* (2008).

The detailed notation using harmonics, microtonality and detailed continuum of sound extending from pure tone to unpitched noise – all features found in one of her most frequently performed works, *Graal Théâtre* for violin and orchestra (1994). Her catalogue also includes *Aile du songe* (2001), *Notes on Light* (2006), *D'OM LE VRAI SENS* (2010), *Maan Varjot* (2014). In 2015, Gerald Finley and Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Gustavo Dudamel, premier *True Fire* for baritone and orchestra. From later nineties, Saariaho has turned to opera, with outstanding success: *L'Amour de Loin* (2000), *Adrian Mater* (2006), *Emilie* (2010) and the oratorio *La Passion de Simone* (2006). Her opera *Only the Sound Remains* was premiered in March 2016 at The Dutch National Opera. Other performances will follow in Paris, Helsinki, Madrid and Toronto.

Saariaho has claimed the major composing awards: Grawemeyer Award, Wihuri Prize, Nemmers Prize, Sonning Prize, Polar Music Prize. In 2015 she was the judge of the Toru Takemitsu Composition Award. Kaija Saariaho's harp concerto *Trans* was premiered in August 2016 by Xavier de Maistre and The Tokyo Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Ernest Martínez-Izquierdo at the Suntory Hall, Tokyo.





PAPILLON & SALT

## MEET THE COMPANY (CONT.)

### **ALIANA DE LA GUARDIA**

*Performer; Papillon & SALT*

Aliana de la Guardia artistic director and soprano, has garnered acclaim for her “dazzling flights of virtuosity” (Gramophone) in “vocally fearless” performances “fizzing with theatrical commitment” (Boston Globe). This Cuban- American artist enjoys a multifaceted career as a vocalist, actor, educator, and entrepreneur in New England and beyond. A cofounding artist and now artistic director of Guerilla Opera, she has produced more than twenty-five world premiere operas with roles tailor-made for her ferocious stage presence. Specializing in new music and garnering skills as a theater artist, she is especially fit for premiering new experimental operas, genre-bending performance art, devised works, intimate performances, and film projects. She has enjoyed new music and new opera collaborations with American Lyric Theater, Beth Morrison Projects, Boston Modern Orchestra Project, Boston New Music Festival, Dinosaur Annex, Enigma Chamber Opera, Ludovico Ensemble, Monadnock Music, New Gallery Concert Series, the PARMA Festival, Transient Canvas, and Winsor Music, among others.

She was recently selected as a protégée for OPERA America’s Women’s Opera Network Mentorship Program for Women in Opera, paired with Lee Anne Myslewski from the Wolf Trap Foundation, as well as the recipient of a Public Art Learning Fund grant from the New England Foundation for the Arts to pursue mentorship with the renowned Double Edge Theatre. She is the owner and founder of Dirty Paloma Voice Studio in Haverhill, Massachusetts, treasurer of Granite State National Association of Teachers of Singing, and was on the 2020 Haverhill Multicultural Festival planning committee. She has a BM in vocal performance, emphasis in opera and an MM, vocal performance from the Boston Conservatory, and additional studies with SITI Company and New Repertory Theater. ([alianaelaguardia.com](http://alianaelaguardia.com))

### **DENIZ KHATERI**

*Stage Director, Salt & Papillon;  
Librettist and Animations, Salt*

Deniz Khateri is an actor, director, playwright, shadow puppetry artist and animator based in New York. Her works attempt to experiment with form and exploring the unique characteristics of the mediums that she uses. She is particularly in search of the elements that highlight theatre from other mediums. Deniz performed extensively in Tehran and has worked with Boston theatre companies including ArtsEmerson, Central Square, Underground railway, Boston University, Apollinaire, etc. as an actor. Her plays have been performed in festivals in Tehran, Boston and New York. In her new work, “The Cellos’ Dialogue” premiered at NY’s Exponential festival, she experimented using a musical instrument as a puppet. Deniz has made shadow puppetry visuals for several contemporary classical composers and is excited to return to Guerrilla Opera as a part of the Guerilla Underground. Deniz has won the NYFA award for her animated web series “Diasporan Series” which is about daily struggles of immigrants. [denizkhateri.com](http://denizkhateri.com)



## PAPILLON & SALT MEET THE COMPANY (CONT.)

### **STEPHEN MAROTTA**

*Cello, Papillon*

A native of Norwalk, Connecticut, Stephen has received a Bachelors degree with honors from the University of Connecticut, and Masters and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees from Boston University. Stephen's formative teachers include Michael Reynolds, Kangho Lee, Marc Johnson, and Rhonda Rider. A passionate advocate for contemporary music, Stephen plays regularly with groups such as Sound Icon, Callithumpian Consort, the Boston Modern Orchestra Project, and also performs on various new music concert series in the Boston area and beyond. Stephen has attended music festivals at the Banff Centre, Cortona Sessions for New Music and SoundSCAPE festival in Italy, and the and the Summer Course for New Music in Darmstadt, Germany. Stephen has a wide range of musical interest that include contemporary chamber music, improvisatory music, and electroacoustic music. As a soloist, Stephen has commissioned several new works for the instrument, and is concerned with expanding and augmenting the tonal pallet of his instrument both with and without technology. Stephen can be heard as a featured artist on Mode Records. In his spare time, Stephen is an avid hiker and outdoorsman. As a teacher, Stephen aims to inspire students of all ages to ignite their passion for music and expand their musical horizons. Stephen's teaching philosophy includes building a fundamental understanding of the instrument through slow focused practicing with intent, and a broad academic and theoretical approach to supplement. Stephen is comfortable teaching in the common practice classical mold as well as jazz, contemporary improvisation, and eclectic styles of music.

