Wild Space Dance Company and Milwaukee Opera Theatre present:

Svadba-Wedding

Music & Libretto Ana Sokolović

Choreographer Debra Loewen
Stage Director Jill Anna Ponasik
Music Director Adam Qutaishat
Assistant Stage Director Daniel J Brylow
Costume Designer Leslie Vaglica
Lighting Designer AntiShadows LLC
Stage Manager Paula Gallarino

May 8-10, 2018
Pabst Best Place | 901 W Juneau, Milwaukee

Svadba-Wedding lasts approximately 60 minutes with no intermission

Svadba was first produced by Queen of Puddings Music Theatre with support from the Canada Council for the Arts.
Doc Danger and the Danger Squad

A new musical by Jason Powell

Sneak peek reading May 19 and 20, 2018!
Milica.................................................................Lydia Rose Eiche
Danica.................................................................Sarah Richardson
Lena.................................................................Kati Schwaber
Zora .................................................................Mikaela Schneider
Nada .................................................................Alaina Carlson
Ljubica ...............................................................Allison Hull

Wild Space Dancers: Chelsey Becher, Kylee Mae Karzen, Danielle Lohuis, Elisabeth Roskopf, Maggie Seer, and Jimmi Renae Weyneth

Flowergirls: Morgan Strath, Keely St Clair
Chaperones: Yeng Vang-Strath, Angela Frederick

NOTES

“The text is taken from original Serbian poetry but given a new context for our contemporary culture. The music is derived from traditional folklore. The compositional structure is informed by everyday images and objects – such as hair, cups, and water. The scenes unfold, not in a linear narrative, but in a playful interconnection animated through drama, distilling magic and fantasy from ordinary moments.

A wedding is an important turning point in every woman's life, usually steeped in tradition and always signifying change and juncture. Milica’s Rite of Passage is universal, an archetype of human experience. Svadba offers a chance to delve deep into the quality and richness of a short but decisive moment in time.”

— Ana Sokolović, Composer

SONGS

I. Girlfriends Sing to Milica
II. Coloring Hair
III. Love Suit & Dance
IV. Fight
V. Bath
VI. Dawn – Dressing
VII. Farewell

SPECIAL THANKS

Lisa Schlenker, Phil Cruise Warren, Pabst Best Place, Simone Ferro, UWM Peck School of the Arts (PSOA), Jim Haertel, Phil Cruise-Warren, Skylight Music Theatre, John and Judy Ponasik, Paula Foley Tillen, Angela Blahnik, The Vang-Strath Family, Broadway Theatre Center
MILWAUKEE OPERA THEATRE

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At Large: Danny Polaski, Nathan Wesselowski, Jim Padovano, Sarah Acker, Mark Veth, Cecilia Davis, Kristen Grill

Artistic Associates: James Zager, Diane Lane, Jason Fassl

Staff

Jill Anna Ponasik ................................................................. Producing Artistic Director
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Staff:

Debra Loewen ................................................................. Artistic Director
Sheri Urban ................................................................. Managing Director

Svadba-Wedding is sponsored by the generous support of

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Alaina Carlson (Nada): A Racine native, Alaina Carlson holds a B.A. from Lake Forest College and a M.M. from UW – Madison, where she performed the roles of Nancy (Albert Herring), Third Spirit (Die Zauberflöte), and Cherubino (Le nozze di Figaro). Other recent performance highlights include Dritte Dame (Die Zauberflöte, Lyric Opera Studio Weimar), Dr. Dulcamara (The Elixir of Love, Opera for the Young), Tessa (The Gondoliers, Madison Savoyards), Stephanie Necrophorous (Nine, Music Theatre of Madison), Metella (La vie parisienne, NEIU Opera), and a season with the Chicago Symphony Chorus. She is delighted to be joining Milwaukee Opera Theatre in this very special piece.

Lydia Rose Eiche (Milica): Praised for her “pinpoint security,” “handsome tone,” and “impressive purity,” Lydia has sung as a soloist with the MSO and in opera productions at UW-Madison and Southern Illinois University. Roles include Zerlina (Don Giovanni), Dalinda (Ariodante), Susanna (Le nozze di Figaro), and the title role in John Duke’s comic one-act Captain Lovelock. Awards include the John David Anello Sr. & Albert A. Silverman Memorial Scholarship from the Civic Music Association of Milwaukee and First Place in the NATS Auditions, Wisconsin and Illinois Chapters. Lydia is currently studying at the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music with Marlee Sabo.

Allison Hull (Ljubica) holds degrees in Vocal Performance from Lawrence University and UW-Milwaukee. She has served as a young artist for Skylight, Glimmerglass, and Seattle Opera, where she gave a notable performance as Cherubino in Le nozze di Figaro. Ms. Hull has won awards from the Metropolitan Opera Auditions, and is on the voice faculty at UW-Parkside and Carthage College. Ms. Hull has appeared regionally as the title character in L’enfant et les sortilèges, Jane in Thank you, Next!, Alto in Song from the Uproar, Historian in Clara, The Raven in The Poe Requiem and Pitti-sing in The Mikado.

