

2022 CANADIAN
PREMIERE

2017 Pulitzer Prize
Winning Opera
by Du Yun & Royce Vavrek

ANGEL'S BONE

Addressing human
trafficking and the
exploitation of youth
in our communities.

A CO-PRODUCTION BETWEEN:

re:Naissance Opera

+

Sound the Alarm: Music/Theatre

+

Arraymusic

+

Loose Tea Music Theatre

Cover Image, by Shahzia Sikander;
Uprooted Order Series 3 no 1, 1997



THE ANGEL'S BONE PROJECT

Human trafficking of youth is happening in our Canadian communities.

The Angel's Bone Project uses an award-winning contemporary opera as a creative lens and collaborative tool to generate public conversation and awareness of the issue in our communities.

THE OPERA

The 2017 Pulitzer Prize winning opera, *Angel's Bone*, by Chinese-American Composer Du Yun and Canadian Librettist Royce Vavrek, will be a newly-imagined and all-Canadian production.

ARTISTIC VISION

Our interpretation follows two youths who, seeking safety and stability, are lured into exploitative relationships by their traffickers, Mr. & Mrs. XE. While the story paints a picture of the realities of human trafficking of youth in our communities, it also depicts the resilience of survivors and the journey of reclaiming one's power.

As relatively new disrupting companies within the Canadian theatre and opera industries, we are able to advance social change more readily through bold and creatively charged productions. This project will utilize multimedia design elements to help focus the narrative back onto the victims.

LATERAL LEADERSHIP

Our leadership team is a non-hierarchical structure to allow equal sharing of roles in creative process and project management.

This production features a Directing Three Member Team + Music Director + Team of Human Trafficking Advisors

Collaboration:

NATIONWIDE

This project brings together four of Canada's most innovative music and opera organizations:

- + Vancouver-based: Sound the Alarm: Music/Theatre + re:Naissance Opera
- + Toronto-based: Arraymusic + Loose Tea Music Theatre

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

This production brings together social workers, survivors, lawyers, human rights activists and opera artists to collaborate on producing this opera depicting this complex issue.

Timeline:

Canadian Premiere performances in Vancouver (Fall 2022) and Toronto (Winter 2023), preceded by community consultations and discussions.

An artistic illustration of two hands, one larger and one smaller, holding a globe. The hands are rendered in a soft, painterly style with warm tones. The background is a textured, light green and yellow wash.

THE ISSUE: HUMAN TRAFFICKING OF YOUTH

THE UN'S DEFINITION OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING:

The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of people through force, fraud or deception, with the aim of exploiting them for profit. Adults and children of all ages and from all backgrounds can become victims of this crime, which occurs in every region of the world. The traffickers often use violence or fraudulent employment agencies and fake promises of education and job opportunities to trick and coerce their victims.

PROBLEMATIC PERCEPTIONS AROUND HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF YOUTH:

- + There is a general belief that it happens elsewhere in the world.
- + The issue lacks visibility amongst the general public.
- + There are prevailing stereotypes perpetuated in popular culture on what human trafficking survivors and offenders look like, how they act and where they come from.

THE EFFECT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC:

- + The pandemic has exacerbated and highlighted the systemic and deeply entrenched economic and societal inequalities that are among the root causes of human trafficking.
- + The measures taken to "flatten the curve" such as lockdowns, curfews and enforced quarantine, have driven this type of activity further underground, making it more difficult to identify and track victims.
- + COVID-19 also impacts the capacity of authorities and NGO's (non-governmental organization) to provide essential services to victims of this crime.

RELEVANT FACTS ABOUT HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN CANADA:

It happens in our cities. Nine in ten (90%) incidents of human trafficking were reported in metropolitan areas.

It deeply affects youth. Nearly three in ten of all victims (28%) of police-reported human trafficking were under the age of 18. Half (45%) of all victims of police-reported human trafficking were between the ages of 18 and 24.

It disproportionately affects women and girls. The vast majority of victims of police-reported human trafficking were women and girls (97%).

It is a systemic issue rooted in the sexualization and objectification of women and girls. Four in five (81%) persons accused of human trafficking since 2009 have been men.

Human trafficking and sexual exploitation of youth is in fact, a form of slavery.