



“All hail new opera!” John Terauds, Toronto Star

Tapestry’s world premiere new opera *The Shadow* – an allegory for our time!

“Everyone carries a shadow and the less it is embodied in the individual’s conscious life, the blacker and denser it is.” ...Carl Jung

TORONTO, ON... How far would you go to get what you want? How far you would overextend yourself financially to grab the life you think you are entitled to live? Set in Barcelona at the turn of the twentieth century, *The Shadow* is a tale of intrigue, desire and deception. In this world premiere, writer **Alex Poch-Goldin** and composer **Omar Daniel** have created a world of duplicity in which a humble postman assumes the identity of a wealthy suitor to win a woman’s love. Determined to maintain the ruse at all costs, he is haunted by The Shadow as he spirals deeper into debt - an allegory for our time.

Raoul is a simple mailman desperate to be a more interesting person. He fantasizes about marrying the beautiful Allegra, the daughter of a wealthy gentleman on his mail route. In his daydream, he ‘wills’ himself into a dashing figure of the night -- Hernando tells Allegra that he is a wealthy fabric merchant and she is seduced. With a little ‘help’ from the local Don, Raoul succeeds in his transformation and successfully woos the beautiful Allegra. But when Raoul can’t pay back the Don, the mysterious Shadow begins to follow him. What will be the ultimate cost of Raoul’s greed and lies?

Tapestry Managing Artistic Director **Wayne Strongman** says: “After five years of development in our New Work Studio, we are thrilled to bring *The Shadow* to the stage. It’s an intriguing story and an exciting score from a brilliant team.”

Alex Poch-Goldin and **Omar Daniel** met in 2001 at Tapestry’s annual Composer-Librettist Laboratory and went on to create the twelve minute opera *Lisa* for Tapestry’s first *Opera to Go* in 2002. The pair committed themselves to creating a full-length opera. *The Shadow*, an original tale of intrigue, desire and destruction, is the culmination of that commitment.

“It is not an easy task to find a collaborator who shares your dreams and builds on them, but Omar has the talent to lift my writing to a new and amazing place, explains writer **Poch-Goldin**. “Omar and I have made a deep investment in each other and our hope is to create a unique and exciting new opera for Tapestry that will be the next big thing you didn’t expect.”

The creative team lead by director **Tom Diamond** and music director **Wayne Strongman** include a stellar cast featuring renowned Canadian baritone **Theodore Baerg** making his Tapestry debut as the Don and Allegra’s father, countertenor **Scott Belluz** is The Shadow, soprano **Carla Huhtanen** as Allegra, a comic turn by tenor **Keith Klassen** as the waiter and baritone **Peter McGillivray** as Raoul. Veteran Stratford lighting designer **Robert Thomson** and set and costume designer **Camellia Koo**, have created a stunning visual world reflective of Gaudi’s Barcelona. *The Shadow* is stage managed by **Isolde Pleasants-Faulkner**.

The Shadow was presented as a workshop production in the Ernest Balmer Studio in March 2007.

DETAILS

The Shadow

May 21 – 30, 2009

Berkeley Street Theatre - Downstairs, 26 Berkeley Street

Written by **Alex Poch-Goldin** and Composed by **Omar Daniel**

Director: **Tom Diamond**



Music Director: **Wayne Strongman**

Set & Costume Designer: **Camellia Koo**

Lighting Designer: **Robert Thomson**

Stage Manager: **Isolde Pleasants-Faulkner**

Assistant Stage Manager: **Gerry Egan**

Cast: **Theodore Baerg** (baritone), **Scott Belluz** (countertenor), **Carla Huhtanen** (soprano), **Keith Klassen** (tenor), **Peter McGillivray** (baritone)

Chamber Orchestra

Performance Dates:

May 21, 2009 at 8pm – Press Opening and Community Night

May 22, 2009 at 8pm – World Premiere Gala Performance

May 23, 2009 at 8pm – Regular Performance

May 24, 2009 at 4pm – Regular Performance (Matinee) – 50% off all regular tickets

May 27, 2009 at 8pm – Regular Performance – Pay What You Can

May 28, 2009 at 8pm – Regular Performance

May 29, 2009 at 8pm – Regular Performance

May 30, 2009 at 8pm – Regular Performance

TICKETS

Regular Tickets: \$49, Student & Arts Worker Tickets: \$20,

15% off for groups of 10 or more

50% of rush seats (1 hour before curtain)

Sun. May 24 at 4pm: all regular tickets 50% off

Wed. May 27 at 8pm: PWYC (in person day of show from 10AM onward – limit of 2 tickets per person)

visit www.tapestrynewopera.com for details.

