

Soulpepper | OUTSIDE
THE MARCH

MEDUSA

A FEARLESS IMMERSIVE RETELLING
BY GOVERNOR GENERAL'S AWARD-WINNER

ERIN SHIELDS

DIRECTED BY
MITCHELL CUSHMAN





Before she was a full-bodied monster, Medusa was a disembodied head. A wide-eyed, serpent-haired woman with her tongue stuck out between two horrid tusks. In ancient times, this vicious mask appeared on coins, clothes, doors and the armour of the gods, notably Athena's great aegis. The head of Medusa was an emblem used to inspire terror with terror. Perhaps there's never been anything more terrifying or powerful than an angry woman. Maybe that's why female rage is encouraged to be directed inwards rather than outwards. If our serpents are hissing at us to toe the line and keep our rage in check, we won't be a threat to the world at large.

Throughout the years, Medusa has always held a place in the collective imagination. In the Renaissance, she was figured as the ultimate femme fatal, using her erotic charms to seduce and petrify young men. The Romantics and Victorians leaned more towards a pitying view of Medusa. For them, she was a long-suffering victim at the hands of corrupt forces, but beautifully peaceful in death. In the twentieth century, Medusa became a metaphor for philosophers and psychoanalysts. For Marx, Medusa's head represented capitalism. For Freud, it was the fear of castration. For Jung, Medusa was the personification of our aptitude for creativity and destruction. Finally, in the seventies, feminists like Hélène Cixous began to appropriate the image from the male gaze and gave her life as the subject, rather than the object, of her own story. Even today, Medusa remains a pop-icon, notably as the logo for Versace.

I thought about all of these interpretations of Medusa while crafting the play you are about to see but what I kept coming back to was rage. We are living in a time of unbridled rage. In fact, the Oxford word of the year for 2025 was "rage-bait". There is no shortage of things that make us angry and we blast one another on the internet but somehow never seem to feel the release. Perhaps that's because we never look directly into the eye of the target of our rage. Maybe if we did we'd turn to stone. So instead, we are stuck with our inner serpents hissing in our ears, never quite sure if we're the hero of our own story, or the monster everyone is trying to kill.

Erin Shields

Special Playwright Thank Yous: Aside from everyone working on this production, I would like to thank the following people who were instrumental in the development of the script: Joanna Falck, Jason Cadieux, Frank Cox-O'Connell, Mac Fyfe, Cynthia Jimenez-Hicks, Chris Liz, Araya Mengesha, Weyni Mengesha, Durae McFarlane, Natasha Mumba, Rose Napoli, Gabriella Sundar-Singh, Shannon Taylor, and Dylan Trowbridge.

Front Cover: Pictured: Oyin Oladejo, Photo by Dahlia Katz.

HEADPHONE INSTRUCTIONS

Act 1 of Medusa includes an immersive headphone experience.

Below are a few quick instructions for using your headphones when you arrive in the theatre.

1. When you are seated, your headphones will be located on the back of your seat (behind you), not on the hooks in front of you.
2. The side of the headphones with the red indicator should be placed on the right side of your head.
3. The ear cups are intentionally designed to sit “flipped” like flying saucers— please don’t try to force them into a different position.
4. A sound check will take place before the performance begins. If you do not hear any sound during this test, please raise your hand and an usher will assist you.



Cast**Oyin Oladejo**

Medusa

Amy KeatingStheno / Annie /
Bride's Maid / Serpent**Sasha Khan**Euryale / The Bride /
Mother / Serpent**Michelle Monteith**Athena / Enyo / Daphne / Maid
of Honour / Serpent**Danté Prince**

