

Tête-à-tête
THE OPERA FESTIVAL 2025

YOUNG OPERA MAKERS



PEELED BACK

A TRIPLE BILL

The Ccckpit, Gateforth St., London NW8 8EH
23rd September

Part of the 2025 Tête-à-Tête Opera Festival

PROGRAMME

Get Your Licks In

To ‘Get Your Licks In’ means to “succeed in hitting your opponent”. It doesn’t necessarily mean that you win the fight. Set in an American diner, this collaboration between Eric Davis (composer) and Noah McCreadie (librettist) explores the plight of an exasperated wife as she teams up with the local waitstaff to plot bloody, fantastic revenge on her cheating husband.

The Truth of This

The Truth of This, inspired by Matthew Hopkins’ 17th-century witch trial records, explores isolation, invention, and perception as one woman circles her cell, awaiting judgment. The result of collaboration between composer Dawn Erridge and librettist Rebekah King.

Peel

In the absurdly philosophical *Peel*, three sentient bananas sing about mortality and the invisible hand of fate (as it reaches towards the fruit bowl). Featuring music by Pablo Martinez, and a libretto by Hannah Hayden.

CAST AND CREW

Music and Staging



Sophie Daneman

Director

Sophie's career as a singer has spanned over 3 decades - she has performed and recorded a wide range of repertoire with a particular penchant for baroque music. She has collaborated with many of the leading specialists in this field, especially William Christie and Les Arts Florissants, who she considers musical family

From a theatre background, Sophie has always had a passionate interest in staging and over the past years, she has developed a parallel career as a director. Productions include "Rameau, Maitre a Dancer", Monteverdi's Orfeo, Handel's Acis and Galatea and Partenope, Purcell's Dido and Aeneas, Mozart's La Finta Giardiniera, Pergolesi's Stabat Mater and "Chasing Rainbows", a cabaret based on the songs of Julie Andrews with Lea Desandre.

This is Sophie's 4th year directing a show for Tete-a-Tete.



Hilary Punnett

Conductor

Hilary Punnett is Assistant Director of Music at St Paul's Cathedral, having recently completed her MA in Choral Conducting at the Royal Academy of Music. She is a versatile musician, regularly giving recitals across the UK as an organist, alongside working with various musicians and groups as conductor.

CAST AND CREW

Music and Staging



Ishan Bhadra
Pianist, *Get Your Licks In*

Keen to pursue a career as a repetiteur, Ishan has an extensive knowledge of operatic repertoire. He is proficient in Italian, German, French, and Spanish, with a foundational understanding of Russian and Czech. He has worked as a repetiteur and vocal coach on numerous opera productions (*L'incoronazione di Poppea*, *Così fan tutte*, *La Traviata*, *Rigoletto*, *La Bohème*, *Suor Angelica*, *Turandot*, *Don Pasquale*) collaborating with conductors such as Kevin Class, Davide Levi, Jonathan Butcher, Toby Purser, Alessandro Pagliazzi, Alpesh Chauhan and Cristian Cimei. Most recently, he served as Musical Director for *Die Zauberflöte* with Opera Greenwich. He has also worked as musical director and keyboard player for amateur dramatic productions of *Aladdin*, *Annie* and *Spring Awakening*. He has performed orchestral keyboard parts with ensembles such as the University of London Symphony Orchestra, Kimichi Symphony Orchestra and the Hertfordshire County Youth Orchestra.

Tammas Slater is a London-based pianist, organist and composer. Currently he holds the Gilbert & Eileen Edgar and Anthony Saltmarsh Collaborative Piano Fellowship at the Royal College of Music, and he has performed at Wigmore Hall, Bridgewater Hall, Manchester, and at festivals including Leeds Lieder and New Music North West. A previous winner of BBC Young Composer of the Year, his works have been performed and commissioned by ensembles including the BBC Singers, Aurora Orchestra, Fidelio Trio and the Choir of Jesus College, Cambridge. Tammas recently completed postgraduate studies in Ensemble Piano and Organ at the Royal Academy of Music. During his studies he held the Graham Roberts Scholarship for Piano Accompaniment, and was supported by both The Countess of Munster and Kathleen Trusts. Previously, he studied at Cambridge University, where he was Organ Scholar at Gonville and Caius College.



