

STINGAREE presents
STORMY – THE OPERA

World Premiere



TOURING AND PRESS PACK

Contents

INTRODUCTION..... 3

BOOKING INFORMATION..... 9

THE TEAM..... 10

PRESS..... 12

INTRODUCTION

“In a country ruled by a despot and stripped of all its precious liberties, only ancient burlesque queen Miss Stormy can save America”



WHO ARE WE?

STINGAREE is an experimental ALTERNATIVE TO ALTERNATIVE ever-changing, international platform for artistic, counterculture collaborations. We aim to dissemble mainstream popular art, creating our own unique take on the world.

https://www.facebook.com/pg/Stingaree-101079571291300/about/?ref=page_internal

Contact Information

Phone number and emails (tbd)

STORMY – THE OPERA is a world premiere, and Stingaree’s first project. It has been specially written by award-winning writer Kay Adshead for veteran Houston performers jhon r. stonks and Margo Stutts Toombs, and uses the life and times of ancient burlesque queen, Miss Stormy, as a conduit to explore America’s turbulent present and its possibly terrifying future. There are three Miss Stormy’s, Stormy Heart, Stormy Mind and Stormy Soul, all three battle to tell the story of America, with puppets, verse, music, dance, spectacle and HUMOR. Taking on a future TrumpWorld, where elections are banned, and The Collective Other is exiled to the Dead Bird Islands as part of Solution #1 ...Can Stormy save the soul of America? This Magic Realist Theatre Fable takes on the Soul Stealer himself, and cheekily wins. Oh, and asks the question, what is ART?

Production pics and audience reviews from our sold-out world premiere at MATCH Houston November 10, 2019



All post-apocalyptic hellscape stories tell us what we're doing wrong and where we're going if things don't change. Kay Adshead's Stormy also tells us what we're doing right--caring for each other, singing, dancing, and holding on to one another with hope for a better day. --Bucky Rea, host, Living Art on KPFT

Stormy: The Opera humorously dramatized my existential fears about the current U.S. political crisis while making me laugh with dreams of creative, fantastical countermoves. Karen Williams, Ph.D (public health professional)

Kay Adshead's thought-provoking Stormy - The Opera and her brilliant cast kept the audience engaged through the end. The unique performance wowed a packed theatre with its humor, great acting, dances, and lyrical satire on America's turbulent present and a shaky future. Bravo!" Varsha Saraiya-Shah (poet)



“Stormy: The Opera,” was a delightful performance! Kay Adshead, jhon r. stonks, and Margo Stutts Toombs, along with the musical talents of G. Matthew Williams, made for a well spent on a Sunday afternoon. The unmistakably serious stakes of the narrative, masked by humor and playful props, make this show a welcome and necessary conversation, especially when presented in an intimate, yet public venue accessible to Houstonians. Saba Husain (poet)

Great show, I wasn't sure what I was walking into, but it was thoroughly enjoyable. Loved the self-awareness of the piece, the questioning of who the audience for this was, etc. Each Stormy was delightful and beautiful. I hope there's opportunity to show it again soon. Neil Ellis Orts (writer and performer)