Jason / Percy / Serpent

Gord RandPoseidon / Don /
Menelaus / Serpent**Creative Team****Erin Shields**

Playwright

Mitchell Cushman

Director

Anahita Dehbonehie

Set Designer

Ming Wong 黄慧明**

Costume Designer

Nick Blais**

Lighting Designer

Heidi Wai-Yee Chan

Sound Designer

Casey HudeckiIntimacy Director
and Fight Director**Joanna Falck**

Dramaturg

Sarah Miller

Stage Manager

Farnoosh Talebpour

Assistant Stage Manager

Danielle Walcott

Script Assistant

Tori Morrison

Headset System Designer

Sébastien Heins

Associate Director

Ellie Koffman

Associate Costume Designer

Sephora N'Kosi

Assistant Lighting Designer

Zoe DacaOtM Artistic Accomplice
for Sound**River Oliveira**OtM Artistic Accomplice
for Sound**Production Team****Andy DeVries**

Head Carpenter

Bill Stahl

1st Carpenter

Paul Boddum

Head Scenic Artist

Arielle White, Hilda Chu

Scenic Artists

Lisa Nighswander

Head of Props

Greg Chambers

Props Builder/Buyer

Jack Nighswander

Props Builder

Ellie Koffman

Head of Wardrobe

Claudia Matas

Assistant Head of Wardrobe

Jacqueline Robertson Cull

Head of Wigs

Erin Halls

Stitcher

Irene Ly

Dresser

David Mallette

Lighting Operator

Harris Ingram

Sound Mixer

Sam Poole

Deck Hand

MEDUSA is produced by permission of the Playwright
and Marquis Literary (Colin Rivers) www.MQlit.caMEDUSA received additional support from the 2024
Playwrights Lab at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity,
as well as the Canada Council for the Arts.



NICK BLAIS designs across Canada in all manner of discipline and venue: creating thematic, impactful designs, and transforming unconventional spaces into immersive, dramatic environments. Nick has received Dora Mavor Moore awards in Toronto for both set and lighting design, nominated for the Virginia Myrtle Cooper award in costume design, and various other awards and nominations across the country. As Head of Design for Outside the March, Nick has been working to expand the reach and importance of design in storytelling and placemaking. Nblaisdesign.com
SOULPEPPER: *Witch, Wildwoman, Table for Two* (Obsidian) **OtM:** *Dance Nation* (CoalMine), *Rainbow on Mars, Death of Walt Disney, Lessons in Temperament, Jerusalem*



HEIDI WAI-YEE CHAN creates music and sound for theatre, dance, and other media. She plays Japanese and Chinese bamboo flutes, percussion, synthesizers, and occasionally the ukulele. When not working in theatre, Heidi performs as a member of Japanese folk ensemble ten ten. Heidi has worked as a film sound editor and foley artist in Hong Kong, and has toured with UK's Shakespeare's Globe as a live multi-instrumentalist.



MITCHELL CUSHMAN is a director, creator and founding Artistic Director of Outside the March, as well as one of Canada's leading immersive theatre artists. His work has been seen on stages as large as The Stratford Festival, as intimate as kindergarten classrooms, and as far flung as London, New York, Munich, Argentina and Japan. Previous Outside the March directing credits include: *Rainbow on Mars, Performance Review, The Death of Disney, No Save Points, Trojan Girls, The Tape Escape, The Flick, Dr. Silver, Jerusalem* and *Lessons in Temperament*. Other recent directing credits: *The Perfect Bite, A Knives Out Experience* (Netflix/ Secret City); *Treasure Island, Breath of Kings, Possible Worlds* (Stratford); *Age is a Feeling, The Ex-Boyfriend Yard Sale, I'm Doing This For You* (Soulpepper / Haley McGee); *Comfort Food* (Crows); *Sweeney Todd* (TIFT); *Eureka Day, The Effect, Hand to God, The Aliens* (Coal Mine); *Brantwood* (Sheridan). In 2021, he directed his first feature film *Lessons in Temperament* (LevelFilm), which can currently be seen on TVO. Mitchell has received the Siminovitch protégé award, two Dora Awards for Outstanding Direction and his productions have received 14 Toronto Theatre Critics Awards. In 2019, NOW Magazine named him as one of Toronto's Top 10 theatre artists of the decade.