Tammas Slater
Pianist, *The Truth of This and Peel*

CAST AND CREW

Get Your Licks In



Hailey West

Wife

Soprano Hailey West is in the first year of her Masters degree at the Royal Academy of Music studying with Raymond Connell and Joseph Middleton. She completed her bachelor's degree at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire.

Recent opera engagements include Gretel in Hansel and Gretel, La Fée in Cendrillon and Adelaide in The Enchanted Pig at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire. With Royal Academy Opera she performed First Boy in Die Zauberflöte and Chorus in Hänsel und Gretel. In opera scenes she performed Tytania in A Midsummer Night's Dream, and Maria Bertram in Mansfield Park.

She was recently awarded the Dick Maidment and Peggy Cooper Award to support her second year of study.



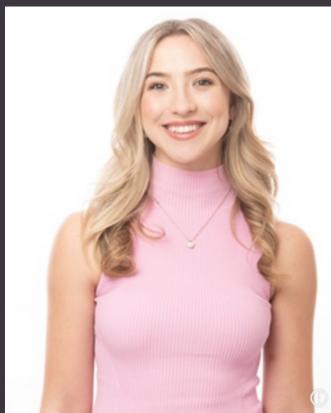
Joseph Hancock

Husband

Joseph Hancock is a prize-winning postgraduate student at the Royal Academy of Music, where he studies with Mark Wildman and Janet Haney. A graduate of St John's College Cambridge, where he sang in the College Choir, he now combines his masters studies with opera, oratorio, song and choral work. He is looking forward to playing the role of Remendado in the Royal Academy Opera production of Carmen in November 2025.

CAST AND CREW

Get Your Licks In



Amber Dixon

Waitress



Isabella Hulbert

Hostess



Carleigh Ross

Cook

Amber Dixon, a soprano studying at the Royal Academy of Music with Raymond Connell, trained previously at the Royal Irish Academy of Music. Operatic roles include Despina, Susanna, and Musetta, alongside professional and musical theatre credits. A Genesis Sixteen alumna, she was named Northern Ireland Classical Vocalist of the Year 2023.

Isabella Hulbert is a soprano in her final undergraduate year at The Royal Academy of Music studying with John Lattimore. She is a resident artist with The Juno Duo at the London Transport Museum, and an awardee of the Young Artist Recording Scheme at RAM. Her recent oratorio solo work includes The Messiah with Ian Tracey, Nelson Mass and Vespare de Confessore with Piers Maxim. She performed as Papagena for Opera Greenwich in June 2025. Her writing on composers for ballet is published for Voices of British Ballet.

Canadian-American soprano Carleigh Ross is a student at the Royal Academy of Music, pursuing a Masters of Vocal Studies. She has participated in the Academy's Vocal Faculty scenes singing the roles of Charlotte (Werther), and Adalgisa (Norma). Her upcoming engagements include the roles of Zdenka (Arabella) and Susanna (Le nozze di Figaro) in the Royal Academy Opera scenes, and soloist for Ravel's Chanson madecasses for the Academy's celebratory concert. Past full roles include Marcellina (Le nozze di Figaro), La Marchesa Melibea (Il viaggio a Reims), Hannah (Pasažerka,), and Dritte Dame (Die Zauberflöte) as well as a soloist with the UBC Symphony for Duruflé's Requiem.

CAST AND CREW

Get Your Licks In



Eric Burton Davis

Composer

Originally hailing from Austin, Texas, Eric Burton Davis (b. 2000) is a London-based composer and performer whose work spans both acoustic and electronic mediums and includes recent collaborations with filmmakers, animators, librettists, art galleries, and amateur and community music groups. Recent career highlights include two premieres with the Riot Ensemble, the Ernest Read Symphony Orchestra, PHACE Contemporary Music, Trio Immersio, and the Sydney Contemporary Orchestra, as well as collaborations with the Courtauld and Pallant House Galleries and the Roberts Institute of Art.

