GUERRILLA LAB
2021 COURSES
What are the Guerilla Labs?

A vital space for creative ideas, where participants can grow and evolve their individual practice as part of a creative community, in a peer-learning and process-driven environment.

Who are they for?

The Guerilla Lab is intended to be a space where ideas are conceived and encouraged to grow with the aid of discovery and experimentation.

All artists seeking inspiration and tools for their teaching, organizational and creative artistry are welcome, including: librettists, poets, playwrights, filmmakers, composers, stage directors, dramaturgs, vocalists, instrumentalists, designers, etc.

Activities and discussions will be designed to meet the inclusive needs of every participant based on their expressed interests and experience level (ages 18+).

Why do we do it?

We are one of Boston’s most exciting young companies producing brave new works and one of the first in the country to exclusively commission new works.

For us, art-making is a collaborative process. We want to collaborate with you directly to get your unique perspective out into the world with confidence so that you can to share the art forms you love with your community.

Our vision is to examine the world through culturally focused and contemporarily lenses. We especially encourage female-identifying artists, LGBTQ+ artists, and BIPOC artists to apply and offer need based subsidies to these groups as available!
LIBRETTO WRITING

Explore script writing for opera in a supportive creative community to experiment with the many approaches to bringing stories to the stage through voice and music.

This Lab will discuss the ensemble’s vibrant and unique repertoire with the librettists and composers who created them in an intimate examination of the creation process. Through exploratory writing exercises, group discussion and critical response and feedback, participants will grow and evolve their own unique story and approach to writing text for opera in process-driven experiments.

Instructor
Geovonday Jones & Guest Speakers

Day & Times
Wednesdays (7PM EDT) | Saturdays (2PM EDT)
Wednesday Cohort: July 7, 14, 21, 28, Aug 4 & 11
Saturday Cohort: July 10, 17, 24, 31, Aug 7 & 14

Sessions & Duration
Six (6) weekly, 2-hr online sessions

Deadline to apply
Sunday, June 6, 2021, 11:59PM EST

Notification
Monday, June 14, 2021, 11:59PM EST

Participant Fee
$475 / $425 (Alumni Discount)

Payment Due
Monday, June 21, 2021
(Subsidies available by request and as available.)

More information and apply:
https://guerillaopera.org/gllibretto-workshop
GEOVONDAY JONES, INSTRUCTOR
An actor, director, and teaching artist/coach. He most recently directed The Importance of Being Earnest, The High Captain at The Tank, The Motherfucker with the Hat, and In the Blood. Jones has also directed or assisted on operas, including but not limited to Il Tabarro, Suor Angelica, The Bartered Bride, Carmen, to name a few. Also, he has served as an acting coach for many operas and concerts. Most recently, as an actor, he was a costar on Law & Order: Organized Crime and a part of JAG’s Jagfest 4.0. Previous: Irontale Theatre’s work of Lynn Nottage’s Sweat (Brucie), Waterwell’s Ajax (Ensemble), which was a part of The Green Plays Festival, Ancram Opera House’s production of Tarell Alvin McCraney’s The Brother Size (Ogun), New Works Brooklyn’s reading of Nambi Kelley’s Translation of Likes (Too Legit To Quit). Regionally, Geovonday has performed in several shows with Tent Theatre, including Peter and the Starcatcher (Captain Scott), A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum (Senex), Rumors (Officer Welch), and Anything Goes (Henry T. Dobson). Other regional roles include Bobo in A Raisin in the Sun, Jose the Muleteer in Man of La Mancha, and Tinca in Puccini’s Il Tabarro. Among his favorites are Gabriel Pleasure in Mac Wellman’s The Lesser Magoo, Vanya in Uncle Vanya, Sly in Dominique Morisseau’s Detroit ’67, Father Luka/Eugene in Ambition Facing West, and Twilight Los Angeles, 1992. Previously, he taught on the faculty at The People’s Improv Theater, and the adjunct faculties in Brooklyn College’s Department of Theater and The City College of New York’s Department of Theatre and Speech, where he developed the popular course entitled Theatre and Racism. Recently, he joined the coaching team at Ignite, CSP and the faculty at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. Geo is a member of SAG-AFTRA and an Associate Member of Stage Directors and Choreographers Society. Additionally, he is a freelance Implicit Bias & Anti-Racism consultant. Also, he serves as the Performer Advocate and Antiracist consultant for River & Rail Theatre Company. He has an MFA in Acting from Brooklyn College and a BFA in Acting from Missouri State University. Currently, he is completing his Teacher Certification in the Chekhov Technique with Great Lakes Michael Chekhov Consortium. (geovondayjones.com)