ZOE DACA is a Toronto and Montréal based Sound Designer, Composer, and Stage Manager. SOULPEPPER 2026: Medusa. OTHER THEATRE: Pelléas et Mélisande (Opera Atelier), Dance Nation (Coal Mine Theatre), Les Zinspiré·es 13 (Le Théâtre Français de Toronto), Jane Eyre (The National Theatre School of Canada), Why Don't We Together (Dear Bear Multi-Arts), Infinite Variety: Shakespeare in the Park (Repercussion Theatre). UPCOMING: Blood Brothers (Summerworks Festival 2026 Expansion Pack). OTHER: Zoe is a graduate of McGill University's Schulich School of Music and the National Theatre School of Canada



ANAHITA DEHBONEHIE is an Iranian artist currently based in Tkaronto, on treaty 13 territory. Her practice extends across design, playwriting and direction. Her work in live performance interrogates the idea that truths are communicated most powerfully through evocative sensory experiences. Nationally, designs on both stage and screen have been recognized with multiple nominations and awards. In theater: she has received Dora Awards, Toronto Theatre Critics awards, an Ontario Stage award and a Sterling Haynes Award. Anahita began creating as a playwright in 2022 and has received support from Nightwood Theatre, Driftwood Theatre, Why Not Theater, Factory Theater and the Urjo Kareda residency at Tarragon Theatre, where her first play will premiere in the coming season. She has been a member of the Gillespie House, Stratford Festival and Gros Morne playwright's retreats and is a resident artist with Outside the March and Necessary Angel.



JOANNA FALCK is a dramaturg and arts leader who has worked in Canadian theatre for more than twenty years. She has served as Literary Associate at Soulpepper Theatre and Literary Manager at Tarragon Theatre and the Shaw Festival, where she collaborated with playwrights, directors, and theatre artists across the country and contributed to the development of new Canadian works. Her dramaturgy credits include *The Welkin*, *What the Constitution Means to Me*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Yaga*, *Sexual Misconduct of the Middle Classes*, and *The Adventures of the Black Girl in Her Search for God*. In 2021, she received the Playwrights Guild of Canada's Honorary Lifetime Membership Award.



SÉBASTIEN HEINS is the Associate AD and a founding member of Outside the March Theatre Co. He splits his time as an actor, creator, and producer. SOULPEPPER 2026: *Medusa*. FOR SOULPEPPER: *Wedding at Aulis*. OTHER THEATRE: *The Last Wife* (RMT), *Slave Play* (Canadian Stage), *Measure for Measure* (Crow's, House & Body), *No Save Points* (OtM, Starvox, Modern Times), *The Tempest* (Stratford), *The Lion King* (Mirvish). Recent Film & Television: *Law & Order Toronto*.



CASEY HUDECKI is a Toronto-born Fight Director, Intimacy Director and Coordinator. SOULPEPPER 2026: *Medusa*. FOR SOULPEPPER: *Hosanna*, *Noises Off*, *39 Steps*. OTHER THEATRE: Fight Director for *Sweat*, (CanStage), *Treemonisha* (Volcano), *Banana Boys* (Factory), Assistant Fight Director at The Stratford Theatre Festival 2008–2010. Casey primarily works as an Intimacy Coordinator in film/tv, recent credits include *The Boys*, *The Vampire Lestat*, *The Handmaids Tale*.



AMY KEATING (she/her) is Toronto-based actor originally hailing from the Prairies and is thrilled to be making her Soulpepper debut with *Medusa*. Amy has worked in theatres across Canada and around the world—from The Stratford Festival in Ontario to stages in Australia, South America, and Japan. She is a founding member and Artistic Associate of the award-winning immersive theatre company Outside the March. Fave Theatre credits: *Trojan Girls*; *The Flick*; *Mr. Marmalade* (OtM); *Dance Nation* (Coal Mine Theatre); *La Bête* (TiFT); *Dear Jack*, *Dear Louise* (HGJT); *Long Day's Journey Into Night*; *Julius Caesar* (Stratford Festival); *The Glass Menagerie* (The Grand); *I, Claudia* (TiFT). Fave TV credits: *The Vampire Lestat* (AMC); *Ginny & Georgia* (Netflix); *Reacher* (Prime); *Murdoch Mysteries* (CBC).



