

# VIVA'S HOLIDAY

## AN OPERA IN ONE ACT

A Portland stripper goes home for the holidays. Can the family keep her secret from her minister father? Drawn from the memoirs of Portland's celebrated entertainer and author Viva Las Vegas, this one-act opera explores topics of sex work, family, and self-realization.

World Premiere: Dec. 2, 3, and 4, 2015 • 9 pm

Star Theater, 13 NW 6th Ave, Portland, Oregon

\$20 General Admission, ages 21 and over

website: <http://vivas-holiday.com>

contact: Christopher Corbell, [music@cultoforpheus.org](mailto:music@cultoforpheus.org), 503-327-3967

Music by Christopher Andrew Corbell

for four singers with twelve-piece chamber orchestra

Libretto by C. A. Corbell and Liv Elise Osthus, based on

*Magic Gardens: The Memoirs of Viva Las Vegas* (ISBN: 9780991225705)

Opera Produced and Published by Cult of Orpheus, Portland, OR

Erica Melton, Music Director

Pat Janowski, Stage Director

Helen Funston, soprano, as Viva

Bobby Jackson, bass-baritone, as Dad

Sadie Gregg, mezzo-soprano, as Mom

Matt Storm, baritone, as Brother

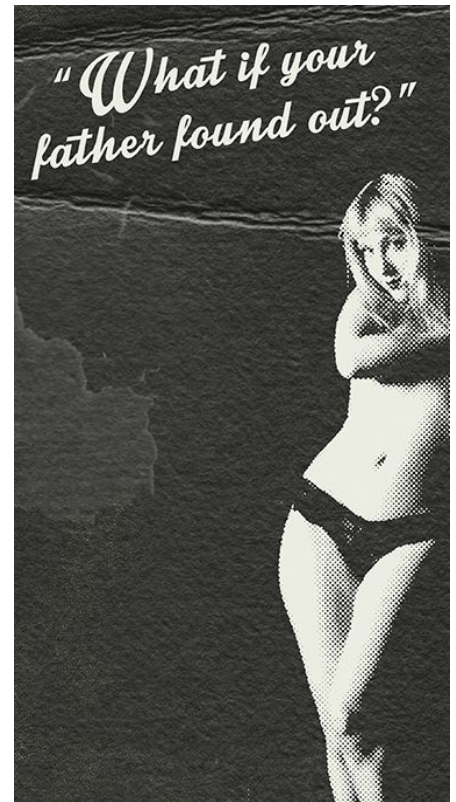


photo by Marne Lucas Photography  
detail from poster design by showdeer

## AN OPERA FROM BURNSIDE AND BROADWAY

*Viva's Holiday* could only have emerged in Portland. A classical-music outsider more at home in clubs than in recital halls, composer Corbell combed the local landscape for his inaugural opera's plot. After finding her inspiring *Magic Gardens* memoirs at Powell's, the composer visited Viva Las Vegas on a Friday shift at Mary's Club in late 2012, bringing along a marked-up copy of the book and a dream to create an opera – one that would combine tonal and lyrical beauty, a story of self-realization, and Viva's unique brand of unconventional courage. They drank whiskeys and chatted between her 3-song sets and a collaboration was born. Viva consulted on the libretto, adding nuance and depth to a poetic adaptation of the book's family-relationship-centered holiday episode.

## THE PRODUCTION CREW

As Music Director, **Erica Melton** (Opera Theater Oregon) brings deep experience in producing local alternative opera, coaching singers, arranging, performing, and conducting. Expertise in acting and character is brought to the production by Stage Director **Pat Janowski**, whose extensive theater and music stage experience is augmented by her personal connection to Viva and her understanding of the sentiments and conflicts presented in the story. (Pat and Viva are members of the French-Renaissance vocal trio *Bergerette*.) Producer/Composer **Christopher Corbell** served for two years as Executive Director of Classical Revolution PDX, producing indie classical events in Portland bars and cafés. He has been active in Oregon for over two decades as a songwriter, composer, poet, and performer.

## PRESS OPPORTUNITIES AND PRODUCTION TIMELINE

The production welcomes collaborative feature story development from a variety of perspectives and emphases:

- Interviews • Rehearsal and production shoots and coverage • Portland's germinating indie opera scene
- Celebrating Viva Las Vegas • Sex work, individualism and Portland culture • Modern families and the subterranean path
- Libretto as poetic lens: don't say 'docu-opera'! • 21st century opera vs. the dictates of 20th-century serious music

Rehearsals will begin in mid-October 2015; Sitzprobe Nov. 9, Wandelprobe Nov. 17, Dress Nov. 30; opens Dec. 2.