### **JULIA NOULIN-MÉRAT**

*Set Design, Papillon*

Julia Noulin-Mérat, set design Papillon and co-Artistic Director, is a French, American, and Canadian production designer. For the past seven years, she has been the Associate Producer at Boston Lyric Opera and is the co-Artistic Director of Guerilla Opera. In addition, Julia has worked on over 400 opera, theater, and television productions, including 20 new operas and 22 new plays, and is the principal designer at Noulin-Mérat Studio. Julia received OPERA America's Women Opera Network mentorship distinction as well as the Leadership Intensive. Recent credit includes; Rigoletto (Minnesota Opera), Le Monde a l'Envers (Wolf Trap Opera), Tosca and Falstaff (Opera Omaha); Albert Herring (Curtis Institute); Gallo, Pedr Solis, and Troubled Water (Guerilla Opera); Sumeida's Song and 27 (Pittsburgh Opera); and The Rake's Progress, The Threepenny Opera, The Barber of Seville, and Pagliacci (BLO) I Pagliacci, Kaizer of Atlantis, Romeo et Juliette (the Atlanta Opera). Other projects include a TedX talk on site-specific opera in the modern age; a Neverland (with China Broadway): a \$20 million, 50,000 square immersive theater piece in Beijing based on Peter Pan; and Playground (Opera Omaha) a touring operatic sound sculpture in collaboration with composer Ellen Reid. Julia is a graduate of Boston University with an MSc in Arts Administration, an MFA in Set Design, a Diversity Inclusion certificate from ESSEC Business School, a social media marketing specialization from Northwestern University, a Fundraising Development Specialization from UC Davis, a Finance & Leadership certification from Harvard Business School. <http://www.noulinmerat.com>





## PAPILLON & SALT **MEET THE COMPANY (CONT.)**

### **KEITHLYN B PARKMAN**

*Associate Producer, Lighting Designer;  
Salt & Papillon*

Keithlyn B Parkman, lighting designer, was born and raised in a New York City theater family with a sewist and a carpenter for parents. While receiving her BFA in lighting design from Boston University, she stumbled upon an assistant stage management position with Guerilla Opera, and the rest is history. In the last eight years, Parkman has been a member of the ensemble eleven times. Being embedded in theater at such a young age, she was instilled with a passion for the arts that she strives to share with others. While not working in the Boston opera scene, she mentors the next generation of theater makers at Brooklyn's Berkeley Carroll and Manhattan's The Beacon School. In addition to teaching and mentoring, she also continues to juggle a freelance lighting design career with a deep interest in bringing theater to nonconventional spaces. Parkman has designed shows in empty storefronts, party venues, and church basements all over New York City.

### **BAHAR ROYAEI**

*Composer, Salt*

Born and raised in Iran, Bahar Royaei is a composer of concert and incidental music. Her compositions are a mixture of timbral and sound-based atmospheric structures, interspersed with lyrical influences derived from her Iranian background. Her works have been performed worldwide, including Italy, Greece, Germany, Canada, Iran, and the US. Bahar was recently recognized as a runner-up in National Sawdust's 2018-19 Hildegard Competition. Other awards include the Roger Sessions Memorial Composition Award, Walter W. Harp Music & Society Award, John Bavicchi Memorial Prize, and the Korourian Electroacoustic Award. Bahar received her M.M. in composition from Boston Conservatory, where she studied with Marti Epstein and Felipe Lara, and is currently pursuing a PhD from CUNY where she studies under Jason Eckardt and Suzanne Farrin.

### **NUOZHOU WANG**

*Video Projection Designer, Salt*

Nuozhou Wang is a Chinese filmmaker, sculptor, and video artist based on the East Coast. Her work, invariably featuring women characters, explores gender, class, beauty, and transitional space. Nuozhou has engaged in the creation of works presented at various venues including the Museum of Modern Art, Pioneer Works, and Art Basel. She has associate directed, filmed, and animated numerous cinematic and experimental operas discussing immigration, assimilation, Asian, Asian-American, and BIPOC experiences, including *La Bohème* (2021), *Ofelia's Life Dream* (2020), *ELLIS* (2021), and *SALT* (2021). She received her BFA in sculpture from Rhode Island School of Design in 2020.

# GUERRILLA OPERA

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**GUERRILLA  
OPERA**

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## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

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