

اپرای ممنوعه TAP:EX FORBIDDEN

MUSIC BY AFARIN MANSOURI
LIBRETTO BY DONNA-MICHELLE ST. BERNARD

آهنگساز: آفرین منصوری
لیبرتو: دانا میشل سینت برنارد



اولین اجرای جهانی توسط تپستری

A TAPESTRY OPERA WORLD PREMIERE

FEBRUARY 8 - 11, 2018 | 8PM, 4PM (WEEKEND MATINEES)

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زمان اجرا: ۸ تا ۱۱ فوریه ۲۰۱۸ مکان: استودیوی ارنست بالمر، محله دیستیلیری،

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TAP:EX FORBIDDEN

Music: Afarin Mansouri

Libretto: Donna-Michelle St. Bernard

A Tapestry Opera World Premiere

February 8 - 11, 2018

Ernest Balmer Studio

315 - 9 Trinity Street

اپرای ممنوعه

آهنگساز: آفرین منصوری

لیبرتو: دانا میشل سینت برنارد

اولین اجرای جهانی توسط تپستری اپرا

زمان اجرا: ۸ تا ۱۱ فوریه ۲۰۱۸

مکان: استودیوی ارنست بالمر، محله دیستسلیری،

خیابان ترینیتی، شماره ۹، طبقه سوم واحد ۳۱۹

CAST

Child: Neema Bickersteth

Lucifer & various: Alexander Hajek

The boy & various: Säye Sky

The woman & various: Shirin Eskandani

خوانندگان بازیگر:

کودک: نیما بیکر استت (سوپرانو)

شیطان و دیگر نقشها: الکساندر حاجیک (باریتون)

پسر و دیگر نقشها: سایه اسکای (خواننده رپ)

زن و دیگر نقشها: شیرین اسکندانی (مترو سوپرانو)

MUSICIANS

Tar: Padideh Ahrarnejad

Ney: Kianoush Khalilian

Percussion: Ali Massoudi

نوازندگان:

پدیده احرار نژاد (تار و باس تار)

کیانوش خلیلیان (نی)

علی مسعودی (سازهای کوبه ای)

CREATIVE TEAM AND CREW

Director: Michael Hidetoshi Mori

Co-Music Director: Michael Shannon

Assistant Director: Jessica Derventzis

Stage Manager: Kristin McCollum

Lighting Designer: Yehuda Fisher

Sound Designer: Vanessa Vai

Costume/Set Designer: Erin Gerofsky

Props Acquisition: Jenny So

تیم هنری:

کارگردان: مایکل هیده-توشی موری

کارگردان گروه موسیقی: مایکل شانون

دستیار کارگردان: جسیکا درونتزیس

مدیر صحنه: کریستین مک کالم

طراح نور: یهودا فیشر

طراح صدا: ونسای

طراح لباس و صحنه: ارین جروفسکی

دستیار صحنه: جنی سو

This presentation is approximately **90 minutes** long with one intermission.

این برنامه تقریباً دو ساعت به طول کشید و شامل یک تنفس خواهد بود.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

The journey for this opera started with a word and frustration over a Trump travel ban. Afarin, the composer, had approached me about a number of projects and as we sat down to talk through them, the word forbidden came up. Apparently, it is still forbidden for women to sing in public in Iran. The word was so deep and provocative that it took over our conversation. At the same time, Trump was on a travel ban rant and, in response, we had been considering producing a show from performers with backgrounds from “banned” countries as a small way to counter the destructive forces of his racist rhetoric. Forbidden immediately felt like the right start for a Tap:Ex show and quickly the idea for integrating rap/spoken word, a genre with a great empowerment and social justice history, became the natural way forward. Donna-Michelle St. Bernard, a LIBLAB graduate and celebrated playwright who is also a powerful rapper and spoken word artist, met Afarin and the rest is here for you to see today.

Michael Hidetoshi Mori, Director & General Director
Tapestry Opera

FROM THE CREATORS

Inside each of us is a small child who finds it irksome to be forbidden anything, who sees things in absolutes, who is outraged by the word “no”, but equally driven to do right, to please and to be liked.