Box Office 416-368-3110

www.canstage.com (on sale on Canstage website April 21, 2009)

www.totix.ca (on sale now)

Berkeley Street Theatre - Downstairs, 26 Berkeley Street. Toronto

CREATIVE TEAM

Alex Poch-Goldin, librettist

Alex is an award winning playwright and actor. His plays include *Yahrzeit*, which won the 2003 Toronto Jewish Playwriting Award and completed two national tours of Germany. A third is scheduled for 2009. His play *Cringeworthy* (Passe Muraille) was nominated for five Dora Awards including Outstanding New Play. His other plays include- *Louie's Dilemma* (Winnipeg Jewish Theatre) *Anybody and Nobody* (Canstage), *Going* (Buddies in Bad Times -with Kelly Thornton), *This Way For The Gas*, *Ladies and Gentlemen* (Summerworks) and *This Hotel* - produced at Theatre Passe Muraille and nominated for six Dora Awards including Outstanding New Play. The play was subsequently produced in French by Theatre La Catapulte and in Pittsburgh USA, by No Name Theatre. His play *Jim and Shorty* was adapted by him and filmed for Bravo! Television in 2001. He has four published works with Scirocco Drama. Alex was commissioned by the CBC to write an original radio drama, *The Death of Simon Pinchuk*, which was recorded and broadcast nationally in 2005. He has written his first feature film script-*Jacob's Dream* and two opera libretti; *Lisa* produced at the 2002 Opera America Conference and *The Shadow*, with Omar Daniel slated for production by Tapestry in 2009. His latest play *The Right Road to Pontypool*, will be produced by 4th Line Theatre in the summer of 2009. He is currently, working on his latest play *Internazionale*. Alex has performed playwriting residencies for The Canadian Stage Co., Theatre Passe Muraille and 4th Line Theatre. He was also a 2008 nominee for the Siminovitch Prize for playwriting. Alex is an acclaimed actor, trained in Montreal at The Dome Theatre/Dawson College and the National Theatre Institute in Connecticut. He has worked extensively in film, television, radio and on stages across Canada. He lives and works in Toronto with his partner Kelly Thornton and their scrumptious daughter Chloe Babette.



Omar Daniel, composer

Dr. Omar Daniel has composed extensively in solo, chamber, electronic and orchestral idioms, and was the 1997 recipient of the Jules Lèger Award for New Chamber Music. Other composition awards include the SOCAN National Competition for Young Composers and the CBC National Radio Competition for Young Composers.

Dr. Daniel's music is characterized by a strong sense of drama. His style is firmly rooted in the European concert-music tradition, and exhibits a broad palette of instrumental colour, intricate harmonic language, a strong rhythmic profile and rigorous architectural design.

He has an ongoing desire to work in a collaborative way with other artists, and in 2000 commissioned lyrics from Canadian author Anne Michaels (*Fugitive Pieces*) to create *All Night I Travel You*, which he conducted in Spring 2000.

Anne Michaels and Dr. Daniel recently collaborated on a 50-minute oratorio, *The Passion of Lavinia Andronicus*, written for the Hilliard Ensemble and the Tafelmusik Choir. In 2004, he collaborated with Booker prize-winning author Yann Martel to create a song cycle *You Are Where You Are*. The Artists of the Royal Conservatory Ensemble (ARC) commissioned this chamber work for bass voice and piano quintet from Mr. Martel and Dr. Daniel, and it received its premiere during ARC's European tour in November 2004. Building on his ongoing relationship with Tapestry, he has composed a full evening chamber opera *The Shadow* which premieres May 2009.

