



For Immediate Release

**OPERA PARALLÈLE ANNOUNCES PROGRAMMING FOR 2022-23 SEASON  
JOBY TALBOT & GENE SCHEER'S *EVEREST: AN IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCE*,  
FEBRUARY 3 – 12 AT Z SPACE;  
WEST COAST PREMIERE OF PAUL MORAVEC & MARK CAMPBELL'S *THE SHINING*,  
JUNE 2 – 4 AT YERBA BUENA CENTER FOR THE ARTS**

[www.operaparallele.org](http://www.operaparallele.org)

SAN FRANCISCO (September 15, 2022) — San Francisco's acclaimed producer of contemporary opera, Opera Parallèle (OP), today announced programming and casting for the 2022-23 season to include an innovative first of its kind presentation of **Joby Talbot** and **Gene Scheer's** alpine opera *Everest as An Immersive Experience* February 3 – 12 at Z Space. The company's 13th anniversary season will also feature the West Coast premiere of **Paul Moravec's** critically praised supernatural opera, *The Shining*, set to a libretto by **Mark Campbell** and based on the novel by **Stephen King**, in a new production and orchestration June 2 – 4 at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts.

Opera Parallèle's General & Artistic Director **Nicole Paiement** commented, "The upcoming season continues what OP does best -- bring contemporary stories with exhilarating narratives to the stage through incredible musical scores from living composers, and engage Bay Area audiences in unexpected ways as we continue to explore new technologies that enhance the power of opera. These well-known and loved stories unpack the power of human resilience to overcome. Behind everything we do -- our productions, events and Bullhorn Community Programs -- is an invitation to connect and explore what it means collectively and individually, to be engaged in shaping a more inclusive world."

***Everest: An Immersive Experience***

Opera Parallèle invites the Bay Area to the top of the world to immerse themselves in awe-inspiring landscapes of Everest for a unique, one-of-a-kind operatic expedition. Based on true stories of an ill-fated adventure in 1996, mountain-climbers tap into the depths of their physical and emotional selves to realize their dreams and limitations of conquering Everest. This cutting-edge work fuses the vivid imagery of graphic novels with the visceral power of the operatic voice in a unique multi-sensory environment. Following the critical success of OP's award-winning, genre-defying animated film *Everest – A Graphic Novel Opera* in 2021, the company now offers an entirely new way to experience opera, placing the audience directly into the action, immersing the public in the intricate imagery and soaring sound world of this breathtaking story.

Opera Parallèle's Creative Director **Brian Staufenbiel** explained, "In my effort to eliminate the physical boundaries of theatrical storytelling, I work with OP to create new forms of intimacy and connectivity. This season, with *Everest: An Immersive Experience*, we continue this quest by putting the audience "into" the story by enveloping them fully within the environment. This will be the first opera of its kind with 360-degree animated visuals and surround sound."

The *Everest Immersive Experience* will feature a cast of exceptional singers, all pre-recorded, including **Sasha Cooke, Nathan Granner, Kevin Burdette, Hadleigh Adams, Charlotte Fanvu, Matt Boehler, Shawnette Sulker, Whitney Steele** and **Kevin Gino**.

The digital musical forces are helmed by conductor **Nicole Paiement**; and the production creative team includes director and creator **Brian Staufenbiel**; illustrator **Mark Simmons**; projection designer & director of photography **David Murakami**; sound engineer **Miles Lassi**; and scenic designer **Jacquelyn Scott**.

### ***The Shining***

Deep in the shadows of the Colorado Rockies, miles from where anyone can hear you scream, lurks the Overlook Hotel. For its new caretakers, the Torrance family, the only thing more unnerving than their profound isolation is the realization that they are not the hotel's only guests. Their young son Danny, with his spine-tingling sixth sense, endures the house of horrors while his father faces demons – past and present, real and remembered – that ultimately turn him into a monster. What started as a desperate search for financial and marital sanctuary, spirals into a terrifying battle for sanity and survival.

Adapted from Stephen King's iconic novel, the Pulitzer and Grammy Award-winning team of Paul Moravec and Mark Campbell bring *The Shining* to even more frightening depths than ever before in operatic form.