It is often in the absolutes that abuses of authority occur. Increasingly, those we expect to embody moral authority discredit themselves with egregious transgressions, and unquestioning loyalty is an abdication. We have the power to evolve our ethical inheritance, to topple corrupt structures that cynically exploit, to resist our fear.

Exploring the forbidden compels us to closely consider power, punishment, oppression, as well as goodness, forgiveness and compassion. We are drawn to the idea of the Creator in us all, and to the idea that to be created in God's image is to be created with the capacity to create. With this work we embrace the sacred in ourselves, and in you.

Afarin Mansouri, Composer & Donna-Michelle St. Bernard, Librettist

پیام کارگردان

ماجرای این اپرا با يك كلمه و نا امیدی در مورد قانون ممنوعیت سفر ترامپ به آمریکا شروع شد. طی بررسی چند ایده مختلف که توسط آهنگساز اثر، آفرین، با من در میان گذاشته شد، كلمه ممنوعه مطرح شد. دریافتیم که هنوز برای زنان در ایران يك خوانی برای عموم ممنوع است. این كلمه ی ممنوعه چنان تحريك کننده و جذاب بود که تمام ذهن ما را مشغول به خود کرد. در ضمن، ما دوست داشتیم اثری خلق کنیم که مجریان آن همه از کشورهای ممنوعه ی ترامپ باشند تا با این اثر -هرچند كوچك- حركتي در مقابل عمل مخرب و نژادپرستانه ترامپ کرده باشیم. این احساس به يكبار ايجاد شد که "ممنوعه" شروع درستی است براي برنامه Tap:Ex. ایده تلفیق رپ، ژانرای با قدرتمندی بالا و سوابق تاریخی در عدالت اجتماعی، بصورت يك راه طبیعی به سوی جلو بود. دانا میشل سنت برنارد، از همکاران برنامه LIBLAB و نمایشنامه نویس تجلیل شده که در ضمن هنرمند رپ بسیار قوی و معروفی است با آفرین ملاقات کرد و مابقی ماحرا امروز اینجاست برای تماشای شما!

مایکل موری

کارگردان و مدیر هنری اپرای تپستری

پیام آهنگساز و نویسنده لیبرتو

در درون همه ی ما، کودکی است که از اینکه او را از چیزی بازدارند خوشش نمی آید. کودکی که همه چیز را مطلق میبیند، کودکی که از شنیدن "نه" بر آشفته می شود. اما به همان اندازه دوست دارد کار صحیح را انجام دهد، برای خوشایند دیگران و برای آنکه دوست داشته شود. قالبها در مطلق است که سوء استفاده از قدرت صورت می گیرد. از برخی از آنهایی که توقع عملکرد صحیح اخلاقی داریم، بیشتر و بیشتر تخطی های رسوا کننده سر می زند که آنها را بی اعتبار می کند و به این دلیل، پیروی بی چون و چرا از آنان بی مسوولیتی است. ما توانایی این را داریم که به ترسهایمان فایق باییم و این قدرت های سوء استفاده گران را سرنگون سازیم. بررسی موضوع "ممنوعه" ما را مجبور می کند تا به مفاهیم قدرت، تنبیه، سرکوب، و همچنین نیکی، بخشایش و همدلی عمیقاً توجه کنیم. ما به ایده ی "خالق درون" باور داریم و نیز به اینکه پیش نیاز خداگونه بودن قدرت آفرینندگی و خلق است.

دانا میشل سینت برنارد

آفرین منصوری

SYNOPSIS

A child receiving spiritual instruction commits an inadvertent transgression and is punished with isolation and rote repetition. A stranger enters, encouraging the child to question the authority of her instructor by revealing the cruel realities of this world.

- *With His Eyes*: an interrogator objectifies then violates his female prisoner, a journalist.
- *Stay Still, Forever*: a penitent, having undergone conversion therapy, assures his priest that their mutual attraction is no sin.
- *Book's Lament*: censored, burned and banned books are given voice.
- *White Key*: a child terrorist considers the promise of heavenly reward.
- *Playground Rules*: a woman reporting her rape is arrested for violating alcohol prohibition.
- *With His Serenity*: an agent of the state surveils a “subversive” faith practitioner.