His research extends to electro-acoustic music as well. His innovative work *The Flying of Marsyas* has been performed many times since its creation in 2000, and recently he composed *Annunciation* for string quartet and live electronic processing. Written on commission from CBC Radio Two, the Penderecki String Quartet gave this work its premiere in the spring of 2005 in Canada and the United States.

Dr. Daniel has been guest composer at numerous festivals, including the Winnipeg Symphony du Maurier New Music Festival, the Canada Capital Sao Paulo Festival and the Vancouver Chamber Music Festival. He holds the position of Associate Professor at the Department of Music Theory and Composition at The University of Western Ontario. He is co-director of the Composition, Electroacoustic Research and Performance Facility (CEARP) at Western. In addition, he is an Associate Composer of the Canadian Music Centre, on the executive of the Canadian League of Composers.

Tom Diamond, director

Tom Diamond is in his third season as Tapestry's Studio Company Resident Director/Dramaturg. Past productions include the Dora Award-winning *Iron Road*, the national tour of *Still the Night* and two versions of *Opera to Go*. His first short film, *The Perfect Match*, premiered to unanimous critical raves as part of last season's *Opera to Go* and in 2008-2009 is touring the international festival circuit, receiving a nomination for Best Experimental Film at the Miami Short Film Festival. Highlights of his acclaimed productions include world premieres of Timothy Sullivan's *Florence and the Lady With the Lamp* for the Elora Festival (Chalmers Award), five productions for Pacific Opera Victoria and nine operas for the Canadian Opera Company, most recently the obscure *Don Giovanni* by Guiseppe Gazzaniga (the inspiration for Mozart's masterpiece). His production of *Squonk* was an off Broadway hit and transferred to Broadway where it won the prestigious Hewes Award. For two seasons Mr. Diamond 'moonlighted' as a reality television personality in Bravo's hit series *Bathroom Divas* which won the Gemini Award. For Tapestry in 2009 he directs *Opera to Go 2009* and the world premiere of *The Shadow*.

Wayne Strongman, music director (and Managing Artistic Director)

One of Canada's most distinguished music directors, Wayne Strongman is a champion of Canadian writers and composers. As Managing Artistic Director of Tapestry, he has commissioned and premiered over 30 new Canadian operas including the Cantonese-English *Iron Road* in 2001 (Brownell/Chan), *Facing South* (Hannah/Smith), and *Nigredo Hotel* (MacDonald/Gotham) which is the most frequently produced opera in Canadian history. In 2006 he premiered *Elijah's Kite* (Chai/Rolfe) in New York City in collaboration with the Manhattan School of Music. Music Director/Dramaturge of Tapestry's Composer-Librettist Laboratory, Mr. Strongman has created a truly collaborative environment for an international roster of composers and writers. His commitment to a contemporary practice within the operatic art form has made Strongman a mentor to many Canadian singers. In 2007 he established the Tapestry New Work Studio Company as a performing resource for the new work creation process which has become Tapestry's unique calling. In 2008, in addition to the 7 new short operas for *Opera to Go* as part of Harbourfront Centre's World Stage he conducted



the premiere of *Sanctuary Song* (Chan/Richardson) for Toronto's Luminato Festival. Mr. Strongman sits on the Ontario Region and National Council of the Canadian Music Centre and also volunteers as choral conductor for the Regent Park School of Music. In 2009 he premieres *Opera to Go 2009, Get Stuffed* and *The Shadow*.

Camellia Koo, set and costume designer

Camellia is a Toronto based set & costume designer. Recent designs include sets for *lady in the red dress* (fu-GEN), *In Good Charles Golden Days* (Shaw Festival), *The Stepmother* (Shaw Festival) and sets & costumes for *East of Berlin* and *Bashir Lazhar* (Tarragon). Other collaborations include fu-Gen Asian Canadian Theatre Company), Cahoots Theatre Projects, bCurrent, Modern Times Theatre, Nightwood, Native Earth Performing Arts, Lorraine Kimsa Theatre for Young People, Fujiwara Dance Inventions, Great Canadian Theatre Company, and The Second City (Toronto and Chicago), and Soulepper. She is the recipient of four Dora Awards and shared the 2006 Siminovitch Protégé Prize.

