



TAPESTRY
OPERA
Presents



BANDITS IN THE VALLEY

MUSIC BY BENTON ROARK | LIBRETTO BY JULIE TEPPERMAN

SEPTEMBER 2 - 30, 2017 | WEEKEND AFTERNOONS

TODMORDEN MILLS | 67 POTTERY ROAD

DIRECTED BY MICHAEL HIDETOSHI MORI

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2017/2018 season sponsor.**

BANDITS IN THE VALLEY

Music by Benton Roark | Libretto by Julie Tepperman

A Tapestry Opera Production

September 2 - 30, 2017
Todmorden Mills (67 Pottery Road)

CAST

Freddy (accordion): Jacques Arseneault ◇
George Taylor: Alex Dobson
Jeremiah (guitar): Keith Klassen
Henri (piano & recorder): Sara Schabas ◇*
Lily Pollard: Jennifer Taverner ◇
Birgitta: Stephanie Tritchew ◇*

CREATIVE TEAM AND CREW

Director: Michael Hidetoshi Mori
Props: David Hoekstra
Costumes: Sylvia Defend
Production Manager: Aidan Cosgrave
Stage Manager: Melania Radelicki
Rehearsal Pianist: Michael Shannon

This presentation is approximately 55 minutes long, with no intermission.

*Supported by Tapestry's Accelerated Performer Apprenticeship Program,
generously funded by RBC Emerging Artists Project.
◇Tapestry Opera debut

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Todmorden Mills, Toronto Arts Council, Animating Historic Sites Grant,
Erin Louise Malin, Paul Hahn & Co., Ulana Baluk, Hannah Moscovitch,
Don Kendal, and The City of Toronto.

SYNOPSIS

The Don Valley. 1880, Toronto. Join George Taylor and the travelling Gilbert & Sullivan theatrical troupe The Vagabonds, in a twenty-fifth anniversary celebration of the birth of his papermill. Unbeknownst to him, Jeremiah - the leader of a local small-potatoes bandit group called The Rift Rafterers - just discovered a long-hidden secret about his identity, and coerces the audience in helping him break into Taylor's house to obtain the evidence he needs.

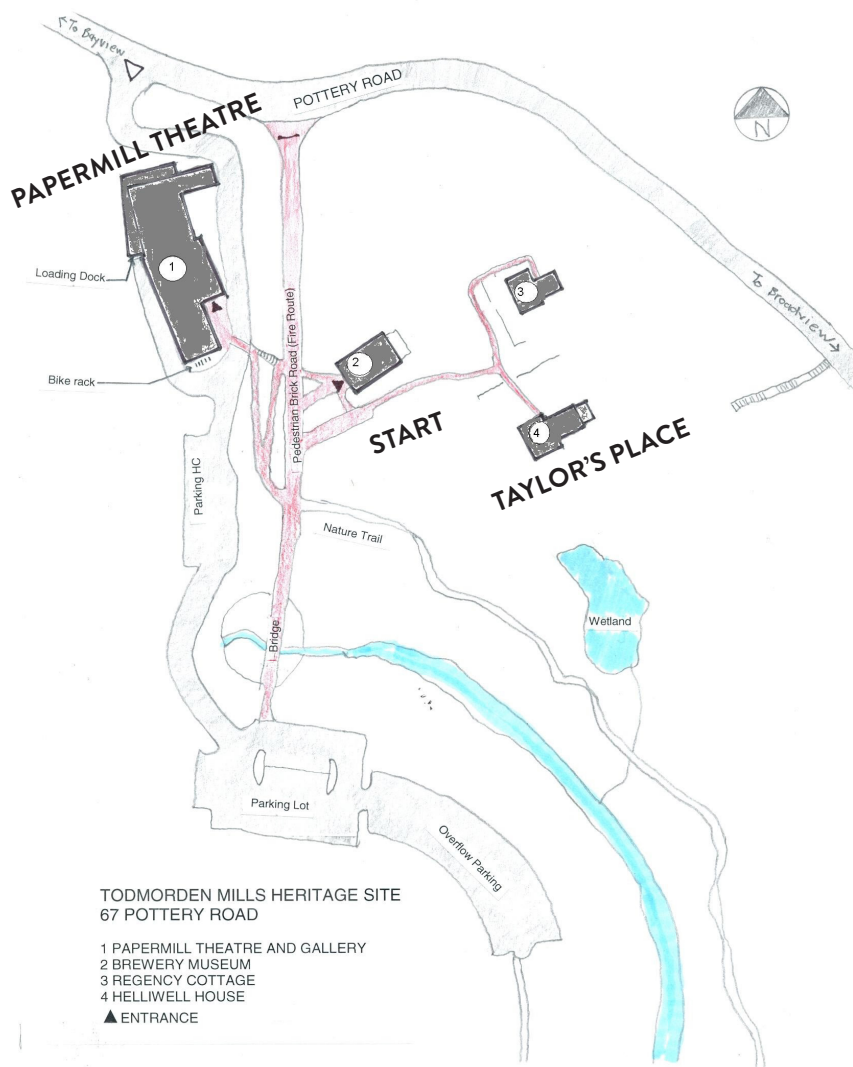
Bandits in the Valley is based on the local history of the Don Valley as a haven for smugglers and bandits during the late 1800s. The work is being presented in the area the bandits operated in using historic buildings they would have known and may well have robbed!

