



Making Opera Soup

Written and Performed by
Lori Brown Mirabal

1st
STAGE ■

1st Stage
With generous support from
The Revada Foundation
and Eileen Mandell
Presents

MAKING OPERA SOUP

WRITTEN BY
**LORI BROWN
MIRABAL**

DIRECTED BY
VINCENT SCOTT

FEATURING

LORI BROWN MIRABAL*
Performer
STEVEN GROSS
Accompanist

ARIEL RUSSELL
Young Performer

PRODUCTION & DESIGN

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ALEX LEVY

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* Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States, appearing under a Special Appearance Contract.

Meet the Artists

Vincent Scott (Director) is a freelance director based in New York and specializing in new work. Off-Broadway- Urban Stages: *Gumbo House, Class Reunion, Women follow Your Dream Club, Turn, Turn, Turn*. Abingdon Theatre Company: *Manifest Destiny, World Peace, Home is Where, Office Sex*. Producer's Club: *What Happened To The Dollar*. Assistant director - Abingdon Theatre Company: *The Last Will* (Austin Pendleton), *Hellman Vs McCathy* (Dick Cavett). Remy Bumpo Company (*Chicago*) director Timothy Douglas. His most recent work was directing Lori Mirabal's *Charmed Life* at Urban Stages in New York City this summer.



Lori Brown Mirabal (Writer/Performer) Throughout her award-winning singing career, Lori Brown Mirabal has performed with legendary opera and music theatre luminaries. Lori created the leading role of "Clara Brown" in the acclaimed world premiere of *Gabriel's Daughter* at Central City Opera in Colorado. Other favorite roles include "Carmen" (New York City Opera National Tour), "Bess" in *Porgy and Bess* (William Barkheimer International Tour), "Lucretia" in *The Rape of Lucretia* (Dicapo Opera Theatre, NYC) and "Tituba" in *The Crucible* (Utah Festival Opera). Her solo shows *Charmed Life* and *Making Opera Soup* have

recently premiered with Urban Stages in NYC and have received enthusiastic reviews. Both shows mark her debut performance with the Logan Festival.

Lori received professional training at the University of Memphis (B.F.A Theatre '81), Juilliard (JOC, '91) and at Manhattan School of Music (MM. Voice, '94). She earned both a masters and doctorate in Music Education at Columbia University's Teachers College ('08). While at Columbia, she established Opera Soup Productions, LLC, to introduce children to opera. *From Soul Singing to Opera Soup*, released in 2017, marked her debut as a published children's book author. Her children's recording, *Musetta's Musical Story Time* was released in 2019 for international distribution.



Steven Gross (Accompanist) Steven has worked on Broadway and the West End as a music director, conductor, pianist, sub and vacation conductor on such shows as *Phantom of the Opera, South Pacific, The Life, Urinetown, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, Chicago, Miss Saigon, The Wedding Singer, Saturday Night Fever* and *Dreamgirls* and on the New York City Opera productions of *A Little Night Music, Sweeney Todd, The Most Happy Fella* and *Candide*.

He has conducted the European premieres of *The Life, Urinetown, Falsettos, Beehive, Forever Plaid, Closer Than Ever, Flora the Red Menace* and other works. He also works extensively as a classical conductor and has appeared with many national and international opera companies including Hamburg, Berlin, Zurich, Paris, Opera Factory London, symphony orchestras, including the NDR, WDR and SDR Radio Orchestras, the Sao Paulo, Capetown and Czech orchestras and festivals including the Tel-Aviv, Macau, Cincinnati and New Haven, and Aspen Music Festivals.

He is currently an Associate Professor at Temple University and Coordinator of the George and Joy Abbott MFA in Musical Theater Collaboration.

He is also Founder and CEO of MusicalTheaterSongs.com which is an 11,000 song (and counting) database for all things Musical Theater. The site is licensed by hundreds of schools world-wide and has thousands of individual subscribers. <http://www.musicaltheatersongs.com>



Ariel Russell (Young Performer) has appeared in *A Christmas Carol* at Ford's Theatre as Martha Cratchit/ Clair Fezziwig. Ariel has appeared in many school and camp productions and is a regular spokesmodel/ actress for National American Miss.

UPCOMING IN THE LOGAN FESTIVAL

BO-NITA

By Elizabeth Heffron

Directed by Summer Wallace

Starring Terri Weagant

September 16-26, 2021

With humor, pathos and a dash of Midwest magical realism, Bo-Nita follows a mother and daughter's journey through a working-class America of dwindling resources, and the lengths they must go to stay together and keep their beat alive. Bo-Nita comes to 1st Stage from Two Chicks Productions.

"The visually interesting and active staging, the fast pace and the incredible energy never let up." – The New York Review

THE BOOK OF MAMAW

Written and Performed by Eugene Wolf

Directed by Susanne Boule

October 7-17, 2021

The one-man-show chronicles Wolf's life growing up with his devout Church of Christ grandmother who recognized his love of performing when he was just two years old. Wolf has turned many of the stories of his childhood into a musical production featuring folk music and Appalachian vibes. 1st Stage is bringing the production last seen at Flying Anvil Theatre in Knoxville, Tennessee to Virginia to be a part of the festival.

"The Book of Mamaw is storytelling at its best." – The Bristol Herald Courier

SPECIAL EVENT CHARMED LIFE

Written and Performed by Lori Brown Mirabal

Directed by Vincent Scott

Accompanist Steven Gross

2 Nights Only! August 27 and 28, 2021

This autobiographical solo performance tells not only Mirabal's own story, but also pays homage to famous opera artists who have gone before, and specifically to the Black women opera singers of the past.

"...the show weaves comedy, storytelling, and musical numbers to shine a light on Mirabal's career and the opera world." – Playbill

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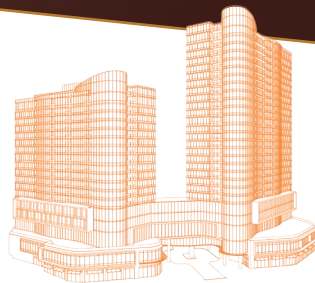


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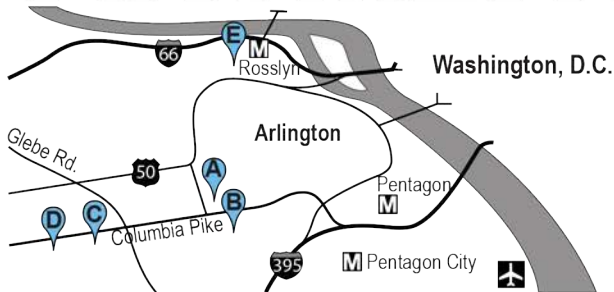
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1st STAGE ■ 2021-2022 Season

The Logan Festival of Solo Performance

Making Opera Soup by Lori Brown Mirabal
August 21 - 29, 2021

Bo-Nita by Elizabeth Heffron
September 16 - 26, 2021

The Book of Mamaw by Eugene Wolf
October 7 - 17, 2021

Secret Things

By Elaine Romero
November 18 - December 19, 2021

The Phlebotomist

By Ella Road
February 17 - March 13, 2022

The Mamalogues

By Lisa B. Thompson
April 14 - May 8, 2022

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By Matthew McGee
June 2 - 26, 2022

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