

"AN OPERA YOU CAN MAMBO TO"

RICK PALLEY, BROOKLYN SKYLINE



KITTY BRAZELTON (COMPOSER) rejoices in the keen expression she achieves by infusing vernacular American dialects into deep, complex structures. Her full-length opera, *Fireworks!* was commissioned by American Opera Projects. She composed orchestral work *Sleeping Out of Doors* (1998); a piano concerto commissioned and premiered by conductor Kristjan Järvi's Absolute Ensemble. Chamber music credits include the N.Y.S.C.A. cyber-punk fantasia *5 Dreams, marriage* (premiered by her unique quartet, *WHAT IS IT LIKE TO BE A BAT?*), Manhattan Brass Quintet and the California EAR Unit. Brazelton created electronic compositions for pianist Kathleen Supové, duos Twisted Tutu and Double Edge, choreographers Jody Oberfelder and Gina Gibney, Kitchen House Blend and Relâche.

BILLY ARONSON (LIBRETTIST) has written plays produced by Playwrights Horizons, Ensemble Studio Theatre, Woolly Mammoth Theatre, and Wellfleet Harbor Actor's Theatre. Additional credits include original concept and lyrics for the hit musical *Rent*; *Flurry Tale* and *Fireworks!* for Family Opera Initiative; Cartoon Network, Children's Television Workshop (*Sesame English* and the *Sesame Street* home video), the Disney Channel, MTV, PBS, Nickelodeon, A&E International, The History Channel, and Comedy Central. Best American Short Plays 1992-1993, 1999-2000, and plays from the Woolly Mammoth. Aronson is a graduate of the Yale Drama School and Princeton University.

GRETHE BARRETT HOLBY (ORIGIN & DIRECTION) "Propelling opera into the 21st century" NPR, and now "Busting the boundaries of opera" NYTimes, Holby's background and skills in theatre & storytelling, dance & movement, and architecture & visual design combine to compelling results in all her productions. She has directed, choreographed, performed, collaborated on world premieres at The Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center Festival, Houston Grand Opera, La Scala (Milan), and for opera companies from Los Angeles to Washington DC, Anchorage to Memphis. An originating cast member of *Einstein on the Beach*, she has collaborated with legendary artists as diverse as Leonard Bernstein, Lou Reed, Robert Wilson and Yusef Komunyakaa. Founder of both Ardea Arts/Family Opera Initiative, American Opera Projects, she is a Rockefeller Fellowship recipient, and holds B.S. ; M.S. degrees from MIT.

For licensing opportunities and other
information contact

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WWW.ARDEAARTS.COM

ARDEA ARTS

NEW OPERA • NEW AUDIENCES

Opera - Out - Of - Bounds

FIREWORKS!

WHAT MAKES US AMERICANS?

LENGTH

65 minutes

AGE GROUP

Families of all ages

CAST

3 Men: Tenor, Baritone, Bass

3 Women: Soprano, Mezzo-soprano, Contralto

INSTRUMENTATION

Band Version

Keyboard, Percussion, Violin, Electric Guitar, Reeds, Cello

Full Orchestra Version

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Cello

Bass

Flute

Oboe

Bass Clarinet

Trumpet

Trombone

Harp

Guitar

Percussion (x4)

Community choruses sing "The Star Spangled Banner" and recite "Paul Revere's Ride" (optional)

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

Sound System

DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

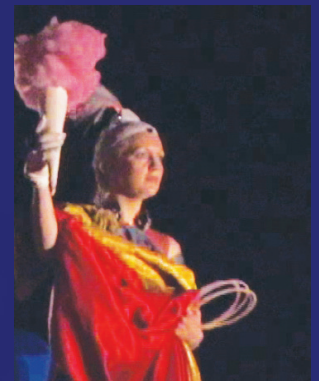
Family Opera Initiative and American Opera Projects; Major Support from the Jaffe Family Foundation; NY State Council for the Arts

PREMIERE

Fort Greene Park, Brooklyn, NY, July 2002



A hilarious opera/musical about a curious Alien who travels to Earth to investigate why we shoot colored lights into the sky every year on the 4th of July. The Alien encounters a geeky high school boy, a rebellious teenage girl, a pompous street actor and the park's groundskeeper, who wishes everyone would take more civic pride in their park. The Alien has explored zillions of galaxies, but she's never seen anything as brash, daring or infectious as this idea of Democracy!



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