The stranger argues that the world's rules, laws and norms only serve to empower people to punish and abuse others. He concludes that selfishness, anarchy and sinfulness are the only sensible systems to abide by. As the child explores various authoritative texts, she learns the stranger's name: Iblis; Lucifer, the fallen angel. The child sees the sad irony that rules intended to protect society can often cause harm. She struggles to define her own beliefs against Lucifer's challenging proposition.

“Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous? Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We are all meant to shine, as children do. We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.” - Marianne Williamson

خلاصه داستان

کودکی (سمبلی از روح یا آگاهی انسان) در پی کشف حقیقت و کسب دانش است. بخاطر تخطی از طرف صاحبان اختیار مجازات و حبس شده و محکوم به پیروی است. شخصی مرموز سعی در تشویق کودک به زیر سؤال بردن همه چیز دارد و حقایق تلخی از زندگی اشخاص مختلف را به کودک نمایان میکند. این شخص مرموز باور دارد که قوانین و دستورات و نورمها وسیله کسب قدرت برای صاحبان قدرت است تا انسانها را تنبیه و یا از آنها سواستفاده کنند.

او باور دارد خودخواهی، گناه و هرج و مرج تنها حقایق پایدارند. کودک در این مسیر میفهمد مرد مرموز همان شیطان فرشته رانده شده (نفس اماره) است که نامها و اشکال متفاوت دارد. سپس یاد میگیرد باورهای خود را مجددا تعریف کند و بر پا میخیزد.



اپرای ممنوعه خلاصه پرده دوم

صحنه ۱: کلید سفید

کودک شاهد پسر جوانی است که برای رفتن به رزم شششوی مغزی داده شده است.

صحنه ۲: وسوسه، لذت، زندان:

شیطان و کودک بحثی در مورد گناه و وسوسه دارند. کودک فریب میخورد. اما این فریب به او کمک کرده تا به دنیای عمل پا بگذارد.

صحنه ۳: قانون بازی

کودک شاهد زنی است که با وجود اینکه قربانی تجاوز است، به علت مصرف الكل دستگیر میشود.

صحنه ۴: کرسی قدرت

کودک وارد خلوت شیطان شده و شاهد گفتگوی او با خالق است. او به سیرت واقعی شیطان پی می برد.

صحنه ۵: پیروزی در صلح

کودک به جمع نیروهایی که با آرامش و صلح سعی در ایجاد تغییر دارند می پیوندد.

صحنه ۶: روشنگری

کودک توسط آگاهی برتر، به رهایی می رسد و آگاه می شود که خود خالق سرنوشت خویش است.



اپرای ممنوعه

خلاصه پرده اول

صحنه ۱: ادراك

كودك به علت سوالات زياد و نتيجه گيري هائيش تنبيه و حبس شده و محكوم به پيروي كور كورانه است. خروج از اين حبس نياز به آمادگي دارد.

صحنه ۲: با چشمهائيش

كودك شاهد بازداشت و شكجه زني خبرنگار است كه جرمش افشاي حقيقت است و بازپرس او كه افكار پليدي دارد.

صحنه ۳: انصاف نيست

كودك در پي كشف حقيقت بدنبال توضيح و توجيه است. شيطان سعي در جلب اطمينان او مي كند.

صحنه ۴: با من بمان تا ابد

كودك شاهد دو فردي است كه به هم علاقه روحي دارند، اما روابط آنها به دليل همجنس بودنشان ممنوع است.

صحنه ۵: بگو تا بمانم

شيطان سعي دارد كودك را به خود جذب كرده و در او شك و ترديد بوجود آورد و او را برده خود كند. اما...

صحنه ۶: مرثيه كتاب

كودك شاهد صدای تمام كتاب هايي است كه در طول تاريخ ممنوعه اعلام شده ،برخی سوزانده و برخی نجات داده شده اند.

صحنه ۷: محتوا

كودك به شكل ظاهري شيطان پي مي برد اما هنوز از هويت باطني شيطان كاملا آگاه نيست.



