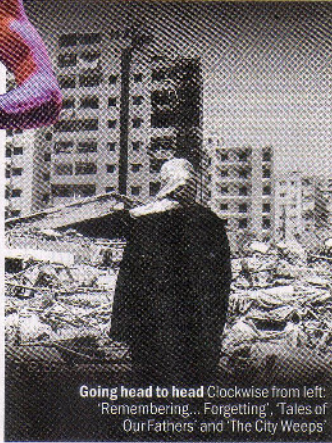
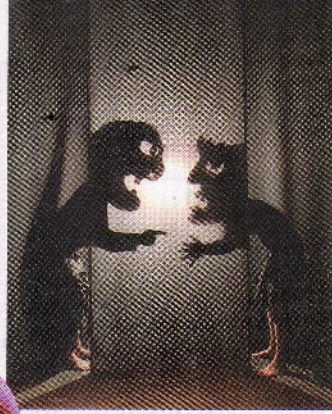
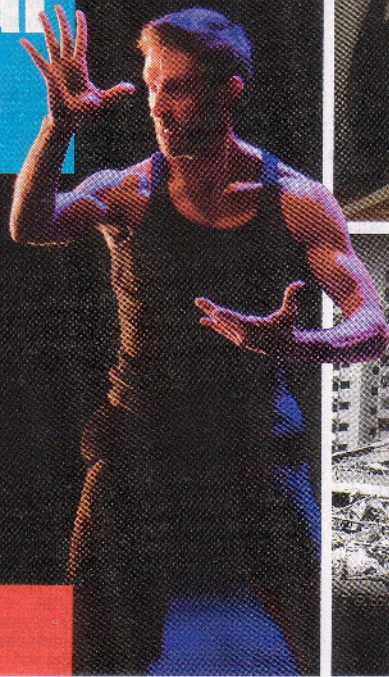


Classical & Opera



Edited by
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Going head to head: Clockwise from left: 'Remembering... Forgetting', 'Tales of Our Fathers' and 'The City Weeps'

relationship with energy and sustainable living. 'When I Am Old' by Hannah Conway (libretto Hazel Gould) is inspired by the story of Rachel Corrie, the young American peace activist killed in Gaza in 2003. (For ages 12 and over.)

The Sleeper

Sat Aug 13 at 8.30pm
and Sun 14 at 5.30pm
Welsh National Youth Opera librettist Michael Symmons Roberts and composer Stephen Deazley's chilling and haunting tale asks the question: what happens to society when our most human needs are denied? Conducted by Eugene Monteith. (For ages 12 and over.)

Tales of our Fathers

Sat Aug 13 at 6pm
and Sun 14 at 2.55pm
A show for all generations, exploring the life of a son and father using contemporary opera, poetry and shadow theatre. Written by Ian McMillan, composed by Ben Park and performed by puppeteer Steve Tiplady; two singers and two musicians. (For ages six and over.)

The Moonflower

Thur Aug 18 and Fri 19 at 7pm
Boii Theatre presents a fusion of opera, theatre, dance and video art inspired by the lives of Margaret Mee and Chico Mendes. They take us on a journey through the flooded forest where we rediscover the Moonflower. Blooming just once in a blue moon, it dies with the first morning star. A short, but precious and beautiful life worth fighting for. (Music: Mario Ferraro; words Eva Daníčková; directed by Maja Milatovic-Ovadia.)

The City Weeps

Thur Aug 18 and Fri 19 at 7pm
Frances M Lynch and electric voice theatre present two mini-operas for soprano and electronics – powerful pieces exposing the physical, emotional and psychological consequences of invasion and conquest. 'Baghdad Monologue' (music and words: Alejandro Viñao) and 'Lonely Sits the City' by Andrew Lovett. First, the inconsolable grief of women told through vocal theatre. Then, conflict, through the words of Bush and Blair, a lamenting voice, complex soundscapes, with the plucked strings of an ancient lyre.