Kylee Mae Karzen (Dancer) is currently a senior studying both Dance and Psychology at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Her main focus has been on individual perceptions and emotions and how these set up patterns for future encounters. Kylee plans on obtaining a PhD in Neuroscience and is interested in how her two majors will continue to intertwine.

Danielle Lohuis (Dancer) graduated in 2015 with a BFA in Dance and a Minor in Somatics from Peck School of the Arts. From Green Bay, WI, she has been living in Milwaukee on and off since 2007. Danielle has performed for Luc Vanier, Trish Sie, Petr Zahradniček, Sarah Weber-Gallo and Stephen Koplowitz. This marks Danielle’s third season with Wild Space Dance Company. In addition to performing with the company, Danielle represents Wild Space with the Milwaukee Symphony’s Project ACE, mentoring youth on the relationship of music and dance.

Sarah Richardson (Danica) is thrilled to be part of another collaboration with Wild Space Dance Company! Her favorite roles with
Milwaukee Opera Theatre include *Song from the Uproar*, *Fairy Queen Fantasy*, *Handel’s Bestiary*, and *Queen of the Night* in *Zie Magic Flute*. Other favorites include *Barbarina* (*Le nozze di Figaro*) with the Lyric Opera Studio Weimar, Germany, and *Miss Wordsworth* (*Albert Herring*) with UW-Opera in Madison. Sarah holds degrees from UW-Milwaukee and Viterbo University, and earned a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from UW-Madison. Sarah is the voice instructor at Alverno College and frequently performs in the Milwaukee area.

**Elisabeth Roskopf (Dancer)** graduated with a BA in Piano and a minor in Dance from UW-Eau Claire. She is a company member with Li Chiao-Ping Dance in Madison, a guest artist with Danceworks Performance Company, and an alumna of Catey Ott Dance Collective. Since 2014, Elisabeth has performed in the Lake Arts Project, directed by Jennifer Miller and Karl von Rabenau of the Milwaukee Ballet. In 2015, she began choreographing and performing solo works for MKE Follies and Danceworks’ *Get It Out There* series. In addition to performing, Elisabeth is a dance teacher and a choreographer in the Greater Milwaukee area.

**Mikaela Schneider (Zora)** is very excited to perform with Milwaukee Opera Theatre’s *Svadba* in the role of Zora! Although this is her debut with MOT, Mikaela is not new to the Milwaukee performing arts. Previously she appeared as Emmie in *Albert Herring* with Florentine Opera and as a Nun Postulant in *The Sound of Music* with Skylight Music Theatre. On the Milwaukee concert stage, Mikaela sang as soloist with the Milwaukee Symphony and with Present Music Ensemble. When Mikaela is not singing, she is either gardening in her backyard or working at Bluemel’s Garden and Landscape Center in Greenfield.

**Maggie Seer (Dancer)** received her BFA in Dance Performance and Choreography from UW-Milwaukee. She is currently a company member with Wild Space and a guest artist with Danceworks Performance Company. She performs regularly with Hyperlocal MKE and has performed with the Gina Laurenzi Dance Project. She has created works for Danceworks’ experimental performance venue, *Get It Out There*, and choreographed numerous musical theatre productions throughout Southeastern Wisconsin. Maggie has performed works by choreographers Molly Shanahan, Sarah Wilbur, Sarah Weber Gallo, and enjoys improvising alongside local musicians. By day, Maggie writes grants for Danceworks and loves exploring the Milwaukee community.

**Kati Schwaber (Lena)** is excited to be a part of this production of *Svadba*! Other credits include *Liberators* at Underscore’s Chicago Musical Theatre Festival, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* at First Stage, *Valkyries* at Gorilla Tango Theater, *The People’s Republic of Edward Snowden* at Oil Lamp Theatre, *A Fabulous 50s Christmas* at Towle Theatre, and the *Melodrama* at the Shawnee Summer Theater. She also choreographed and performed in *Seussical the Musical* and *Life, Love, and Other Nonsense* while touring in China, where she will be returning this summer. Kati would like to thank her family for their support during this process.
**CAST cont.**

**Jimmi Renae Weyneth (Dancer)** is in her final year as a PSOA dance major. At PSOA, she has choreographed work for *New Dancemakers* and performed in choreography by Dani Kuepper, Maria Gillespie, Daniel Burkholder and visiting artist April Sellars. In addition, she has participated in Gillespie’s *Hyperlocal* improvisational performances. She joined Wild Space in August for *Artifacts*, a site-specific performance in Riverwest, where she and three dwarf goats created a unique pastorale.

