

TRANSPORTATION TRANSFORMATION

A TEN-MINUTE OPERA

CREATED, PRODUCED & PERFORMED IN 24-HOURS

BY NINE EXTRAORDINARY PEOPLE

April 13, 2019

Commissioned by the New York Opera Alliance

and

New York Public Radio - The Greene Space

The Creative Team

Richard Pearson Thomas – Music Director

Marianna Mott Newirth – Librettist

Peter Michael von der Nahmer – Music Dramaturge

Jennifer Williams – Stage Director

Alexa Rosenberg – Production Manager

Featuring the vocal talents of

Danielle Buonaiuto – soprano

La Toya Lewis – Soprano

Melissa Serluco – Mezzo Soprano

Brian Alvarado - Baritone

Transportation Transformation

RPT-MMN-PMvdN-JW-AR

DB-LL-MS-BA

The story behind this work:

Transportation Transformation was born out of a challenge, posed by the NY Opera Alliance and NY Public Radio – The Greene Space, to nine opera professionals who chose to accept the mission of creating an original 10-minute opera within 24-hours. They were given a prompt at 7am Friday morning April 12th to create an opera set in a New York City subway car. The team selected duets from Mozart's operatic line-up and set to work creating a pastiche with an original libretto. The work was performed before a live audience at 1pm Saturday April 13th at The Greene Space and simultaneously streamed live on Facebook.

<https://www.facebook.com/thegreenspace/videos/976592239212574/UzpfSTE0MDk0Nzk1OTQ6MTAyMTk1Mjc5OTUyMTYzODQ/> starting at 1:07:43

Synopsis:

It is Monday morning on the F train platform. It is March. The weather is dreary.

Four individuals board the train that then comes to a sudden halt. They review their day-to-day existence in varying modes of despair and frustration at the delay they are in. Typical MTA!

The F train is now skipping stops and, in a moment of magical realism, bursts forth out of the tunnel to lift off of its tracks and fly through the air carrying the four passengers over their homeland of Brooklyn. All four face the reality of who they are and what their life is about. Here, on a flying F train, they discover friendship, make connections and help one another.

Everyone decides to ride the train to a beautiful spot in the center of Manhattan and spend the day together. Nobody dies in this opera! :)

Characters:

Leslie – (Danielle Buonaiuto) A hard-driving, type-A individual who's only desire is to master the universe from her iPhone and stomp on people who get in her way.

Ava – (La Toya Lewis) A good religious woman with an authentic spirit and desire to help people find themselves. She can be—at times—a little too zealous, though.

Melanie – (Melissa Serluco) A native New Yorker, now a homeless poet who rides the train for warmth and inspiration for her words. This morning she has a problem...her pencil is broken.

Mark – (Brian Alvarado) A transplant from Wisconsin, Brian has been in NY for a year working IT for a bank and he has yet to find any friends. He is lonely and has lost his inherent spark.

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As the music begins, all four characters walk onto the stage and take their place around the subway platform bench, waiting for the train to arrive.

MARK (spoken)

Another day

Another day here on the F train platform

Can't believe I've been here about a year

Feels like a decade/

LESLIE (spoken)

Another day

Another day

Here on the F train platform

Another delay

MELANIE (spoken)

Finally, some warmth. I was so cold last night under the bridge

AVA (spoken)

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I fear no evil
for you are with me

MARK (spoken)

Another day

Music indicates the arriving train and the performers adjust the chairs into a configuration as would be found in the car of a typical F train. They take their places.

SOAVE IL VENTO

ALL

INSIDE WE ARE BROKEN

NO WORDS CAN BE SPOKEN

DELAY, JUST ANOTHER DAY

THIS IS TYPICAL MTA

MY LIFE'S STUCK IN THIS BOX

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LESLIE

NO MORE INTERNET CONNECTION

MELANIE

MY PENCIL IS BROKEN AND USELESS

ALL

AND I'M HUNGRY

MELISSA (spoken)

Ugh, my pencil is broken/

LESLIE (spoken)

No internet connection/

MARK (spoken)

We're all broken inside/

AVA (spoken)

Typical MTA

ALL (spoken)

Typical MTA

LA CI DAREM

MARK

HEY, WE JUST MISSED THE STATION

AVA

IT'S IN THE HANDS OF GOD

LESLIE

I CAN'T STAND STAGNATION

MELANIE

I CAN'T MAINTAIN THIS FAÇADE

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MARK

ZONE IN...ZONE OUT SUBCONSCIOUS

AVA

IT'S IN THE HAND OF GOD

LESLIE

I FEEL I'M IN A DOLL HOUSE

MELANIE

THIS BROKEN PENCIL IS HISTORY

ALL

THE FUTURE IS LOST IN TIME

RECIT

MARK

Oh my God – look, the train is lifting from the tracks

MELANIE

Look, oh dear God I can see the place I slept last night in the park

LESLIE

Look! Oh my God! The internet is great up here!