FROM THE CREATORS

Welcome to *Bandits in the Valley*! When Michael approached us to create an original short comedic opera loosely based on the Don Valley bandits in late 1800s Toronto, and added that it would be performed on site at Todmorden Mills, we leapt at the chance. How amazing to write a show with this well-preserved historic location in mind: imagining what might happen where, figuring out the precision of the timing, and incorporating the property's existing settings and historical props to the story's advantage. Also figuring into the fun was plenty of research into the confluence of popular musical practices - jigs, reels, rags, and parlour songs that ran through the region in the late 19th century (not to mention operas such as Gilbert and Sullivan's smash hit, *The Pirates of Penzance*, which opened in New York the year before our show is set and is amply riffed upon throughout). We tip our hats to this incredible cast of triple threats, singing, acting, and playing instruments to bring this musical romp to life multiple times each weekend. Thank you for traveling back in time with us - we hope you have as much fun at *Bandits* as we've had creating it!

- **Benton Roark** (composer) and **Julie Tepperman** (librettist)

SHOW MAP



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Now in entering its 38th season, Tapestry is the leading developer and producer of contemporary Canadian opera. The company is a champion of Canadian works and artists and a provocateur and revolutionary in the opera/music theatre sphere. Tapestry continues to innovate this season with three world premieres: *Bandits in the Valley*, *Tap:Ex Forbidden*, and *The Overcoat: A Musical Tailoring*. This past season Tapestry was nominated for nine Dora awards, taking home five awards, making it the most awarded show of the season.

TAPESTRY STAFF

Artistic Director Michael Hidetoshi Mori

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Manager of External Relations Linda Rogers

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Founder and Former Artistic Director Wayne Strongman CM

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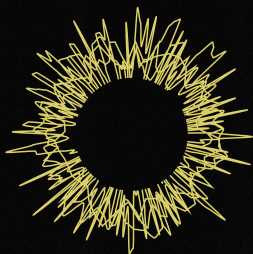
For more information about our customizable donor and sponsorship programs, please contact:

- Individuals: DeeAnn Sagar - dsagar@tapestryopera.com
- Corporate & Foundation: Linda Rogers - lrogers@tapestryopera.com

Tapestry is a registered not-for-profit organization with charitable status.
Our Charitable Registration Number is 11920-8619 RR0001.



Giovanni Spanu and Larissa Koniukin in Selfie; Jacqueline Woodley and Lauren Segal in M'dea Undone. Photos by Dahlia Katz.



TAPESTRY
OPERA

2017-2018 SEASON

BANDITS IN THE VALLEY

SEPTEMBER 2 - 30, 2017

TAPESTRY BRIEFS:

WINTER SHORTS

NOVEMBER 30 - DECEMBER 3, 2017

TAP:EX FORBIDDEN

Score by Afarin Mansouri

Libretto by Donna-Michelle St. Bernard

FEBRUARY 8 - 11, 2018

THE OVERCOAT: A MUSICAL TAILORING

Score by James Rolfe

Libretto and Direction by Morris Panych

MARCH 29 - APRIL 14, 2018

SONGBOOK VIII

MAY 10 - 12, 2018

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