BIOGRAPHIES



Neema Bickersteth - Child

Neema Bickersteth was born and raised in Alberta to a family from Sierra Leone, and is now based in Toronto. Bickersteth is a Canadian soprano known for her skills as a singer, an actor and a maker of multi-disciplinary performance. She has performed many operatic roles in both Canada and Europe, including Pamina from Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*, the title role of L  har's *The Merry Widow* and the soprano lead in *Dark Star Requiem* for the Luminato Festival and Tapestry Opera. Outside of opera, Neema has been honoured to perform for the XIVth Dalai Lama,

Shirin Ebadi and the Archbishop Desmond Tutu. She has received both Bachelor and Master of Music degrees (Opera) from the University of British Columbia and has been nominated for two Dora Mavor Moore awards for Outstanding Performance in Musical Theatre.



Shirin Eskandani - The woman & various

Hailed by Opera Today for her "pleasing and pliant voice" Iranian Canadian mezzo soprano, Shirin Eskandani, recently made her Metropolitan Opera stage debut as Mercedes in *Carmen*. She is the recipient of several prestigious awards including first place at the Gerda Lissner Foundation Vocal Competition and fourth place at the Licia Albanese-Puccini Competition. Her recent career highlights include singing Dorabella in *Cos   fan Tutte*, the Mezzo Soloist in the Verdi Requiem, Angelina in *La Cenerentola*, and Sandrina in *un Avvertimento ai*

Gelos. She has performed with the Rossini Opera Festival, Merola Opera, Opera Theater of St Louis and Palm Beach Opera.

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Alexander Hajek - Lucifer & various

Toronto native Baritone Alexander Hajek is currently enjoying an international career as an opera, oratorio, and rock star. His career has taken him to the arid deserts of the Middle East, frozen glaciers of the Arctic Circle and the deepest darkest rainforests of Central America. A graduate of St Michaels Choir School here in Toronto and Juilliard in New York, he is currently singing Leporello and Don Carlo in Germany. Mr. Hajek is pleased to sing with Tapestry again.



Säye Skye - The boy & various

Säye Skye is a transgender Iranian rap artist and LGBTQ rights activist at the forefront of a new hip-hop movement that has its basis in social consciousness. With astonishing originality, his experimental raps challenge deep-rooted stereotypes of misogyny, discrimination, and queerphobia. Since age 13, he has been crafting songs and poems that resonate deeply with people, using music as a platform for communicating truth. Säye Skye's work is distinguished by both its mystery and infectious energy. Using the poetic language of Farsi,

each song elicits an instant audience connection through its passion and pulse. From its unpredictable flow and hypnotic rhythms to its evocative lyrics, Säye Skye's work invites listeners to question their current state of being.

Säye Skye is the first artist in Iran's history to sing about the LGBTQ community, their existence and their protracted struggle for freedom. In 2009, he recorded and released his first single in Iran, *Säye Yek Zane Irani* (Shadow of an Iranian Woman). As a queer artist, he was consequently put at great risk for singing and advocating for LGBTQ rights through his music. In 2010, Säye Skye was forced to leave his home and seek asylum in Turkey, where he was granted refugee status, and moved thereafter to Toronto in March 2011. Säye Skye is currently collaborating with acclaimed German producers and singers on the release of his first EP.



Padideh Ahrarnejad - Tar

Padideh Ahrarnejad is a musician, arranger, composer and educator. A graduate of the Tehran Art Music School and the Art University of Tehran, Padideh studied tar with major figures of Persian music, including Behrouz Het mati, Hossein Alizade and Hooshang Zarif. She received the award for best tar player at Fajr Music Festival in Iran several times. Padideh has played around the world. Since emigrating to Toronto, Canada in 2016, she has become a member of the New Canadian Global Music Orchestra.