AVA

Look inside. Each of us has fear on this run away train

MARK

Floating above the city in a flying F train. How insane.

I don't think we're in New York anymore, do you?

MELANIE

I don't like heights.

I'm suddenly scared, though I'm always scared I don't let anyone know

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AVA

How did we come to be here – here in the sky in a flying F train. There is perhaps a greater plan in this morning's commute. What does it all mean?

AH GUARDA SORRELA

AVA

LET GO FOR A MOMENT
AND FIND SOMETHING POTENT

LESLIE

WORK TO DO

AVA

WORK TO DO
PERHAPS YOU
WOULD LIKE TO
CONSIDER WHAT GOD WOULD DO

LESLIE

PLEASE SPARE ME YOUR FAITH
DO SPARE ME YOUR FAITH

MARK

OH LOOK, THE STATUE OF LIBERTY

MELANIE

I WONDER MY FUTURE

AVA

IF ONLY THE FAITHFUL WOULD REMEMBER

LESLIE

REMEMBER THIS MORNING
WE HAD NO CONTROL
REMEMBER THIS MORNING
WE HAD NO CONTROL

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AVA

IT'S PROSPECT PARK

LOOK DOWN BELOW

MANHATTAN

THE CITY FULL OF SOUND AND SOUL

MELANIE

I'VE ALWAYS HAD THIS FEELING

I'M MEANT FOR A PURPOSE – A PURPOSE

MARK

WHEN I STEPPED INTO THE CAR I HAD NO FRIENDSHIPS

MELANIE & LESLIE

I SEE YOU

YOU'RE STANDING QUITE CLOSE TO HER ON THE F TRAIN

Spoken dialogue

LESLIE

Don't get too close to that guy

MELANIE

He seems nice enough, why

I've seen you, too

LESLIE

What me?

MELANIE

Yes you -

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I ride the train to write my poetry. I wrote one about you

LESLIE

oh you're a poet?

MELAIE

When I have a pencil that works, yes

LESLIE

Well here, take my pen then?

MELANIE

Oh I can't take that, it's so beautiful no, no, it's yours

LESLIE

Take it! It's OK.

I'm going to have a very different day now today thanks to you

CUDEL! PERCE FINORA

MARK

I DIDN'T KNOW YOU CARED

MELANIE

I'VE SEEN YOU EVERY DAY ON THE PLATFORM

MARK

I'VE SEEN YOU TOO – I'VE NOTICED

MELANIE

BUT I DIDN'T KNOW YOU CARED

MARK

YOU'RE HOMELESS

MELANIE

YES

MARK

YOU HAVE A FAMILY?

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MELANIE

NO

MARK

THEN LET ME HELP YOU

PAPAGENA

MARK

PA PA PA

MELANIE

PA PA PA

MARK

PA PA PA PA

MELANIE

PA PA PA PA

MARK

PA PA PA PA PA PA PA PA

MELANIE

PA PA PA PA PA PA PA PA

MARK

PA-PA-PA PA PA

MELANIE

PA PA PA PA PA

MARK

PA PA PA PA PA PA CENTRAL PARK

MELANIE

PA PA PA PA PA PA CENTRAL PARK

MARK

CAN WE GO TO CENTRAL PARK

MELANIE

YES LET'S GO TO CENTRAL PARK

MARK

I'VE NEVER BEEN TO SEE THE FOUNTAIN

EVA

I WILL TAKE YOU TO THE FOUNTAIN

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MARK

I'VE BEEN HERE WITH NO CONNECTIONS

MELANIE

I HAVE LOST ALL MY CONNECTIONS

MARK

THERE IS MORE TO LIFE THAN WORKING

LESLIE

THERE IS MORE TO LIFE THAN WORKING

MARK & LESLIE

THIS IS NOT WHAT I EXPECTED

THIS IS NOT WHAT I EXPECTED

ON A MONDAY MORNING RIDE

MORNING RIDE

MORNING RIDE

TOGETHER WE COULD HAVE SOME FUN

MARK

FIRST THERE IS OUR JOB

LESLIE

THEN THERE IS OUR LIFE

MARK

THEN THERE IS OUR FRIENDSHIP

AVA

WHY NOT FLY TO CENTRAL PARK

MARK

CENTRAL PARK

AVA

CENTRAL PARK

MARK & AVA

CENTRAL PARK

MELANIE

THIS IS THE CAR I'M MEANT TO BE IN

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MARK

THIS IS THE CAR YOU'RE MEANT TO BE IN

LESLIE

THIS IS THE CAR

MARK

CENTRAL PARK

MARK & MELANIE

THIS IS THE CAR TO CENTRAL PARK

ALL

THIS IS THE CAR TO CENTRAL PARK

MARK

THIS IS THE CAR I'M MEANT TO BE IN

AVA

THIS IS THE CAR YOU'RE MEANT TO BE IN

ALL

THIS IS THE CAR TO CENTRAL PARK

CENTRAL PARK

End of Opera