ELLIE KOFFMAN is a Toronto-based Costume Designer and Wardrobe Manager. She currently serves as the Head of Wardrobe at Soulpepper Theatre Company. For Soulpepper: *What the Constitution Means to Me*, *Alligator Pie*. Other Theatre: *Fiddler on the Roof in Yiddish* (The Harold Green), *JOB* (Coal Mine Theatre), *Life After* (Yonge Street Theatricals), *Rock of Ages* (More Entertainment), *Into the Woods*, *A Little Night Music* (The Royal Conservatory of Music), *Winter Solstice* (Necessary Angel), *Feu Monsieur Feydeau* (Théâtre Français de Toronto). elliekoffman.ca



SASHA KHAN is a Toronto-based, Alberta-born performer with a passion for work that is collaborative, subversive, diverse, and audience-challenging. She sends love and gratitude to her friends, family, her partner Cohen, and every dog she passes on the street for the support they've given her along the way. Recent theatre credits include *Potato Potato* (Toronto Fringe), *Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812*, and *Something Rotten!* (Theatre Sheridan).



SARAH MILLER was born and raised in St. Catharines, ON. SOULPEPPER 2025: *A Strange Loop*. FOR SOULPEPPER: *Sizwe Banzi is Dead*, *Innocence Lost*, *Of Human Bondage*, *Spoon River*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Hosanna*, *The Heidi Chronicles*, *Angels in America*. OTHER THEATRE: *1939*, *Fall on Your Knees* (Canadian Stage); *A Year with Frog & Toad*, *Little Shop of Horrors* (Capitol Theatre); *Bang Bang* (Factory Theatre); *Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812* (Crow's Theatre/Musical Stage); *The Runner* (Human Cargo/RMTC); *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* (Mirvish); *Orestes*, *Yaga* (Tarragon Theatre); *The De Chardin Project* (Theatre Passe Muraille), *Freedom Singer* (Project Humanity).



MICHELLE MONTEITH was born in Paisley Scotland, and raised in Vancouver B.C. SOULPEPPER 2026: *Medusa*. FOR SOULPEPPER: *Red Like Fruit* (2025), *The Seagull*, *August: Osage County* (2019), *Idomeneus* (2018), *Picture This* (2017), *Of Human Bondage* (2014-2017), *Spoon River* (2017 Toronto/New York), *It's a Wonderful Life* (2016), *The Heidi Chronicles* (2016), *Eurydice* (2015), *Parfumerie* (2015), *Angels in America* (2013-2014), *Odd Couple* (2011), *Ghosts* (2011), *Waiting for the Parade* (2010). OTHER THEATRE: *Bad Roads* (Crows Theatre), *Public Enemy* (Canadian Stage), *The Father* (Coal Mine), *Butcher* (Theatre Centre, Why Not Theatre, ATP); *Waiting Room*, *The Valley*, *Little One*, *Ubuntu*, *Generous* (Tarragon); *The Lesson* (Modern Times); *Blasted* (Buddies); *The Mill* (Theatrefront); *Hamlet* (NAC); *Caesar and Cleopatra*, *Love's Labour's Lost* (Stratford); *The Russian Play* (various); *Revisited* (2B, co-creator); *The Glass Menagerie* (various); *The Diary of Anne Frank* (Neptune). OTHER: Dora Award winner, Critics' Awards Toronto, and Montreal.