Opera Parallèle presents the premiere of a reorchestration in a new co-production with Hawaii Opera Theatre and Portland Opera, a consortium of Pacific Rim-based opera companies.

Composer Moravec said, "When Opera Parallèle's Creative Director Brian Staufenbiel suggested I consider a re-orchestration with smaller forces, it dawned on me how immediate and intimate an impact it would achieve, not possible in a large-scale production. It invites the audience to engage directly with the characters and action in this intimate imagining of Stephen King's harrowing tale of love, madness, and the supernatural."

*The Shining* was commissioned by Minnesota Opera and premiered in 2016 to sold out audiences, and has since enjoyed popular presentations by multiple opera companies around the country. Opera Parallèle's is the first company to create a new production following the success of the premiere. King's famous novel of 1977 was the inspiration for Stanley Kubric's celebrated film of 1980, which starred Jack Nicholson, Shelley Duval and Danny Lloyd.

Opera Parallèle's cast for *The Shining* features **Edward Parks, Kearstin Piper Brown, Aubrey Allcock, David Walton, Nathan Granner, Timothy Murray, Eugene Brancoveanu, Christabel Nunoo** and **Molly Mahoney**. The opera also features a vocal ensemble of local singers in supporting roles. The singers and orchestra will be conducted by **Nicole Paiement**; director and concept **Brian Staufenbiel**; scenic designer **Jacquelyn Scott**; costume designer **Alina Bokovikova**; lighting designer to be announced; projection designer **David Murakami**; and hair & makeup designer **Y. Sharon Peng**.

## MORE ABOUT OPERA PARALLÈLE

### Hands-on-Opera

The 2022-23 season will see the continuation of OP's long-running Hands-on-Opera program for youth and family audiences. Following a two-year commissioning cycle for BIPOC composers, the program offers an in-depth development process for emerging composers new to the operatic form. In September 2022, the company will undertake a workshop with California-based Japanese composer **Kenji Oh** and librettist **Kelley Rourke** for their new opera *The Emissary*, based on the novel by **Yoko Tawada**. This new commission from Opera Parallèle is a "dystopian comedy" that addresses the environmental angst of our time, which is placing ever-increasing psychological stress on our younger generation. The opera will feature a youth chorus alongside professional singers and will premiere during the 2023-24 season.

### The Bullhorn

The Bullhorn is the next evolution of Opera Parallèle's community programs. Rooted in civic practice, the program reflects the company's aspiration to amplify unheard voices, and is inspired by late San Francisco Supervisor Harvey Milk who used his platform to bring communities together. The Bullhorn is designed to uplift and inspire, to activate and initiate, and to challenge expectations of what an opera company can be and do. Bullhorn programming will include a stimulating conversation series exploring the themes of each production, special performances for local schools and community groups, and in-depth online resources curated by **Michael Mohammed**, OP's Community Programs Ambassador. Central to this program are partnerships with organizations such as The Transgender District, a key cultural sector of San Francisco and the world's first legally recognized transgender district. In June 2022, the company presented the inaugural *Expansive* showcase for transgender and non-binary performers, generating a lot of interest; a showcase program will return in Summer 2023.

### Benefit Event

Opera Parallèle's annual benefit celebration will occur on April 26, 2023 at The Lodge at The Regency Center, San Francisco.

Major production support has been provided by **Gordon Getty, Bob Ellis, Stephen & Diane Heiman, Paul King, Donna Dubinsky & Len Shustek, Scott R. Lord, and The Future Fund.**

Major institutional and corporate support for Opera Parallèle has been provided by **Adobe, The Lemala Fund, National Endowment for the Arts, City & County of San Francisco Grants for the Arts, and the Phyllis C. Wattis Foundation.**

The Bullhorn: Amplifying Unheard Voices programming is supported in part through a **Civic Practice Grant from OPERA America's Opera Fund** and by **The Henry W. and Nettie Robinson Foundation.**

Programming and casting are subject to change. For more information, visit [www.operaparallele.org](http://www.operaparallele.org)

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**Press Contact:** Jon Finck, [jonfincksf@gmail.com](mailto:jonfincksf@gmail.com) / +1 415 577 1323