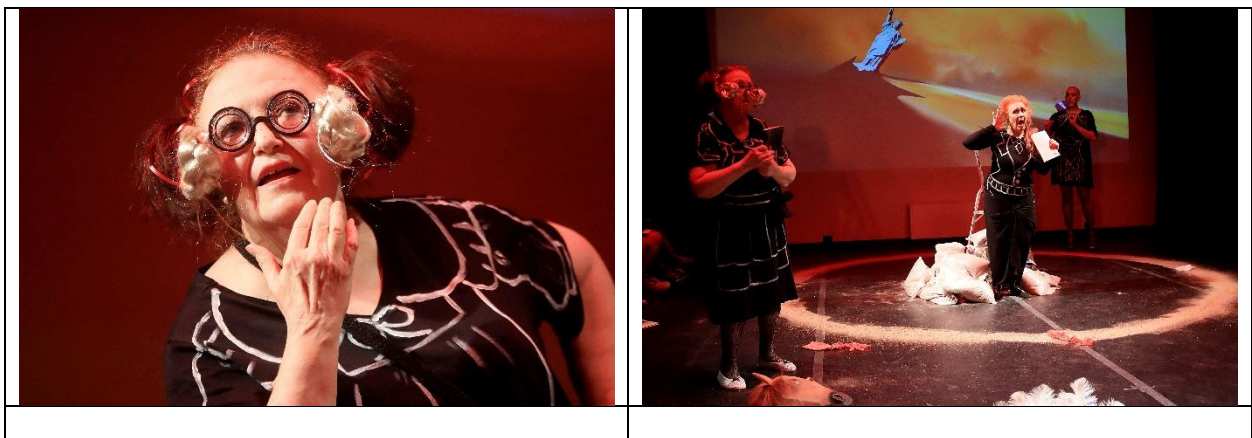


Kay Adshead's play was, in such a short amount of time, intriguing and interesting. She took us on a little journey that was thoroughly entertaining. Cookie Wells (artist)



The writing was brilliant, imaginative, quite surreal, with so many twists and turns, but funny. The horse duet was hilarious. Emma Louise Maire (actress, and writer)

As an artist I was very taken with the visual design of the production. The set and costumes were really interesting and arresting. I loved the painted on costumes. Ellie Masters Cochrane (Art student)





Stormy, The Opera portrays a dystopian future with a fanciful flare. I loved the three sides of Stormy, including a drag Soul that added to the ironic spirit. I also appreciated the breaking of the fourth wall in the dialogue. The mix of genres added a unique element to the political play that created an interesting twist on a popular subject. Traci Shannon (classically trained actress, and blogger.)



“Stormy, The Opera” is a delightful production that effortlessly infused colorful flashbacks overlaid with modern day references. The storyline of the three Stormys was skillfully portrayed through carefully punctuated lines, stunning music and dance, and lots of humor sprinkled through-out. The play achieved balance and brilliantly showcased each character with equal billing. I truly enjoyed the experience! Jewel Smith





I am so glad I was able to attend and experience Stormy: The Opera. I saw Angels over America back in the day at the Alley Theatre. This is even better: so good and so professional...so on for today.
Ann Knauth (painter and collage artist)



The show had all the ingredients of thought-provoking entertainment: shocking, poignant, crushing, uplifting, unifying, and just when all came to a head—interactive! ~ Saba Husain (poet)

Fantastic show, intelligently conceived and brilliantly delivered. Natalie L Shriver (ex psychology student, filmmaker)

I don't normally like theatre much, but I really enjoyed this show. It was very unusual. Singing, dancing funny bits, comical props. But it says important things, I found the end very moving. It really affected me It made me think. Karena Tay Fischer (student film maker)

[Link to video](#)

[Link to Stingaree](#)

[Link to Mama Quilla](#)

BOOKING INFORMATION

The premiere production of Stormy The Opera (see production pics) happened at Match Box 1 Houston a small well equipped indoor studio theatre, and was fully supported with modest recorded sound, lighting and two projections. We welcome approaches from similar venues, galleries, colleges, and community organizations.

But the production has been designed to successfully play anywhere, as an acoustic performance, with just a live percussionist, and no recorded sound, lighting or projection.

We actively seek out, unconventional, non theatre spaces, OUTDOOR and indoor. Ideal for piano bars, festivals, street markets, (see Venue below).

Touring: September 1, 2020 to September 21, 2020.

Venue: Small to mid-scale spaces (capacities from 50–200). The production is conceived to enable performance in various staging formats (thrust, traverse etc., see top of the page notes).

Running time: 37 minutes. Will play with an accompanying ten-minute piece (working title PRELUDE, to be written). Total running time 60 minutes (no interval).

Nights: Single nights, split and full weeks all considered.

Fee: Negotiable. Straight fee or guarantee against split. We may donate performances to sympathetic organizations.

Get in: 1 hour get in, approximately 30 minute get-out (depending on access). Pre-rig desirable if theatre space.

Company: Four performers (three female, two male), one production manager.

Marketing: Brochure copy and images provided. Print (quantities and sizes to be agreed upon confirmation of booking), digital press pack.

