

BUNCH

A GUIDE FOR THE DARING CREATIVE



THE *100 creatives*
ISSUE

REBECCA

Opera Singer

WRITTEN BY ANNA LEI

PHOTOGRAPHY C/O REBECCA RINGLE

RINGLE

Rebecca Ringle had a wild and unruly voice in high school, which is why her choir teacher surrounded her with boys—not as a favor, but rather to drown out her sound. According to him, it was ruining his blend.

To console her, a friend suggested she try opera because in opera, a resonant voice is a huge asset. So Ringle took lessons and fell head over heels in love.

“The feeling of producing an operatic sound yourself is indescribable,” she said. “It is vivid, visceral—almost too much at first. I wanted to become as good as I could to make the music sound as great as it could.”

Enamored and inspired, Ringle went to Oberlin College and got a double degree in voice and comparative literature, with a French language emphasis. The latter helped her prepare French, German and Italian music for the auditions she went to

during grad school at Yale University. Upon graduating from the prestigious Ivy League, she was hired by the Washington National Opera and the New York City Opera. Then, the unthinkable happened.

During the second year of her career, in 2008, the economic crash struck—forcing many opera houses to close, including both of Ringle’s. She was left jobless and untethered, but not one to give up, the scrappy singer continued to look for ways to use her vocal skills.

“I survived by discovering my niche strengths: strong acting and complex music,” she explained. “I worked with a wonderful Brooklyn-based incubator called American Opera projects. I self-produced a heart-felt evening of Schumann songs called *Bad Romance*, after Lady Gaga. We had so little money but we knew we needed to do this

project and I felt so much positive energy during that period.”

During that same month, Ringle was hired by the Metropolitan Opera in New York, which puts on more than 200 opera performances a year to an audience of more than 800,000. “It’s so important to keep your heart in your work, especially when things get tough,” she said.

Today, Ringle continues to belt away as a mezzo soprano opera singer for the Met, using music to unlock the heart and free the soul.

“I think of my career as more than me,” she said. “There’s a great hunger today for immediate emotional experiences and group catharsis, and I find the most beautiful things come when I focus on filling that need.”

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BUNCH

A GUIDE FOR THE DARING CREATIVE



BUNCH MAGAZINE IS A GUIDE FOR DARING
CREATIVES. WE HIGHLIGHT INFLUENCERS ACROSS
CREATIVE COMMUNITIES, TELLING THE STORY OF
RISK TAKERS WHO HAVE MERGED THEIR PASSIONS
WITH THEIR PROFESSION. THE AIM IS TO
CULTIVATE A LIKE-MINDED COLLECTIVE, A PLACE
WHERE READERS ARE INSPIRED AND MOTIVATED.

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