Kianoush Khalilian - Ney

Kianoush Khalilian is a composer and a highly skilled player of the ney (Persian reed flute). He began his studies with very distinguished Iranian masters, including Hasan Nahid in 1990 in Tehran; five years later he ranked first in the nationwide Iranian school competition for ney performance. Kianoush has performed in concerts in Iran, Canada and across Europe, and has won awards for his outstanding teaching. He is about to publish his first book: a guide to learning the ney.

http://www.harbourfrontcentre.com/WhatsOn/Music.cfm?id=9123&festival_id=0



Ali Massoudi - Percussion

Ali Massoudi, born in Tehran in 1973, is a skilled percussionist who has trained under masters like Bijan Kamkar and Farhad Andalibi. He has collaborated with Tehran Symphony Orchestra, as well as the Iran's National Orchestra and various popular traditional bands and has also performed in several concerts in Iran, Europe, Canada, China and Cuba. He is the author of 5 educational books for tonbak, daf and udu.

He leads the Navaye Kimia Ensemble which has had many performances in Toronto and has collaborated with Andalib, Shiraz and Barg ensembles in concerts in Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal.



Afarin Mansouri - Composer

Afarin Mansouri is an award-winning composer whose works have been performed in Canada, the United States, England, Iran, and South America. She has worked with many organizations and Festivals such as You Dance National Ballet of Canada, Tirgan Festival and Toronto Nuit Blanche. Afarin is an associate composer of Canadian Music Centre and a national Councilor of the Canadian League of Composers. Also as the co-founder and Artistic Director of Iranian-Canadian Composers of Toronto (ICOT), as well as director of MUSIC NEST, she has produced

numerous concerts and music workshops for adults and children in Toronto.

Currently she is at the last stages of her PhD studies at York University finishing her research on Canadian children's opera while teaching undergraduate courses in music.



Donna-Michelle St. Bernard - Librettist

Donna-Michelle St. Bernard aka Belladonna the Blest is an emcee, playwright, librettist and agitator. Works for the stage include *Cake*, *Sound of the Beast*, *A Man A Fish*, *Salome's Clothes*, and *Gas Girls*. Her short libretto, *Oubliette*, was developed through Tapestry's LibLab program. DM is emcee in residence at Theatre Passe Muraille, playwright in residence at lemonTree Creations and a vocalist with Ergo Sum.



Michael Hidetoshi Mori - Director

Michael Hidetoshi Mori is an award-winning stage director and the General Director of Tapestry Opera in Toronto, Canada. In 2016, the CBC named Michael and Tapestry Opera as one of ten artists changing the artistic landscape of Canada. Recently, for *Rocking Horse Winner* (2016), Michael won Toronto's Dora Mavor Moore award for outstanding direction, with the production garnering a total of 5 awards. Recent directorial projects include *Rocking Horse Winner* for Tapestry Opera, *Dead Man Walking* for Fresno Grand Opera, *Il Trittico* for West Bay Opera, and a new production of *The Marriage of Figaro* for Opera Columbus.



Jessica Derventzis - Assistant Director, Metcalf Foundation Artistic Intern

Jessica Derventzis is a stage director from Toronto, Ontario. Recently, she joined the Tapestry Opera team as the Metcalf Foundation Artistic Intern for 2018. Select directing favourites include: *Die Zauberflöte*, *La Bohème* (Opera Kelowna), *The Medium*, *L'Heure Espagnole* (Stu&Jess Productions), *Cinderella* (Calgary Opera School Tour), *Dido and Aeneas* (Opera McGill), *La Voix Humaine* (Little Opera on the Prairie), and *Our Town* (Opera Nuova, Canadian premiere.) She has also assisted for many

internationally acclaimed directors at the major opera houses in Calgary, Edmonton, Winnipeg, and Vancouver. Jessica is an executive member of Indie Opera Toronto and Production Manager for Opera 5.



Michael Shannon - Co-Music Director

Canadian pianist, Michael Shannon, is quickly earning a reputation as one of the most sought-after vocal coaches, répétiteurs, and recital partners in a new generation of Canadian opera professionals. A member of the Canadian Opera Company's music staff and graduate of the COC Ensemble Studio, he has served as répétiteur/continuo player and vocal coach for over 15 COC productions. Mr. Shannon returns for his 5th season at COC in 2017/18 as vocal coach for *The Elixir of Love*, *Anna Bolena*, in addition to a recital with COC perennial favourite,

soprano Keri Alkema. A proponent of new and living opera, Michael maintains a fruitful relationship with Tapestry Opera. This season, he prepared music for the short opera *Bandits in the Valley* (Roark/Tepperman), was the music director for *Opera Briefs* and is back for *Tap:Ex Forbidden*.



