

**GUERRILLA  
OPERA**

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

MARTI EPSTEIN'S

# RUMPELSTILTSKIN

DENIZ KHATERI, FILM ANIMATOR

JANUARY 7, 2022

8:00 PM

PARMA LIVE STAGE





## 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 reenvision 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-Mérat**

*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*

#### **BOARD OF ADVISORS**

**Bob Lord**

*CEO, PARMA Recordings*

**Nicholas Martinez**

*Multi-Instrumentalist, Vocalist, & Accessibility*

**Erin Padilla**

*Director of Creative Haverhill & Cogswell ArtSpace*



PRESENTS

# RUMPELSTILTSKIN

music by MARTI EPSTEIN  
libretto by MARTI EPSTEIN and GREG SMUCKER

featuring the  
**Guerilla Opera Ensemble**

an animated film by  
DENIZ KHATERI

ALIANA DE LA GUARDIA.....	Rumpelstiltskin
BRITT BROWN.....	Gretchen
EMILY THORNER.....	Miller
BRIAN CHURCH.....	King
LILIT HARTUNIAN.....	violin
STEPHEN MAROTTO.....	cello
PHILIPP STÄUDLIN.....	saxophone
MIKE WILLIAMS.....	percussion

MARTI EPSTEIN  
TAE KIM  
DAN VANHASSEL  
Session Producers

JOEL GORDON  
Editing and Mixing

JEFFREY MEANS  
Conductor

TAE KIM  
Rehearsal Pianist

JOEL GORDON  
Session Engineer

PETER ATKINSON  
Assistant Engineer

Recorded March 9-10, 2019 at Blue Jay Recording Studio  
Carlisle, MA

# GUERRILLA

## CINCOVECE

**A VIRTUAL SPEAKEASY EXPERIENCE & PERFORMANCE SERIES**

## WHAT IS THE GUERRILLA UNDERGROUND?

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!

**Each live stream event is directly followed by an After Party with artist Q&A, games and giveaways!**

## TICKET INFO

### SINGLE TICKETS

Livestream (\$15.00)

Livestream+ VOD (\$30.00): Above + On Demand

Livestream+ VOD + VIP: (\$40.00): Above + VIP Chat Room Access

### TICKET BUNDLES

Peep (\$80-\$100): 5 shows + VOD

VIP (\$96-\$120): Above + VIP Chat & Event Access

SuperFan (\$148.50-\$185): Above + Guerilla Studio Albums

Party (\$212-\$265): Above + Guerilla Care Package

## VISIT

**[GUERRILLAOPERA.ORG/UNDERGROUND](https://guerillaopera.org/underground)**

## FOR MORE INFORMATION & TO PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS

*Zoom After Party directly following the livestream event for VIP Package ticket holders or higher or purchase admission separately.*

*Extended on-demand viewing available with ticket bundles.*

# GUERRILLA UNDERGROUND SEASON

MARTI EPSTEIN'S

## RUMPELSTILTSKIN

DENIZ KHATERI, FILM ANIMATOR

JAN

14

7:30 PM

## ELLIS

GABRIEL VANONI, COMPOSER  
EWA CHRUSCIEL, LIBRETTIST

FEB

11

7:30 PM

## THE COLONY

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

MAR

11

7:30 PM

## THE CELLOS' DIALOGUE

UN-آن THEATRE ENSEMBLE

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

# RUMPELSTILTSKIN



## STUDIO ALBUM

### RELEASE & PARTY

**JANUARY 14, 2022**

**7:30 PM**

Join the Zoom CD Release After Party for *Rumpelstiltskin* with artist Q&A, games and giveaways by purchasing a VIP Level ticket bundle or higher OR purchase admission separately by clicking below.

[MORE INFO/BUY TICKET](#)

[PRE-ORDER ALBUM](#)

Rumpelstiltskin is a tragedy, a story about a hideously deformed little man who believes that, because of his physical appearance, he is unlovable. The little man, who has mysterious magic powers, really only wants one thing in life: to love someone and have that loved returned unconditionally.

Every day he sits in a tree and watches Gretchen and her father, the Miller, as they go about their daily routine. He longs for the kind of relationship they have with each other and decides that his only path to true love is to somehow have a child of his own.

One day the King approaches Gretchen and Miller with an offer for Gretchen. A misleading boast leads the King to believe that Gretchen can spin gold out of straw. The greedy King decides to test her by locking her up in a room in his castle filled with straw and a spinning wheel. He tells her that if she does not complete the task, he will have her put to death. But, if she does complete the task, he will make her his bride.

The little man sees this as an opportunity to be in a position to get the only thing he has ever wanted; he seizes the opportunity, helps Gretchen, and in exchange extracts a promise from her that she will give him her first-born child. It seems as if true and unconditional love is finally within his grasp. However, he ultimately loses his chance at love because of his kind nature. He takes pity on Gretchen and her love for her child, and allows her to try to guess his name in exchange for keeping her child. She miraculously discovers his name and therefore keeps her child; however, no one could have anticipated the incredible and terrible consequences of Gretchen speaking his name out loud. This is the true tragedy of the story.

## 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.



## A NOTE FROM THE COMPOSER

Guerilla Opera approached me about writing a chamber opera in the spring of 2007. At the suggestion of a writer friend, I chose the Rumpelstiltskin story, and I decided to retell the story with Rumpelstiltskin as the sympathetic character.

I rewrote the story to fill in details that are left out in the original fairy tale. I felt that only the King's motivations--greed, and possibly lust--were clear. The other characters' behaviors needed some explanation. Why does Rumpelstiltskin want a child so badly? Why does the girl agree to give him her child, only to renege on that promise? Why did the father lie to the King about his daughter's spinning skill? The spinning scene was also very compelling to me. I could not get Gretchen am Spinnrade" by Schubert out of my head. The motivic material in the second scene is based on the piano accompaniment of the Schubert song.

I started thinking about other ways to present this opera as soon as the premiere performances were finished. Animation seemed interesting. But when I became acquainted with the work of Iranian theater artist, Deniz Khateri, I knew that shadow puppets could be a beautiful and brilliant way to tell the story. This is a fairy tale, after all, and using puppets to tell the story instead of live humans acting while singing seemed the perfect way to free the singers to focus on expressing the music while allowing the shadow puppets to reveal the action of the story.

- Marti Epstein



## INTERESTED IN SUPPORTING GUERRILLA OPERA?

Our donors are representatives of a vital community who support creators of new works and who love the process of bringing vivid and intimate new operas to life. Make a gift today to make a huge impact!

[MAKE A DONATION](#)

## BECOME A PATREON MEMBER

Join our Patreon for access to exclusive Guerilla Opera content, early access to our online tickets and events, and more! Your monthly contribution is vital to the continuation of Guerilla Opera.

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PER MONTH

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- Insider posts | video updates

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WHAT YOU GET:

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- Discounted Admission to Ticketed Events

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**GUERRILLA  
OPERA**

## **CONTACT US**

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