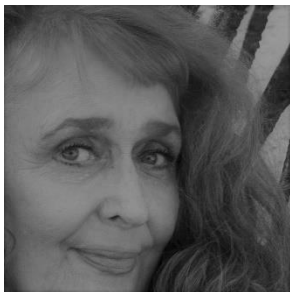
Other information: Post-show discussions and Q&As with the creative team available. We are also happy to offer other bespoke activity by negotiation. Please note that this play contains no strong language but does contain fully clothed comic burlesque dance!

TO BOOK OR FOR MORE INFORMATION

Cell:

Email: kay.adshead@mamaquilla.org

THE TEAM



Kay Adshead - Writer, Director, Performer

Kay is a poet, playwright, performer, and theater maker. She trained at RADA, where she won the Emile Littler Award for Outstanding Talent. As a writer, she has been nominated three times for the Susan Smith Blackburn Award and has written over 25 plays published by Methuen, Faber and Faber, and Oberon, with productions at the Royal National Theatre, Royal Court, Young Vic, and many more. She is artistic director of Mama Quilla Productions www.mamaquilla.org



Jhon r. Stronks – Music and Dance Director, Performer

Jhon's choreography has been commissioned by Houston Metropolitan Dance Center, Urban Souls Dance Company, Houston Black Dance Festival, South Dallas Dance Festival, Big Range Dance Festival, Mix Match Dance Festival, and Core Performance Company. He is the Artistic Director of Jhon r. Stronks "there ... in the sunlight"

Check out his performances and classes at www.thereinthesunlight.com



Margo Stutts Toombs - Performer, Gopher

Margo is a writer, performance artist, internal humorist and filmmaker. Her poetry has been published in "Untameable City: Poems on the Nature of Houston" (Mutabilis Press), the 2011 Texas Poetry Calendar, "Love over 60: An Anthology of Women's Poems", and Archway Gallery anniversary chap books. Margo's videos have won local and national awards. Her performances have inspired audiences to ask, "What?"

Check out her shenanigans at www.margostuttstoombs.com



G. Matthew Williams – Musician

Matthew is a musician, voiceover artist, emcee, writer and chef. He has spent many years performing all over Europe; including 8 years in stage, film and radio in the Netherlands. As an actor, his work includes various roles at the Houston Grand Opera. He is also producing and directing his new movie, "Addiction". gmatthewwilliams@gmail.com



J'Mill Wintry Smith – Assistant Director

J'Mill is a fashion historian and curator based in New York and Los Angeles. Recognized as an icon of style, her work reflects an interdisciplinary approach to design with visual constructions layered in historical reference and ironic intersectionality. As a creative director, she is a sought-after collaborator among emerging talents Kim Shui and Luka Sabbath and has presented work as part of New York Fashion Week and Art Basel Miami.



Raf (Raphael Seymour) – Hand Puppet maker

Raf is a poet and a freelance artist. She hand printed and hand-bound a 48-page limited edition graphic novel containing 83 of her original illustrations. Some of Raf's collaborations include the Working-Class Project (Theatre Absolute in Coventry), the iconic Bread and Puppet Theater, USA, and Histrionics, which was 6 short plays at Alexandra Palace.

PRESS

Stormy – The Opera is Stingaree’s first collaboration but is produced in association with award-winning company Mama Quilla. See what the UK press says about them:

Holly Tanner Public Reviews on Veil at The Hub Leeds (*Transferred to Alchemy Festival and the South Bank*)

Mama Quilla excels at taking personal experiences and transporting them to a beautiful, if at times uncomfortable form of art.

They quite literally provide platform for those who are seldom heard.

It seems right and fitting that the voices of this play are brought to the audience by a female-led production

What’s On Stage on The Singing Stones at the Arcola (2015)

Benedict Nightingale, The Times, On Bites at the Bush

The author wants to convene a public inquiry into the workings of the whole planet. Well, whv

Mama Quilla shows that theatre still has the capacity to address public issues

The Guardian

Adshead is that rare species, a socialist feminist who believes in fun as well as getting the politics right

The Tribune on Bones at the Bush, The Times.