Eric is a PhD candidate at the Royal Academy of Music, where he is grateful to continue his studies with the support of an Open Academy Fellowship.



Noah McCreadie

Librettist

Noah McCreadie is an actor and theatre maker who graduated from Oxford School of Drama in 2022. Since then, Noah has primarily focused on writing; penning two plays, two contemporary librettos and a short film. His first play, *Getaway/Runaway* was described by one critic as “some of the most realistic writing I’ve seen in a show.” In 2024, Noah founded his own theatre company, The McCreadie Company and produced his second play, titled *The Glass House*. It was in this production that he made his professional debut, in the role of Kai.

CAST AND CREW

The Truth of This



Hannah Dienes-Williams

Prisoner

Hannah Dienes-Williams is a vocalist specialising in contemporary music. She graduated from her Masters in July with a DIPRAM, the Edlee Prize and the Edwin Samuel Dove Prize. She recently debuted at the Salzburger Festspiele in Nono's 'Io, Frammento di Prometeo', and has performed as a soloist in oratorio and contemporary repertoire with Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, London Sinfonietta, Southbank Sinfonia and Royal Liverpool Philharmonic. Her ensemble work includes regular performances with EXAUDI, The Carice Singers and Cantando Admont, as well as joining the ENO chorus of his season for Jake Heggie's 'Dead Man Walking'.



Louis Petit

Interrogator

Louis Pettitt is a countertenor currently training at the Royal Academy of Music, studying with Mary Nelson and Michael Chance. In Academy Scenes, he has performed the roles of Tirinto in *Imeneo*, Oberon in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Unulfo in *Rodelinda*. He will also play Ottone in the HGO Production of Monteverdi's *L'incoronazione di Poppea* in November.

Louis previously read music at Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge, where he played several roles with the University Opera including Spirit in *Dido and Aeneas* and Bertarido in *Rodelinda*. He is thrilled to be able to bring Dawn Erridge's exciting piece to life again for *Tête à Tête*.

CAST AND CREW

The Truth of This



Andrea Rodriguez-Gomez
Sweetheart

Andrea Rodriguez-Gomez is a Puerto Rican soprano who recently graduated from the Royal Academy of Music, where she studied with Alex Ashworth and Janet Haney. Hailing from the United States, Andrea has performed internationally in venues such as Carnegie Hall and in competitions such as Corsica Lirica International Competition in Ghisonaccia, Corsica. Her operatic roles include Mimi (*La Bohème*) in the Pehlivanian Professional Opera Academy's Slovenian National Tour, Marcellina (*Le Nozze de Figaro*) with Ensemble Orquesta, Octavian (*Der Rosenkavalier*) in concert for Muzika! The Grand Strand Festival, Dritte Dame (*Die Zaberflote*) with LAH-SOW in Philadelphia, and La Frugola (*Il Tabarro*) with Harrow Opera.



Tayla Alexander
Friend

New Zealand soprano Tayla Alexander is completing her Master of Arts at the Royal Academy of Music, where she is a Bicentenary Scholar. In 2025–26 she joins the Accademia dell'Opera Italiana as a Studio Artist, supported by the Dame Kiri Te Kanawa Foundation, the Countess of Munster Musical Trust, and the Drake Calleja Trust. Recent highlights include Mimì (*La bohème*) and Rusalka (*Rusalka*), Alice/cover Countess (*Le Comte Ory*) with New Zealand Opera, and Hélène (*Die Verschworenen*) at the Lisa Gasteen National Opera Programme. A finalist in the 2025 Richard Lewis/Jean Shanks Award and the 2024 Lexus Song Quest, she is also the founder of the Tayla Made Foundation.



Daisy Livesy
Child

Daisy Livesey is a London-based soprano enjoying a varied schedule of solo and choral singing. Recent solo engagements include Haydn *The Seasons* (St Mary's, Amersham) Britten *The World of the Spirit* (London Mozart Players), and Bach *Jauchzet Gott in allen Landen* (Wimbledon Int'l Music Festival). This year she was a finalist at the Ashburnham English Song Awards. As a choral singer, Daisy has worked with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, Arcangelo, Monteverdi Choir, La Nuova Musica and Gabrieli Consort.

