



SONG QUEEN: A PIDGIN OPERA

By Helen Epega also know as The Venus Bushfires
Spring Summer 2023 Forthcoming Shows

THE VENUS BUSHFIRES



What is Song Queen: A Pidgin Opera?

This ground-breaking opera, composed by Helen Epega also known as The Venus Bushfires; first staged in 2015, is the world's first ever production of its kind.

Helen has created a unique experience in which the audience is transported to a world where music has the power to inspire, heal and unite at a time when the world seems so divided.

The newly revamped show is a blend of the rich African tradition of storytelling harnessing Nigerian Pidgin English, Patois, Creole, Cockney, Hip Hop Vernacular and Multicultural London Slang with Western Classical music presented through an Afro-Futuristic lens.

This musical phenomenon has already been performed in London, Lagos, Turin, Bodrum & Cape Town.

Back by popular demand, the pidgin opera returns to the U.K. this Spring-Summer 2023.

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The Synopsis

A tribe of ethereal singers the 'Menemeh', maintain peace and balance in all the world's realms by creating reality through the enchanting songs they sing. All is well, until the 'Vrugos', who live in the realm of the stars, become envious of the prosperity the Menemeh have created for the people on earth.

Through a series of temptations and deceptions the Vrugos attempt to distract the Menemeh and disrupt earth's peaceful balance. As the Menemeh succumb to temptation, one by one they lose their voices and their ability to sing and create a peaceful reality.

'Kanate' the rising Queen of the Menemeh must leave earth for an epic journey to 'The Venus Bushfires' realm where she must battle the Vrugos and find the 'Peace Song', a song so powerful it can unite all the worlds and restore peace on earth.

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Who is Helen Epega (The Venus Bushfires)?

Helen is a Nigerian-British composer, visual artist and workshop facilitator who brings diverse cultures together through expressive arts.

Her seminal work 'Song Queen: A Pidgin Opera' is the world's first opera of its kind.

She has created music for Sony Play Station and Disney and has been featured on BBC, CNN, The Guardian, New York Times and Vice Magazine.

In 2008 she founded the Just A Day initiative which designs and facilitates expressive arts workshops globally, providing opportunities for seemingly disparate communities to share ideas in meaningful ways.

In 2021 Helen exhibited her multidisciplinary works 'Sounds of Us - A Sound Art Snapshot' of life during pandemic lockdown at the Her Dark Materials exhibition.

In 2022 Helen was one of the musicians awarded the PRS Foundation's Composer Award and this year is nominated for an #OFFIE award for Best Idea in Design and Sound for the production #confinement.

www.thevenusbushfires.com
@thevenusbushfires

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Aims

- SONG QUEEN: A PIDGIN OPERA is inspired by the rich African tradition of storytelling and aims to create a space that brings people from diverse cultures together, find commonalities and celebrate each other in meaningful ways.
- We seek to democratise exclusive art forms such as opera.
- The ground-breaking opera also aims to inspire positive dialogues about Africa, African and Afro-Caribbean diasporas and pidgin/slang dialects by harnessing language and music in a refreshing way that inspires and engages audiences as well as reignites a dialogue of peace, love, unity and hope at a time it's most needed around the world.
- Song Queen: A Pidgin Opera is part of a multi-faceted entertainment experience with the ambition to be as successful as The Lion King and Hamilton.
- We plan to build a successful brand through performances, licensing, franchising and merchandising around the world.

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Spring-Summer 2023 Shows

The musical phenomenon is all set to commence the Spring Summer shows this April with details as follows:

Title: SONG QUEEN: A PIDGIN OPERA

Debut Date: Saturday, 29 April 2023

Venue: St John's Hyde Park, 18 Hyde Park Crescent, London W2 2QD

Executive Producer: Baba-Jallah Epega

Tickets: [SONG QUEEN](#)

Supporting: The Richard Coker Foundation (RCF) which is a non-profit organisation that helps children and families living with the Sickle Cell Disorder condition www.therichardcokerfoundation.com

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