TORI MORRISON is a production manager, producer, sound/video designer, and composer. She is the Director of Production for Outside the March, where she supports artists in bringing immersive theatrical worlds to life across development, rehearsal, and production. Tori is ½ of the producing team for Tiny Bear Jaws (an independent theatre company with teeth) and she makes work with writer David Gagnon Walker as Strange Victory Performance. She had toured work around Canada and internationally bringing shows to France, Finland, the United Kingdom, the United State and Australia. Her production and design work spans live performance, multimedia, and film. Learn more at www.torimorrison.com



SEPHORA N'KOSI is a Congolese artist born and raised in Toronto, ON. Primarily focusing on Lighting Design, Stage Management and Production Management, she recently graduated from the National Theatre School of Canada in Production Design and Technical Arts. She begins her professional journey at Soulpepper as Assistant Lighting Designer to Nick Blais for *Medusa*. Her most recent work includes: *Sugar City* (LD, Montreal Steppers), *No Jumping* (SM, NTS), *The Neverending Story* (PM, NTS), *Yerma* (LD, NTS), *Last Night I Dreamt* (VD, NTS), *Revolt. She Said. Revolt Again* (LD, NTS), TOTB Emerging Producers Festival: *Stardust*, *The Apartment & Horses* (LD, TD & SM, TOTB), VideoCabaret Fringe TD and more.



OYIN OLADEJO graduated from the prestigious Humber School of Creative & Performing Arts in Toronto, having immigrated to Canada from Nigeria in her teens. SOULPEPPER 2024: *Three Sisters*. FOR SOULPEPPER: *Crucible*; *Tartuffe*; *Eurydice*; *A Doll's House* and *Noises Off* OTHER THEATRE: *In This World* (Roseneath Theatre); *Tomorrow Love* (Outside the March) FILM & TELEVISION: *Star Trek: Discovery*; *Endlings*; *Orah* OTHER: Won The Dora Mavor Moore Award for Outstanding Performance in the theatre production *In This World*.



RIVER OLIVEIRA is a multidisciplinary sound artist, musician, performer, poet and technician interested in creating sonic landscapes that explore altered states of perception, queer experiences of grief and survival, and the marriage of nature and noise. He has a specific interest in poetic, experimental, and non-linear storytelling. River has worked as a creator and technical leader across the city. His most recent credits include: performer/co-creator for *how the wolf says goodnight* (47th Rhubarb Festival), sound designer/composer for *Chasing Wind* (Crossroads Theatre) and head of audio at TMU *Chrysalis*. Website: riveroliveira.com



DANTÉ PRINCE is an Artist born and raised in Scarborough, Ontario. He self describes as having an obsession with the craft of storytelling. Committing himself to refine his discipline. To be the best Actor, Playwright, or whatever else he can be. He feels very grateful to have been able to do this as a career. Living out long time dreams that even he didn't know were there. And he hopes to eventually be able to share his art with everyone reading this.



GORD RAND was born in Virgil, Ontario. SOULPEPPER 2026: *Medusa*. FOR SOULPEPPER: *Translations*. OTHER THEATRE (selected credits) *Hamlet* (Worldstage) *Oedipus Rex* (Stratford), *The Runner* (Tarragon) *Slave Play* (Canstage) *The Philanderer*, *Cherry Orchard* (Shaw) *Goodness* (Volcano) *The Innocent Eye Test* (Mirvish) AS PLAYWRIGHT: *Pond Life* (Factory) *The Trouble with Mr Adams* (Tarragon) FILM AND TV *Orphan Black*, *Pure*, *Combat Hospital*, *Frankenstein*, *Peak Everything*, *Tracker*, *Law and Order*, *Chapelwaite Transplant*, and the award winning web series *The Big Oil Alliance* (co-creator and actor) OTHER: Gord's first novel *All You Can Eat* will be published this fall.