**GUEST SPEAKERS TO BE ANNOUNCED**
ARTISTIC PROJECTS

Geared towards artist-producers that are at the start of their journey, this Lab offers organizational tools to get your project or idea off the ground with success. We will discuss tools from artistic mission, to budgets, to press kits, and ending with fundraising. Different ideas have different organizational structures, so we offer a fluid and adaptable approach to wrapping your head around the next steps in your project. We hope to open your mind to what is possible on a small budget, empowering you as an artist-producer.

Instructor
Aliana de la Guardia & Guest Speakers

Dates & Times
Mondays, June 21 & 28 and July 12 & 19, 7PM EDT
(A second session can be added depending on demand)

Sessions & Duration
Four (4) weekly, 2-hr online sessions
Plus one (1) forty-five (45) minute private consult for each participant

Deadline to apply
Sunday, May 30, 2021, 11:59PM EST

Notification
Sunday, June 6, 2021, 11:59PM EST

Participant Fee
$400 / $350.00 (Alumni Discount)
(Subsidies available by request and as available.)

Payment Due
Friday, June 11, 2021 (either in full or partial)

More information and apply:
https://guerillaopera.org/glprojects-lab
ALIANA DE LA GUARDIA, INSTRUCTOR

Aliana de la Guardia (Soprano & Artistic Director) has garnered acclaim for her “dazzling flights of virtuosity” (Gramophone) in “vocally fearless” performances that are “fizzing with theatrical commitment” (The Boston Globe). A voracious interpreter of repertoire old and new, this Cuban-American artist enjoys a multifaceted career as a vocalist, actor, educator, and entrepreneur in New England and beyond. A co-founding 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 featuring today’s most eminent composers 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, MA, treasurer of Granite State National Association of Teachers of Singing, and was on the 2020 Haverhill Multicultural Festival planning committee. Aliana 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)
ISHAN JOHNSON, GUEST SPEAKER

Ishan Johnson is the newly appointed Associate Director, Philanthropy for the Art Institute of Chicago. Previously, he served as Associate Director of Development for Chicago Opera Theater, where he oversaw individual & planned giving, special events, and an endowment campaign. As Manager of Auxiliary Relations for Chicago History Museum, he transformed the volunteer donor experience, exceeding all financial and membership goals. He is a graduate of the AFP Chicago Fellows program, was awarded the 2019 Chamberlain Scholarship, and proudly serves on the Board of Directors as Vice-President of IDEA. As a member of the public engagement and jr. member committees for the Arts Club of Chicago, Ishan proudly advocates for equity and access within one of our city’s greatest cultural institutions. He holds a Vocal Performance degree from Boston University, and held a professional career as an opera singer for more than a decade.
“OUROBOROS” by Rudolf Rojahn from Let’s Make a Sandwich, Guerilla Opera, September 2014. Photo by Liz Linder Photography.
TEACHING ARTISTRY

This workshop will discuss practical ways to practice citizen artistry through creating and implementing arts programming which meets the needs of the community artists are working with. We will address first steps in creating programming, and how we can build and sustain trust in spaces that may be new to us. Together, we will consider how performing artists can use their skills in a way that is welcome, appropriate, and useful, so that they may facilitate creative experiences with people from all walks of life.