Robert Thomson, lighting designer

Robert Thomson is one of Canada's most versatile and active lighting designers. Over the past seven seasons he has designed extensively for the Stratford Shakespeare Festival, where his collaborations with Peter Hinton include *The Taming of the Shrew*, *The Odyssey*, *Fanny Kemble*, *Into the Woods* and all three parts of *The Swanee*. His other 2008 designs were *Romeo and Juliet*, *Caesar and Cleopatra* starring Christopher Plummer and *Krapp's Last Tape* and *Hughie*, both starring Brian Dennehy. His projects in 2009 are *Zastrozzi* and *Rice Boy*.

Mr. Thomson designed for the Shaw Festival for 24 seasons, including a 10-year term as Head of Lighting Design. His Shaw Festival credits include *Saint Joan*, *Picnic*, *Cavalcade* and *Cyrano de Bergerac*. He also served for 12 seasons as Resident Lighting Designer for The National Ballet of Canada and designed over 25 ballets, including *Swan Lake* and *Romeo and Juliet*. His designs for the NAC include *Macbeth*, *The Unanswered Question*, *Sticks and Stones*, and *Present Laughter*. His recent credits include *Bluebeard's Castle* and *Erwartung* for Opéra de Québec; *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* for Manitoba Theatre Centre and the Canadian Stage Company; *Macbeth* and *Noises Off* for the Citadel Theatre; *Idomeneo* and *Manon Lescaut* for Pacific Opera; and the Tony Award nominated production of *King Lear* starring Christopher Plummer on Broadway.

Mr. Thomson has received numerous awards over his 30-year career, including a Sterling (for Edmonton Opera's mounting of the globally acclaimed *Bluebeard's Castle* and *Erwartung* directed by Robert Lepage) and four Dora Mavor Moore Awards. Mr. Thomson Thomson is a member of the Associated Designers of Canada.

CAST

Theodore Baerg, baritone, as *the Don* and *Allegra's father*

Baritone Theodore Baerg continues to enjoy a long and celebrated career, with the New York Philharmonic, San Francisco Opera, Canadian Opera Company, Glyndebourne Festival and the Tapei Chamber Orchestra just four of his international destinations. He has performed in opera and concert on virtually every major stage in Canada and many in the United States. In addition to over 75 operatic roles Mr. Baerg was heralded as Emile DeBecque in the hit Stratford Festival production of *South Pacific*. He is a popular star for orchestra evenings devoted to the works of Strauss, Lehar, and "The Best of Broadway."

Mr. Baerg's concert repertoire includes many of the oratorio greats: *The Messiah*, J.S. Bach solo *Cantatas and Passions*, as well as Requiems and Masses by Brahms, Fauré and others. His Canadian concert engagements have included the orchestras from Nova Scotia, Québec, Montréal, Ottawa, Toronto, Hamilton, Kitchener-Waterloo, London, Windsor, Thunder Bay, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Calgary, Vancouver, and Victoria. This past summer he toured with Eric Idle's *Not the Messiah* to Houston, Los Angeles' Hollywood Bowl and the Wolftrap Festival. Upcoming engagements include *La Fille du Régiment* (Edmonton Opera), *Candide* (Manitoba Opera), *Carmina Burana* (Victoria Symphony and Thunder Bay Symphony), *La Traviata* (Edmonton Opera) and the title role in Verdi's *Rigoletto* with Edmonton Opera. His discography includes a DVD of *Turandot* (Ping) with the San Francisco Opera as well as two CDs, *La Mystique D'Amour* and *Enchanted Evenings*. Mr. Baerg is a Professor of Voice, Opera and Music Theatre at the University of Western Ontario.

Scott Belluz, countertenor, as *The Shadow*

The Canadian countertenor Scott Belluz is rapidly gaining recognition as an engaging vocal artist. Praised for his "warm, rich voice



and impeccable coloratura," (LaMarseillaise) Scott brings his committed artistry to repertoire ranging from 17th century to newly composed works. Highlights of the 2008-2009 season will include the role of Athamas in Handel's *Semele* with Pacific Opera.