ERIN SHIELDS is a Canadian playwright best known for radical adaptations of classical texts which bring neglected female characters centre stage. Recent plays include *You, Always* (Canadian Stage), *Mary, Mary, Mary, Mary* (Crow's), *Ransacking Troy* (Stratford), *Thy Woman's Weeds* (Repercussion/Centaur), *Much Ado About Nothing* (Stratford), *Queen Goneril* (Soulpepper), *Paradise Lost* (Stratford), *Jane Eyre* (Citadel Theatre), *Piaf/Dietrich* (Mirvish /Segal), *Beautiful Man* (Factory Theatre) and *If We Were Birds* (Tarragon Theatre). Upcoming: *To a Flame* (1s1/Nightwood), *The Great Gatsby* (Citadel) and *All's Well* (Crow's). Erin's plays are published by Playwrights Canada Press and you can read more about upcoming projects on her website – www.erinshields.ca.




FARNOOSH TALEBPOUR was born in Tehran, Iran but has now spent most of her life in Toronto. SOULPEPPER 2026: *Medusa*. FOR SOULPEPPER: *A Strange Loop*, *English*, *Queen Goneril*, *King Lear* OTHER THEATRE: *Pelleas et Melisande* (Opera Atelier), *Red Velvet* (Crows's theatre), *Dixon Road* (Musical Stage Company/ Obsidian Theatre company), *Orphans for the Czar* (Crow's), *Serving Elizabeth* (Stratford Festival) SM: *Mischief* (Tarragon), *The Christmas Market* (b current/Studio 180/Crow's), *Izad Etemadi: Let Me Explain* (Green Light Arts), *Seven Methods of Killing Kylie Jenner* (Obsidian), *Lessons in Temperament*, *No Save Points* (Outside the March) FILM: Assistant Production Design for *One Small Visit*, *Lune*. Costume design for *Tête à Tête*, *Queen of the Morning Calm*. OTHER: She would like to thank all the people around her who have helped keep her feet grounded, joined in laughter, and kept her heart safe



DANIELLE WALLCOTT was born in Bridgetown, Barbados and this is their first Soulpepper production. OTHER THEATRE: *Kimberly Akimbo* (Mirvish Productions & Segal Centre for Performing Arts), *The Christmas Market* (Crow's Theatre, Studio 180 Theatre & b current Performing Arts), *Disney's The Lion King* (Mirvish Productions, 2024–2025), *Get That Hope* (Stratford Festival), *King Lear* (Stratford Festival), *Richard III* (Stratford Festival), *The Meighen Forum* (Stratford Festival, 2022, 2023).



MING WONG 黄慧明 is an award-winning Toronto costume designer working in theatre, dance, opera, and film & television for over 15 years. She is a graduate from the Ontario College of Art & Design. For Soulpepper: *The Master Plan*, *Kim's Convenience*, *A Strange Loop*, *Three Sisters*, *De Profundis*, *Sizwe Banzi is Dead*, *Pipeline*. Other Theatre: *Summer & Smoke*, *Octet*, *Flex*, *Trident Moon*, *Wights*, *Rosmersholm*, *The Wrong Bashir*, *Natasha*, *Pierre*, & *The Great Comet of 1812*, *The Master Plan*, *Uncle Vanya*, *The Wedding Party*, Crow's; *Piaf/Dietrich*, *Come From Away*, *The Grand*; *Salesman in China*, *Rent*, *Hamlet 911*, Stratford Festival; *Things I Know to be True*, Company Theatre/Mirvish; *Peter's Final Flight*, Ross Petty Productions; *Robin Hood*, *The Wizard of Oz Panto*, *The Inheritance*, *Public Enemy*, Canadian Stage; *Is God Is*, Canadian Stage/Obsidian/Necessary Angel; *One For the Pot*, *Wait Until Dark*, *Candida*, *Just to Get Married*, *Trouble in Mind*, Shaw Festival; *Hansel und Gretel*, Canadian Opera Company; *The Color Purple*, Citadel Theatre/RMTC. Upcoming: *A Fine Balance* (Crow's), *Spring Awakening* (Soulpepper), *The Tao of the World* (Stratford), *Cinderella* (Canadian Stage). Other: 2021 Laureate of the Virginia & Myrtle Cooper Award, 3 time Dora Award Winner.
www.mingwongdesign.com



