

A One-of-a-Kind FIND for young audiences

"It wasn't what I expected. It made me laugh, I could relate to the characters. It was intense – it kept me on the edge of my seat!"

- AMY, 15

"I'd never been to an opera before, it was a really cool show. The songs were exciting."

- CONNOR, 10

"It was easy to understand because it tells a story and they use language the way kids talk today."

- BRAUNAGH, 13

"The dinosaur dance was very grand and I wanted to see it again."

- KIRSTEN, 8

"It looks like it's about dinosaurs but really it's about the family. Usually the parents are in charge but in this story Hanna the young daughter took control and brought the family back together after her father's death."

- DANE, 15



"By presenting opera to youth in a way that they can relate to, we hope to instill a curiosity about opera. After all, opera is for everyone"
- Bob McPhee, General Director, Calgary Opera



For further information,
Call Calgary Opera: 403-262-7286
Email: info@calgaryopera.com

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Hanna RAPTOR

A One-Act Operasaurus

HANNARAPTOR was chosen as a showcase presentation at the 2008 OPERA America conference



COMPOSER: Allan Gilliland
LIBRETTIST: Val Brandt

HannaRAPTOR

Length:
One Act. 45 minutes.

Cast of Characters:
HANNA at 12 and 17: *Soprano*
JESSE, 23: *Tenor*
MOM, 45: *Mezzo*
DAD, 45 & CONRAD, 50: *Baritone (dual role)*

Accompaniment
Piano or keyboard
with sound effects

Original Set
Available for rent

First performed by members of the Calgary Opera Emerging Artist Development Program:
Eve-Lyn de la Haye, Whitney-Leigh Sloan, Krista de Silva, Erin Lawson, Christopher Mayell, Graham Thomson, Benjamin Covey, and John Conlon.
Stage Director: Mark Bellamy
Music Director: Mel Kirby,
Designer: Christopher Rouleau

“Calgary Opera’s Hannaraptor, as seen through the eyes of my 13-year-old granddaughter, was a magical and empowering experience. ... Though it is set in the Alberta Badlands, Hannaraptor should not be dismissed as a local production. The inherent appeal of its score and libretto to a wide age range – plus the ongoing fascination with dinosaurs – make it deserving of a long shelflife as a valuable element in the increasing efforts to develop younger audiences.”

- Tim Christison, Opera Canada magazine



The Story

“A tuneful and engaging piece of theatre ... entertaining, but it also offers several layers of thought-provoking content. People of all ages will find something they can dig.”

- Calgary Herald



COMPOSER:
Allan Gilliland



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Val Brandt

The opera opens to a fierce storm. After the thunder and lightning subside, we see twelve-year-old Hanna and her Dad fossil-hunting on their farm near the Badlands. Hanna tells him “Some people say we’re wasting our time searching the coulee year after year, they say there are no finds to find around here”. Dad assures her, “We walk in their footprints, their sand is our stone, we inhale the air they breathed, they were here and it’s clear they are here with us today”. Just then, they spot a large rock that appears to hold the skeleton of a remarkable find—a theropod with wings! Dad tells her he believes they’ve just found the long-lost Hannaraptor ... “but don’t tell a soul”.

Five years have passed. Hanna, now 17, is patiently chipping away at their secret find and has nearly finished exposing the Hannaraptor. We learn that Dad died shortly after the big find and that Hanna’s brother, Jesse, had immediately run off to see the world. Mom’s been working two jobs in town and young Hanna’s been doing Jesse’s chores and her own. This day, Jesse, who’s now 23, returns home with dreams of working the land. His homecoming is interrupted when Mom’s new boyfriend, Conrad, proposes marriage and promises to make Mom a wealthy woman. He plans to build a gated community on her land, but first he’ll have to dig up the fields and flood the coulee.

Flood the coulee? No! Someone has to stop Conrad’s plan. But Jesse’s taken off again, Mom has hope for the first time in five years, and Hanna knows if she reports her find she’ll have broken the last promise she made to her father. Then the situation takes a terrifying turn and Hanna is forced to choose between facing danger head on, or losing everyone and everything she loves in the world.