Telling the Stories of Our Time

Sat Aug 20 at 9pm
Entertaining composer-pianist Errollyn Wallen reveals the fascinating process behind the creation of her 11 operas. She also performs excerpts from her next opera, 'YES' (librettist Bonnie Greer; to be premiered at Linbury Studio Theatre in November).

The Tête à Tête Opera Festival

runs at Riverside Studios in Hammersmith, **Aug 4-21**.
www.tete-a-tete.org.uk
www.timeout.com/classical

Into the avant-garde

Puppeteers, poetry, polemics and politics... Jonathan Lennie previews some unusual offerings at the fifth Tête à Tête Opera Festival

Don't come if you love opera for its chandeliers and tiaras! So says Bill Bankes-Jones, founder and artistic director of the Tête à Tête Opera Festival, which is now enjoying its fifth summer season at Riverside Studios in Hammersmith.

Jones is passionate about making new opera enjoyable and available for everyone – and, trust me, as someone who goes to a lot of new opera, such intentions are rarely realised. In this case, however, the focus really is on entertainment, with a selection of mini-operas, staged song recitals and music theatre pieces, in a set time slot each day and repeated the next. So, there's a chance to see at least four shows, eat and drink in the great bar/restaurant, or to just head out on to the terrace and enjoy a glorious view of the Thames running softly under Hammersmith's ornate bridge.

This is genuine fringe opera – experimental pieces which stand or fall on their concept and performance without the support of elaborate sets and effects. Produced by Tête à Tête and its guests, including Scottish Opera, as ever, there is something for everyone. And at just £4-£6 a show, it won't break the bank.

Tête à Tête highlights

Larvae

Thur Aug 4 and Fri 5 at 6.40pm;
Thur Aug 18 and Fri 19 at 8.25pm
It all begins with a free performance-art piece from the weird and wonderful world of London-based Luxembourgish composer Catherine Kontz. Her oversize score features 33 white hexagonal flexagons, which initially hide the musical material that the singer (baritone Danny Standing) gradually uncovers and then uses to transform the landscape of white into a palette of colourful shapes. A musical metamorphosis, accompanied by six radios!

“It's very wrong songs from some stellar voices”

Fables: A Film Opera

Thur Aug 4 and Fri 5 at 7.45pm
A chance to see an adaptation of homeless charity Streetwise Opera's film project depicting survival, rebellion, greed and love. Showing 'The Nightingale and the Rose' (filmmaker: Gaëlle Denis; music by Emily Hall) and 'The Hartlepool Monkey' (filmmaker: Tom Marshall; music by Paul Sartin and Andy Mellon). With additional narration for live performance.

Closing Schools for the Future

Thur Aug 4 and Fri 5 at 8.30pm
Aspire Trust's exploration in words and music asking what is lost from a school community once the programme of closure has been agreed. Director Nick Owen's text is derived from verbatim interviews, official documents and ethnographic approaches to data collection. Music by Gary Carpenter.

Wrong Songs for Summer

Thur Aug 4 and Fri 5 at 9.30pm
Comedy composer and lyricist Richard Thomas ('Jerry Springer: The Opera' and 'Anna Nicole') presents songs and gags from his 'South London Songbook'. Enjoy some very wrong songs from the stellar voices of Loré Lixenberg and Tim Howar.

The Withered Arm

Sat Aug 6 at 7.55pm
and Sun Aug 7 at 4.55pm
Composer Jenny Gould's operatic adaptation of an eerie Thomas Hardy short story of love and loss. Two women's destinies are shaped by a terrifying vision, their lives inextricably intertwined. Directed by Joanna Turner.

Remembering... Forgetting

Sat Aug 6 at 10pm and Sun 7 at 7pm
Composer Nigel Osborne and bass Michael Popper's reworking of their brutal and tender tribute to the Russian poet Sergei Esenin.

On Off / When I Am Old

Sat Aug 13 at 7pm and Sun 14 at 4pm
Glyndebourne Youth Opera presents a double-bill of newly commissioned work. Orlando Gough's vocal ensemble piece 'On Off' explores our