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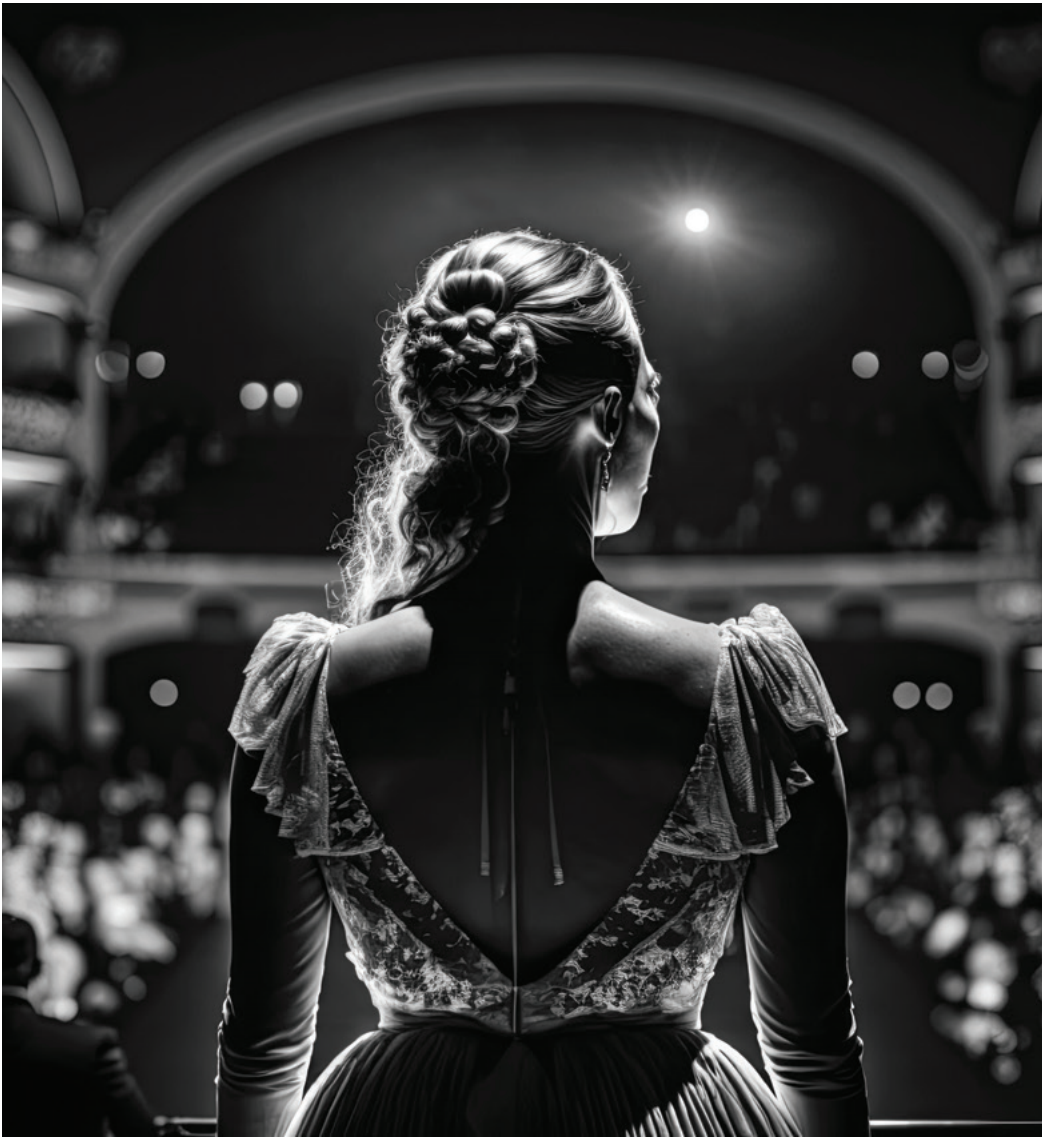


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