**CREATIVE TEAM**

**Jill Anna Ponasik (Stage Director):** As Artistic Director of Milwaukee Opera Theatre, Jill Anna works throughout each season to connect audiences and artists in unconventional ways. In addition to *Svadba*, the 2017-18 season includes a concept reading of *A Chorus Line*, an original adaptation of *Tales of Hoffmann*, and the reading of a new musical, *Doc Danger and the Danger Squad*. She has also spent the season teaching at UWM and working at Skylight Music Theatre as an Artistic Associate. Since moving to Milwaukee, Jill Anna has had the pleasure of working with Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, Renaissance Theatreworks, Danceworks, and The Alchemist, among others. www.milwaukeeoperatheatre.org

**Debra Loewen (Choreographer)** is the Artistic Director of Wild Space Dance Company. Since its founding, the company has performed throughout Wisconsin and in Chicago, Minneapolis, New York, Japan, and South Korea. Featured in *Dance Magazine*, Debra’s site-specific work has brought recognition to Milwaukee landmarks, such as Historic Turner Ballroom, Menomonee Valley and Villa Terrace. Her work has been honored by Milwaukee County, the Milwaukee Arts Board, Milwaukee County Historical Society, Wisconsin Arts Board, Wisconsin Dance Council and the NEA. A senior lecturer at the Peck School of the Arts, she leads the company’s residency at Lincoln Center Middle School of the Arts.

**Adam Qutaishat (Music Director):** Adam Qutaishat is a music and theatre professional located in the Milwaukee, WI area. He holds a Bachelor’s in Music Education from the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point. Adam served as a high school choral director from 2013-2017. Since then, he has music and vocal directed for many local theatres including The New Theatre on Main, Brookfield Center for the Arts, and All In Productions. Adam also teaches students of all ages and ability levels in the greater Milwaukee area.

**Sheri Urban (Wild Space Managing Director):** For as long as she can remember, Sheri Urban has been involved with dance in some way — student, performer, parent, staff. Along the way, she graduated with honors from UWM; earned an MA in Public Relations from the University of Southern California, worked at Warner Records, the Getty Museum, Walt Disney Company, and the Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design; and performed with Waukesha Civic Theater and Oak Creek Community Theatre. She brings order out of chaos as a non-profit administrator and wordsmith, and has spent 17 years with Wild Space, where every day is another performance.

**Daniel J. Brylow (Assistant Stage Director)** has contributed to the burgeoning field of contemporary opera and new music-theater as a stage director, performer, translator, and arts
administrator. He has participated in several new operas, including *Judgment of Midas* (Ince), *Kocho* (Fisher), *Río De Sangre* (Davis), *Border Towns* (Brooke), and *Time and Motion Study* (Brooke). As a translator, his English-language adaptations of *Don Giovanni* (co-written with singer Tim Rebers), *Der Ring des Nibelungen*, *Die Zauberflöte*, and *Les contes d’Hoffmann* have been performed by such companies as Skylight Music Theatre and Milwaukee Opera Theatre, where he is on the administrative staff.

Leslie Vaglica (Costume Designer) is a costumer based in Milwaukee. Recent favorites include *Dali’s Liquid Ladies* for True Penny Theater, *Leaving and Coming Back* for Peter Stathas Dance, *Three Decembers* for the Florentine Opera, *Grounded* at Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, and *Mr Burns* at Luminous Theatre. In addition to costuming, she does commercial styling and design consultation. She has a BA in Drawing and Political Science from UW Eau Claire as well a certification in apparel design from Mt. Mary University.

Paula Gallarino (Stage Manager) Originally from Buenos Aires, Argentina, Paula began her career as Artistic Coordinator for CETC Teatro Colón. She has worked as Production Manager for such theater festivals as International Festival of Buenos Aires, Panorama Sur, Changing Places & Santiago a Mil, and coordinated opera tours around Europe and South America. Her favorite achievement was producing Peter Greenaway’s *Luperpedia VJ Show* in Chile and Argentina. Since arriving in Milwaukee, she has worked for Wild Space, Windfall Theater, Renaissance Theatreworks, Umbrella Theatre Group, and Milwaukee Chamber Theatre. Paula would love to thank her husband Dan for his endless support and incommensurable love.

Anthony Lyons (Tech Director): This marks the 19th year Anthony Lyons has worked with Debra Loewen and Wild Space. Anthony finds it delightful to work with such a thoughtful, creative choreographer and her talented company of dancers. As technical director of Renaissance Theatreworks, he has worked on more than 35 productions including last year’s *Agnes of God*, where he also created scenic design. He has worked in various capacities for Skylight Opera Theatre, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, Danceworks Performance Company, and Bialystock & Bloom (R.I.P.). In a parallel universe, Anthony is a partner in a small custom carpentry firm.

AntiShadows LLC (Lighting Design)
Amanda McDonald (Board Op)