Recent performances have included the role of Oberon in Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* conducted by David Agler at the Banff Centre for the Arts, Bach's *Magnificat* with the Ottawa Choral Society and the role of Andronicus in Handel's *Tamerlano* for Opera in Concert with the Aradia Ensemble and Kevin Mallon, conductor. In the 2006-07 Season, Mr. Belluz made his American debut in the roles of Human Frailty and Pisandro in Chicago Opera Theatre's production of *Il Ritorno d'Ulisse in Patria* conducted by Jane Glover and reprised the role of Medoro in Handel's *Orlando* in the Festival de Chartres. Upcoming engagements include the world premiere of an opera by Gilles Tremblay with *Chants Libres* in Montreal. Mr. Belluz is a past recipient of grants from the Chalmers Foundation of the Ontario Arts Council and of the Canada Council for the Arts. www.scottbelluz.com

Carla Huhtanen, soprano, as *Allegra*

Carla Huhtanen is part of the Tapestry New Work Studio Company and has participated in the Composer-Librettist Laboratory. Her Tapestry performances include roles *Opera Briefs* in 2006, 2007 and 2008; *Opera to Go* in 2006 and 2008. She has also played an invaluable role during the workshop process of many new works in development. Just before graduating from the University of Toronto's Opera School in 2000, American stage director Ken Cazan whisked Ms. Huhtanen away to Gran Teatro la Fenice in Venice, Italy, to sing the role of Daisy Park in Gershwin's *Lady, Be Good!* (televised on RAI). She soon secured another role at La Fenice for the 2001 Season - Athenaïs in Cherubini's *Anacreon*, which was broadcast on "Saturday Afternoon at the Opera" later that year. She continued to live in Venice for three years, singing concerts with il Circolo degli Artisti and studying with Sherman Lowe.

In 2001 she made her U.K. debut with Garsington Opera Ltd., singing Lisetta in Rossini's rare comic jewel *La Gazzetta*. She returned to Garsington in 2003 to sing Serpetta in Mozart's *La Finta Giardiniera*, which was repeated at the Barbican Centre as part of their famous Mostly Mozart Series.

Future appearances include a cabaret concert with Queen of Puddings Music Theatre (October 3rd and 4th) at the Young Centre and Blonde in Opera Atelier's *The Abduction from the Seraglio*. Ms. Huhtanen has recorded the role of Bo-Peep in *Babes in Toyland* (V. Herbert) with the London Sinfonietta for EMI (future release) and Vivaldi's opera *La Griselda*, plus a CD of Vivaldi sacred music for Naxos Records.

Keith Klassen, tenor, as *the Waiter*

Keith Klassen has emerged as one of Canada's busiest tenors, averaging 12 productions a season, since graduating with honours from the Opera Division at the University of Toronto in 2002. He has been engaged across Canada, as well as in Scotland, Germany, the United States, Ireland and the Czech Republic. The Star Phoenix described him as having, "...a big ringing voice and great stage presence", Classical 96.3 added, "Klassen's voice is pure honey with its ease of high notes and the lyrical grace of his phrasing.", Opera Canada raved that his Rodolfo was "...dramatically convincing, sung with passionate sincerity ensuring the audience's love.", Jon Terauds of the Toronto Star called him, "...one of the country's most versatile artists.", and NOW magazine's Jon Kaplan went so far as to rate Mr. Klassen as one of Toronto's top ten theatre artists of '06.

In the past season alone, critics and audiences alike have enthusiastically received his performances of Rodolfo (*La bohème*), Alfredo (*La Traviata*), Don Jose (*Carmen*), the Duke (*Rigoletto*), Samson (*Samson et Dalilah*), Uriel (Haydn's *The Creation*) and Spoletta (*Tosca*). Mr. Klassen has also continued his work with Tapestry, joining their newly formed Studio Company. For more information please visit www.keithklassen.com

Peter McGillivray, baritone, as *Raoul*

Born in Saskatchewan and raised in Ontario, Peter McGillivray is an emerging Canadian talent of both the concert and operatic stage. Two years ago he walked away with the Deuxième Grand Prix as well as the Chalmers Award for Best Canadian Performance at the 2005 Montreal International Musical Competition, broadcast live to a national radio audience in Canada. He then followed this success by winning another 2nd prize at the Queen Sonja Competition in Oslo, Norway and broadcast live over Scandinavian television. He previously gained similar national recognition at the 2003 CBC/Radio-Canada Young Performers Competition in Calgary when he took home 1st prize in the vocal category as well as audience prize.



