

# PLAYBILL



Fort Worth Contemporary Arts presents

# *Let My Body Eat the Sun*

March 12 – May 1, 2021

*An opera in three acts*

*Music, Vocal Direction, Choreography, Lighting, Costume & Scenic Design*

Christie Blizzard

*Camera 1*

Christie Blizzard

*Camera 2*

Chris Wicker

*Camera 3*

Justin Ferrell

*Camera 4*

Lynné Bowman Cravens

*Production Manager*

Sara-Jayne Parsons

*Director*

Christie Blizzard

## The Cast

*(In order of appearance)*

Singer 1.....	<b>Bronwyn White</b>
Unnamed masked protagonist.....	<b>Adrianna Touch</b>
Singer 2.....	<b>Antonia Valdez</b>
Armadillo.....	<b>Adelynn Young</b>
Tumbleweed.....	<b>Kim Phan Nguyen</b>
Cactus.....	<b>Ashley Stecenko</b>
Mattress.....	<b>Jazmin Gonzalez</b>
Bird.....	<b>Lynné Bowman Cravens</b>

# Musical Synopsis

*Let My Body Eat The Sun* is a contemporary opera that presents an otherworldly story of life, death and afterlife, set in the Cowtown Coliseum in the Fort Worth Stockyards. The world's first indoor rodeo, the Coliseum was built in 1908 and is renowned as a place of unexpected cultural significance with over a hundred years of hosting a wide range of live performances, from Elvis Presley to Diaghileff's *Ballet Russes*. On October 16, 1920, Enrico Caruso, the celebrated Italian operatic tenor, performed at the Cowtown Coliseum to a standing-room-only crowd of nearly 8,000 people.

*Let My Body Eat The Sun* features performances by mythical Texas characters - - a tumbleweed, an armadillo and a cactus - - and alien improvisational singers. Together they follow the exploits of an unnamed masked protagonist, joining in for moments of frenzied and gleeful dancing and also witnessing a deadly encounter with a mattress. Eventually reborn as a visitor from a different universe, the unnamed masked protagonist is transformed by a spectacular bird. Combining elements of traditional operatic drama with classical mythology, science fiction and the surreal, this opera summons the spirit of Caruso in a colorful and absurd 21st century Western vision.

## ACT I

Scene 1: Setting the scene. Rodeo Arena, Cowtown Coliseum.

"Let my body eat the sun".....Singer 1, Singer 2, Unnamed masked protagonist

Scene 2: Introducing the Texas characters.

"Desert Sounds".....Singer 1, Singer 2, Armadillo, Tumbleweed & Cactus

Scene 3: Introducing the Unnamed masked protagonist who rides a cow.

"Tape".....Singer 1, Unnamed masked protagonist

Scene 4: Twin forms of the Unnamed masked protagonist appear.

"Suckling".....Singer 2

Scene 5: The Unnamed masked protagonist suckles the cow.

"Suckling" and "Cow" .....Singer 2, Unnamed masked protagonist

## Act II

Scene 1: Dance Party.

"Dance Party" and "Freak Out".....Singer 1, Singer 2, Armadillo, Tumbleweed, Cactus & Unnamed masked protagonist

Scene 2: Post-dance party. The overexcited Unnamed masked protagonist is put to bed by Armadillo, Tumbleweed & Cactus.

"Lullaby".....Singer 1, Armadillo, Tumbleweed, Cactus & Unnamed masked protagonist

Scene 3: Mattress appears in a nightmare as Unnamed masked protagonist sleeps.

"Flailing, Raging".....Singer 2 & Mattress

Scene 4: Unnamed masked protagonist gives birth before being murdered by Mattress. Armadillo, Tumbleweed & Cactus mourn over the body.

"Danger: Birth and Death".....Singer 1, Unnamed masked protagonist, Armadillo, Tumbleweed & Cactus

Scene 5: Armadillo and Tumbleweed carry their dead friend to a bird-like time machine. Cactus protects the giant egg. Together, they feed the body into the time machine.

"Mourning" and "Machine".....Singer 1, Singer 2, Unnamed masked protagonist, Armadillo, Tumbleweed & Cactus

Scene 6: As the time machine whirrs, Armadillo, Tumbleweed and Cactus stand to attention.  
“Oh Canada” .....Singer 1, Unnamed masked protagonist, Armadillo,  
Tumbleweed & Cactus

### Act III

Scene 1: The Unnamed masked protagonist emerges from the time machine as a bird from another universe. The friends are reunited.

“Time Travel,” “Bird Chatter” .....Singer 1, Singer 2, Bird, Armadillo, Tumbleweed & Cactus

Scene 2: The Unnamed masked protagonist emerges from the time machine and eats their own material body in ecstasy.

“Drone” .....Singer 1, Singer 2, Unnamed masked protagonist, Bird,  
Armadillo, Tumbleweed & Cactus

Scene 3: Sweet dreams. The end.

“Lullaby” .....Singer 1, Unnamed masked protagonist, Armadillo,  
Tumbleweed & Cactus

## Duration

36 minutes 40 seconds

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