



UNEXPECTED OPERA'S  
**OPERA NAKED**

★★★★★ Broadway Baby    ★★★★★ Bachtrack.com

**Winner: Argus Angel Award for Artistic Excellence, Brighton Fringe 2014**

**Finalist: Best Opera in the Off-West-End 'Offies' 2013**

"One of the most original shows I've seen in ages ... poignant, funny, true ...  
Essentially a guide to how the world of opera works ... the whole thing is a joy."  
(Michael White in *Opera Now* and *The Catholic Herald*)

*Opera Naked* is 'operatic cabaret' - a unique mix of singing, revealing honesty and playful comedy. Why do some people want to sing opera, and what does it take to do it? Discover the naked truth with four professional singers whose lives are laid bare by our comic MC. Share their struggles and triumphs while enjoying some of opera's greatest hits – sung from the heart. (*Act 1 suitable for Schools Matinee performance.*)



**AVAILABLE FOR  
TOURING 2014/15**

Our Brighton Fringe trailer  
can be seen at  
<http://youtu.be/10Gqg27Ek80>



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Based on interviews with singers, *Opera Naked* is a revealing show that debunks myths surrounding opera singing and exposes the real-life trials and tribulations unfolding behind the scenes. The verbatim material is brought to life by four singers, a comic actor and a pianist.

The first act, supervised by our comic 'Professor', explores the journey towards becoming an opera singer. It examines everything from singing technique to the impact of an opera career on relationships and life-styles. There are four extended 'life-stories' and a hilarious 'awful auditions' sequence. This act was extremely well-received as a Schools Matinee at the Newbury Spring Festival.

The second act, led by 'Maestro Pappini', looks at the professional world they inhabit, sharing 'insider knowledge' and true stories from rehearsal room and stage. Finally, we explore why young singers devote themselves to this challenging struggle with themselves, their voices and the business that is Opera.

In 2013 *Opera Naked* ran for 8 performances at the St James Theatre's Studio, London SW1, to critical acclaim and audiences averaging over 75% capacity (including some sold-out shows). Our May 2014 tour included the Newbury Spring Festival, Trinity Theatre Tunbridge Wells and the Brighton Fringe; we appear at Ramsgate's 'Summer Squall' Arts Festival on August 24<sup>th</sup>.

### **TECHNICAL SPECS**

- Suitable for small theatres, concert halls, cabaret spaces (playing space: Min. 4 metres x 6 metres)
- Piano onstage (preferably a baby grand)
- No set; minimal props and costumes; relatively simple lighting plot
- Sound system for recorded voices
- Running time: Act 1, 50 minutes (can be performed separately as a Schools Matinee; Act 2, 45 minutes; total with 20 minute interval: 115 minutes)

### **CAST**

- 4 singers
- 1 comic actor
- 1 pianist

### **REPERTOIRE**

Arias and scenes by Cilea, Dvorak, Gluck, Handel, Leoncavallo, Monteverdi, Mozart, Puccini, Rossini, Verdi and Wagner including:

- 'Un bel di' (*Butterfly*) in English
- 'Habanera' (*Carmen*) in French
- 'O du, mein holder Abendstern' (*Tannhäuser*) in German
- 'Vesti la giubba' (*Pagliacci*) in English
- 'Vissi d'arte' (*Tosca*) in Italian
- 'Dopo notte' (*Ariodante*) in English and Italian
- 'Vidino divna' (*Rusalka*) in Czech



### **CREATIVE TEAM**

Written and Directed by Lynn Binstock with Tony Harris  
Movement & Speech            Claire Dale  
Lighting by                        Tom Mannings

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## **PRESS FOR OPERA NAKED**

★★★★★ **Broadway Baby (26 May 2014)**

<http://www.broadwaybaby.com/shows/opera-naked-singers-lives-laid-bare/36841>

"They had me from the very first note. Bravo!"

"masses of energy and talent ... cleverly scripted"

"After hearing the inspirational stories and powerful arias we all felt rejuvenated ... Make sure you catch this cure-for-all-ills show."

**The Argus (17 June 2014) awarding an 'Argus Angel' for Artistic Excellence**

[http://www.theargus.co.uk/leisure/critic/11252480.Brighton\\_Fringe\\_Opera\\_Naked\\_Chapel\\_Royal\\_Brighton\\_June\\_1/](http://www.theargus.co.uk/leisure/critic/11252480.Brighton_Fringe_Opera_Naked_Chapel_Royal_Brighton_June_1/)

"full of originality and comic invention ... two hours of musical magic plus insight"

"Interspersed with the spoken word were operatic highlights ... glorious voices thrilled and moved an entranced audience."

**OPERA magazine January 2014**

"disarming candour ... hugely entertaining."

"The audience, who looked as though they might be more familiar with caustic stand-up comedy, lapped it up."

★★★★★ **Backtrack.com (Oct. 2013)**

<http://www.backtrack.com/review-oct-2013-opera-naked-at-st-james-theatre>

"It is emotional; it is charming; and above all, it is relaxed, personal, great fun, moving, and will keep you thinking long after you leave."

"an original, special, fascinating opportunity"

<http://www.fringeopera.com/reviews/review-opera-naked-by-unexpected-opera/>

"The arias ... were mesmerising. That was really the 'naked' part. With nothing but a piano, an empty stage and a tiny theatre, these singers were all but laid bare in the spotlight and my God, they could sing."

"... if you were previously unconvinced about the art form, go and see *Opera Naked* for the arias. They speak for themselves. "

<http://www.monkeymatterstheatre.com/2013/10/opera-naked-review-st-james-theatre.html>

"*Opera Naked* strips away the high art shroud to expose the beating heart beneath."

"The choice of music and, in the second half, scenes, is terrific - a blend of wonderfully tuneful and the right side of challenging."

The Sunday Times previewed the show in their Culture magazine:

[http://www.unexpectedopera.com/#!\\_onreviews2013](http://www.unexpectedopera.com/#!_onreviews2013)

For an interview with Artistic Director Lynn Binstock, see

<http://www.fringeopera.com/features/zesty-operatic-cabaret-spiked-with-comedy-interview-with-lynn-binstock-unexpected-opera/>