Instructor
Gwenna Fairchild-Taylor

Dates & Times
Tuesdays, June 15, 22 & 29, 2021 at 7:30PM EDT

Sessions & Duration
Three (3) weekly, 90-min online sessions

Deadline to apply
Sunday, May 30, 2021, 11:59PM EST

Notification
Sunday, June 6, 2021, 11:59PM EST

Participant Fee
$300.00 / $250.00 (Alumni Discount)

Payment Due
Friday, June 11, 2021 (either in full or partial)
(Subsidies available by request and as available.)

More information and apply:
https://guerillaopera.org/glteaching-artistry
GWENNA FAIRCHILD-TAYLOR, 
INSTRUCTOR

Canadian soprano and teaching artist Gwenna Fairchild-Taylor holds an M.Mus in Opera (University of Toronto) and a B.Mus in Voice Performance (Western University). She recently completed the Holland Community Opera Fellowship at Opera Omaha. Gwenna was a recipient of an Encouragement Award at the Nebraska District Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions in December 2020. Recent performance highlights Opera Outdoors and Opera to Go (Opera Omaha), originating the role of Nature in Cries of the Earth (Artsong Collaborative Project), Berta in The Barber of Seville (Indian River Festival, Stratford Summer Music), Fiordiligi in Così fan tutte (Toronto Lyric Opera Centre / Toronto Mozart Players), and Soprano Soloist in Beethoven Symphony No. 9 (London Symphonia, Durham Youth Orchestra). Gwenna looks forward to recording some new works with the Artsong Collaborative Project in summer 2021.

Gwenna believes in the power of the arts as a catalyst for community building and social change and strives to make sure everyone has access to creative experiences, regardless of location or circumstance. She wrote the curriculum and continues to consult for “Learn English Through Song,” a program run by The Corporation of Massey Hall and Roy Thomson Hall in Toronto that facilitates language learning and community building for newcomer women through singing. Through her work at Opera Omaha, she created and facilitated programming for over 15 community partners. Since 2015 she has run a program that offers free music and drama classes for kids in the Canadian Arctic. She has also worked as a teaching artist and consulted on curriculum development for education programming at the Canadian Opera Company.
SHADOWS IN MUSIC

In this workshop we will discuss different ways that shadows have been incorporated in the world of theatre and music. Participants will experiment with some of these different methods in order to find their own style that would suit the piece of music that they have chosen. By the fourth day, each of the participants will have created a short piece of shadow performance that they show it to the class for feedback and further developments.

Instructor
Deniz Khateri

Dates & Times
Thursdays June 17, 24, July 1 and July 8 at 7:30PM EDT

Sessions & Duration
Four (4) weekly, 2-hr online sessions

Deadline to apply
Sunday, May 30, 2021, 11:59PM EST

Notification
Sunday, June 6, 2021, 11:59PM EST

Participant Fee
$350 / $300.00 (Alumni Discount)
(Subsidies available by request and as available.)

Payment Due
Friday, June 11, 2021 (either in full or partial)

More information and apply:
https://guerillaopera.org/gshadow-lab
DENIZ KHATERI, INSTRUCTOR

Trained in her hometown Tehran, Deniz Khateri is an actor, director, playwright, shadow puppetry artist and animator based in New York. Her works attempt to experiment with form, exploring the unique characteristics of the mediums that she uses.

As an actor, Deniz has performed extensively in Tehran, Boston and New York. Her plays have been performed in several national and international festivals as well as universities including University of Massachusetts, Harvard Graduate School, MIT and Boston University.

In the realm of puppetry, she has been experimenting with using musical instruments as puppets in “The Cellos Dialogue” that has been selected for artist residency at Center at West Park as well as the Exponential Festival. Deniz has created shadow puppetry and shadow art for award-winning contemporary music composers and companies including Marti Epstein, Long Beach Opera and Guerilla Opera. She is a proud winner of the NYFA award for Best Documentary Animated Web Series "Diasporan Series" which she has written, directed and produced, and explores the daily struggles of immigrants. (denizkhateri.com)
“Heart of a Dog” by Rudolf Rojahn, Guerilla Opera, May 2010.
Photo by Anthony Scibilia
GUERILLA OPERA

CONTACT
PROGRAMS@GUERILLAOPERA.ORG
@GUERILLAOPERA