As a recent member of the Ensemble Studio of the Canadian Opera Company, he made his professional debut as Aeneas in Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* and as Schlendrian in a staged production of Bach's *Coffee Cantata* in 2003. Performances in past seasons with the Canadian Opera Company include turns as Sid and as the Vicar in Britten's *Albert Herring* and as Schaunard in Puccini's *La bohème*. He was seen as Demetrius in a critically-acclaimed production of Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Tanglewood Festival in Massachusetts. Highlights of past seasons included a recital tour of the Maritime provinces with Debut Atlantic; recitals in Toronto, Montreal, Calgary, Saskatoon and Ottawa; engagements with Calgary Philharmonic, Regina Symphony, and l'Orchestre symphonique de Québec.

Mr. McGillivray is a graduate of the University of Toronto's Opera Division where he was a student of soprano Lynn Blaser and mezzo-soprano Patricia Kern. He also holds an honours degree in Canadian History and Literature from the University of Toronto's University College. He has previously performed at the Ravinia, Aldeburgh and Aspen Music Festivals, he has been awarded substantial grants from both the Jaqueline Desmarais Foundation and the Canada Council for the Arts. He has been a finalist and prizewinner at the Eckhardt-Gramatté Competition, at the Lotte Lenya Singing Competition, and at the Robert Schumann International Competition for Piano and Lied in the composer's birthplace of Zwickau, Germany.

NON-SUBSCRIPTION PROGRAMMING:

Get Stuffed

Alexis Diamond, librettist / Richard Payne, composer

Tapestry's newest opera for children focuses on healthy food choices and was developed in partnership with Words in Motion and the Canadian Diabetes Association. With support from the Ontario Trillium Foundation and sponsorship from the Ministry of Health Promotion and Ontario Agri-Food Education Inc. it will tour Ontario schools in spring 2009 and 2010.

The Perfect Match

Tapestry's first short film, directed by Tom Diamond, and written by Krista Dalby and Anthony Young, screens North American film festivals during the 2008-2009 season, including the St. Louis International Film Festival, the Santa Barbara Lesbian & Gay Film Festival and the 2008 Miami International Short Film Festival where it was nominated for Best Experimental Film. It premiered at *Opera to Go* in 2008 and had its broadcast premiere on Bravo! Television in November. *The Perfect Match* was created as a 5-minute live opera at the Composer-Librettist Laboratory in 2006.

Inside Opera Education Programme

Tapestry will continue partnerships with the Regent Park School of Music and City Hope in St. Jamestown.

ABOUT THE COMPANY

Tapestry - Tapestry is dedicated to the creation, development and performance of new opera works through its unique and highly collaborative work process. Under the leadership of Managing Artistic Director Wayne Strongman, Tapestry engages the hearts and minds of artists and audiences on subjects relevant to contemporary society. The Tapestry process begins at the annual Composer-Librettist Laboratory where writers and composers are introduced to collaborative creation. Successful partnerships move on to create 15-minute operas for our annual *Opera to Go* production and graduate to full-length works. Our Inside Opera Education Programme gives students the chance to discover their own stories and engage in the creation of new opera. Our recent children's opera, *Elijah's Kite* by Camyar Chai & James Rolfe has already toured to over 30,000 students across Ontario. Tapestry productions which have premiered to critical and popular acclaim include *Sanctuary Song* by Abigail Richardson & Marjorie Chan (with Theatre Direct in partnership with Luminato), *Nigredo Hotel* by Ann-Marie MacDonald & Nic Gotham, *Elsewhereless* by Atom Egoyan & Rodney Sharman, *Still the Night* by Theresa Tova, *Facing South* by Don Hannah & Linda C. Smith and the Dora Award-winning *Iron Road* by composer Chan Ka Nin & librettist Mark Brownell. www.tapestrynewopera.com

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For further media information and artist interviews please contact **Kim Blackwell** at
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