

Presenter Name:

Rebecca Gray

Work title:

BUS Opera

Composer:

Rebecca Gray

Librettist:

Rebecca Gray

Work Description:

BUS Opera is a dark, surrealist comedy that follows an anxious and anguished millennial as their hopes, horrors and histrionics collide on an overnight bus trip. Through an innovative musical structure of dreams, reality and fantasies in between, BUS Opera explores gender identity, alienation, and the quest for stability in modern life.

BUS Opera blends many musical styles as it alternates between dreams and reality, with the musical style amplifying each dream's distinct absurdist logic. There is

a wet dream, a dentist visit gone wrong, a chorus of singing strings of liquorice, as well as a heartfelt, lyric aria of yearning. While often busy and intense, BUS Opera has many poignant moments of lyricism, and Rebecca's compositional style balances tonal and experimental

writing to give audiences both unusual and emotionally satisfying experiences.

The work is a love letter to the millennial generation and a dramatization of the modern mind as it copes with the pressures of capitalism, loneliness, perceived failures, and loss. A Greyhound bus as the setting is personal to Rebecca, who doesn't drive, and the work is an ode to a form of travel that is increasingly marginalized in our society.

The creators are also driven to bring modern queer representation to the opera stage, without relying on a trauma narrative, and without the narrative being overtly focused on recognizably queer material. The opera is queer because we are queer.

Duration:

45 minutes

Vocal Forces:

2 sopranos, countertenor, tenor, baritone, actor

Instrumental Forces:

prepared piano, saxophone, violin cello

Approximate budget to produce:

18 000

Production intention - what are you looking for? (i.e. co-producers):

producers, co-producers

Work page/website (if available):

<https://www.rebeccagraysopranocomposer.ca/>