Daisy is a graduate of the Royal Academy of Music, where she won First Prize in RAM's Nancy Nuttall Early Music Prize with a programme of Buxtehude soprano cantatas.

CAST AND CREW

The Truth of This



Dawn Erridge

Composer

Dawn Erridge is a composer whose music explores mediation, gaps in communication and ventriloquism. Often collaging different mediums into intimate self-portraits, she is currently pursuing her master's in composition at the Royal Academy of Music. This debut opera, with playwright and librettist Rebekah King, explores the extremes of restraint, restriction, and outpourings of speech, unpicking an historical moment that echoes, uncomfortably, today.



Rebekah King

Librettist

Rebekah King is an award-winning playwright based in London. She enjoys writing about little-known history and has a PhD in English exploring early modern depictions of magic. Rebekah recently joined the Royal Academy of Music as a librettist on their Opera Makers course.

CAST AND CREW

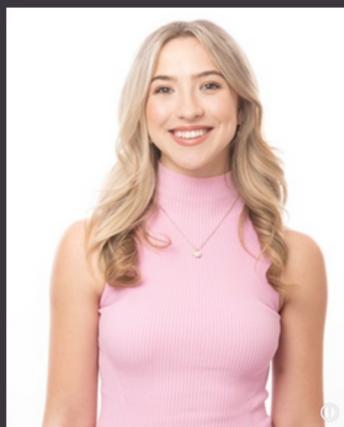
Peel



Aimee Skye Wilmot

Sunny

Aimee Skye Wilmot is a Soprano from London, currently at the Royal Academy of Music in her second year pursuing a Masters of Arts in Preparatory Opera. She achieved a Bachelor of Music from the University of Manchester, where she worked alongside composers performing new material as well as opera scenes and the lead role in Victoria Bond's, "Mrs President". There, she performed Haydn's concerto for soprano and orchestra, Scena di Berenice and has performed frequently in jazz and soul venues and festivals. She was the soloist in Beethoven's 9th Symphony and Bernstein's Chichester Psalms.



Amber Dixon

Speck

Amber Dixon, a soprano studying at the Royal Academy of Music with Raymond Connell, trained previously at the Royal Irish Academy of Music. Operatic roles include Despina, Susanna, and Musetta, alongside professional and musical theatre credits. A Genesis Sixteen alumna, she was named Northern Ireland Classical Vocalist of the Year 2023.



Joseph Hancock

Mo

Joseph Hancock is a prize-winning postgraduate student at the Royal Academy of Music, where he studies with Mark Wildman and Janet Haney. A graduate of St John's College Cambridge, where he sang in the College Choir, he now combines his masters studies with opera, oratorio, song and choral work. He is looking forward to playing the role of Remendado in the Royal Academy Opera production of Carmen in November 2025.

CAST AND CREW

Peel



Pablo Martinez

Composer

Pablo Martinez is a Brazilian composer, performer, and educator based in London. From intimate chamber pieces to large-scale interdisciplinary collaborations, his compositions blur the boundaries between music, text, movement, and electronics. He has collaborated with leading ensembles and artists including the London Sinfonietta, Red Note Ensemble, Chamber Choir Ireland, and Scottish Freelancers Ensemble. Recent projects include Just for today for the London Sinfonietta and Stephanie Lamprea, performed at the Southbank Centre; What Now, Mané?, a poem-opera performed at the Edinburgh Fringe and the Susie Sainsbury Theatre; and Look @ Me, a modern dance piece in collaboration with Joseph Strike.

A winner of the Nevis Ensemble Wind and Brass Competition and finalist in the Dinah Wolfe Memorial Prize, Pablo studied at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and the Royal Academy of Music.



Hannah Hayden

Librettist

Hannah Hayden is a writer and musician based in London. Originally from New Jersey, she moved to the UK for university and performs music under the moniker Platonica Erotica. As an artist, she is appreciative of all things absurd, ethereal, and disgusting.

She completed Guildhall's Opera Making MA in 2024 with comedy chamber opera "The Casserole", composed by Evan Snyder. This is her Tete a Tete debut.