Yehuda Fisher - Lighting Designer

Yehuda Fisher, Lighting Designer, excited to be designing his first Tap:Ex show! A designer, director and performer, Yehuda has had the pleasure of studying and working with amazing people from all parts of the industry. Select design credits: *The Eagle with Two Heads* (Fish2Fry), *Meet Cute* (ENT2), 2016 InspiraTO Festival, *All Shook Up* (CMT), *Evita* (JDP), *Toronto, Mississippi* (Panfish), and over a dozen TYA productions.



Erin Gerofsky - Costume & Set Designer

Erin Frances Gerofsky is a Toronto-based set and costume designer for film, theatre, and opera. A relative newcomer to the opera world, Erin has enjoyed examining *Forbidden* from an emotionally driven point of view. Thank you to Tapestry and Michael Mori for the opportunity to play with such loaded material and to create appropriately visceral imagery to compliment the piece. Erin will next be designing costumes for *Provok'd Wife* at George Brown Theatre School and production designing Opera5's yet to be announced 2018 show.



Kristin McCollum - Stage Manager

Kristin is a Toronto-based Stage Manager who has worked in theatre and opera for over 18 years. She has spent 15 seasons with the Canadian Opera Company, where select credits include Stage Manager for *An Evening With the Ensemble Studio* 2017, Assistant Stage Manager for *The Elixir of Love*, *Norma*, *Madama Butterfly*, *Peter Grimes*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Nightingale & Other Short Fables* and *Die Walkure* as part of the Ring Cycle that opened the Four Seasons Centre. Select Stage Management credits include: *Seussical*, *Jacob*

Two-Two Meets the Hooded Fang, *James and the Giant Peach*, *Annie* and *A Year With Frog and Toad* (Young People's Theatre); *The Seven Deadly Sins* (Toronto Symphony Orchestra), *Airline Icarus* (Soundstreams); Assistant Stage Manager on *Apocalypsis* (Luminato Festival), and *Miss Saigon* (PCLO/Dan Cap). *Forbidden* marks her debut with Tapestry Opera.



Vanessa Vai - Sound Designer

Vanessa Vai is a Toronto-based live sound engineer. Her background in creative advertising and graphic design led her to an early career in booking and music promotion for many of Toronto's top venues. Since falling in love with the technical side of show business; she has toured North America mixing bands, worked on countless local productions doing sound, backline, stage and production management. Though booking is not her full time position anymore, she still produces a series of live music and burlesque events throughout the city.

ABOUT TAPESTRY OPERA

Now 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's *Rocking Horse Winner* was nominated for nine Dora awards, taking home five, making it the most awarded show of the season.

در مورد اپرای تپستری

اکنون در ورود به ۳۸مین فصل تولید، تپستری پیشرو در تهیه و تولید اپرای امروزی کاناداست. این شرکت قهرمان تولیدات و به صحنه آوردن هنرمندان کانادایی و یک تحول گرای انقلابی در جهان اپرا و تاتر موسیقایی است. تپستری با ارایه سه کار جدید جهانی در این فصل همچنان به نو آوری ادامه میدهد:

اپراهای راهزن در دره، ممنوعه، و اوورکت. در فصل قبل اپرای اسب اسباب بازی برنده کاندید ۹ جایزه دورا، و برنده ۵ جایزه دورا شد، که این اپرا را پرجایزه ترین برنامه فصل قبل کرد.



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

- Individuals: DeeAnn Sagar - dsagar@tapestryopera.com
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Tapestry is a registered not-for-profit organization with charitable status.
Our Charitable Registration Number is 11920-8619 RR0001.



Peter McGillivray, Asitha Tennekoon, and Keith Klassen in Rocking Horse Winner; Krisztina Szabó in Tapestry Briefs. Photos by Dahlia Katz.

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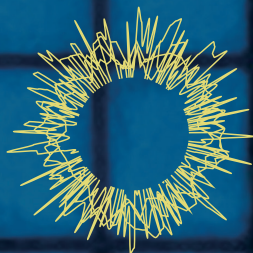


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