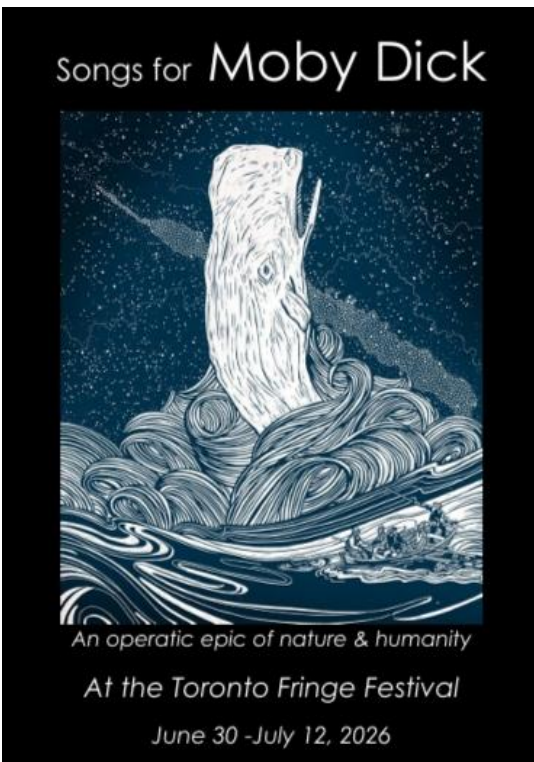


Ubu Opera Bios: Songs for Moby Dick



Based on the novel by
Herman Melville

Composed and performed by
Peter Thompson

Piano
Erika Reiman

Directed by
Adam Paolozza

Lighting Design
Sebastian Marziali

Theatre Passe Muraille
16 Ryerson Ave, Toronto ON

[more information and tickets](#)

The Story

An aging Ishmael staggers onto the stage, haunted by memories of the tragic wreck of the Pequod. He sings a tale about the crew, the whale, and of the obsessive captain Ahab. A movement-based operatic epic about beauty, nature, humanity and destruction, based on the novel by Herman Melville.

Peter Thompson

Peter Thompson is a Canadian composer, classical singer and teacher. He trained extensively in theatre and movement, and directs stage productions for young performers, preparing adaptations of plays including *The Tempest*, *Macbeth*, *Alice through the Looking Glass*, *Grimm Tales*, and *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*.

His compositions focus on works for music-theatre, including a one-act comic opera based on the absurdist play *Ubu Roi* by Alfred Jarry (premiered 2018), and a cycle of songs based on the novel *Moby Dick*. *Moby Dick* was first performed in concert in 2023, and has since been developed in collaboration with Adam Paolozza (Bad New Days Theatre) for the stage. His most recent composition project is a choral piece based on the novel, *The Corner that Held Them*, by Sylvia Townsend Warner.

Adam Paolozza

Adam Paolozza is an award winning performer, director and teacher, and the Artistic Director of [Bad New Days](#). His work fuses elements of mask, mime, movement, physical theatre, clown and object work to create dynamic, original devised creations. His latest work was the multi-Dora nominated Last Landscape, which engaged with eco-dramaturgy, exploring a holistic approach to sustainability in theatre creation & practice. His work has been recognized with numerous awards, including the Ray Ferris Innovation and Sustainability Grant, and has toured nationally and internationally. Adam studied at the Lecoq school in Paris, and holds an MA in Performance Studies from York University.

Erika Reiman

Dr. Erika Reiman is a freelance pianist and chamber musician. She served as head coach and administrator for Brott Opera in Hamilton for five seasons, and at present is the pianist for Chorus Hamilton and MD3 Trio. She is the author of *Schumann's Piano Cycles and the Novels of Jean Paul*, published in 2004 by the University of Rochester Press, and teaches at Brock University. She has previously taught at Wilfrid Laurier University, the University of Guelph, and the University of Toronto; she also maintains a home studio for pianists, vocal accompanying and coaching. She is also the music director at St. Matthew-on-the-Plains Anglican Church in Burlington, Ontario.

Ubu Opera

[Ubu Opera](#) is a Toronto-based collective dedicated to creating new and vibrant music theatre that draws on the rich history of classical chamber music and the human voice, fused with the immediacy of physical theatre. Our vision is to bring these arts together to make theatre that is entertaining, thought-provoking, and deeply human.

Ubu Opera's first concert production of [Ubu Roy](#) was presented in 2018, as part of the inaugural season of Wild Geese Chamber Music in Hamilton, Ontario. A brief animated trailer for [Ubu Roy](#) was included in the 2022 Lift-Off Online film festival. [Songs for Moby Dick](#), first performed in concert in 2023, will be Ubu Opera's first fully-staged production.