

OPERA PARALLÈLE
PRESENTS

EVEREST

AN IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCE

COMPOSER JOBY TALBOT LIBRETTIST GENE SCHEER

FEBRUARY 3-12, 2023 | Z SPACE

CAST*

Click here to visit operaparallele.org/everestbios for full bios. *Cast not appearing live



Sasha Cooke
'Jan Arnold'
Mezzo Soprano



Nathan Granner
'Rob Hall'
Tenor



Kevin Burdette
'Beck Weathers'
Bass Baritone



Hadleigh Adams
'Doug Hansen'
Baritone



Charlotte Fanvu
'Meg Weathers'
Treble

Matt Boehler 'Guy', 'Mike', & Vocal Ensemble

Shawnette Sulker, Whitney Steele, Kevin Gino Vocal Ensemble

CREATIVE TEAM

Click here to visit operaparallele.org/everestbios for full bios.



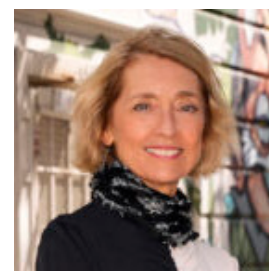
Joby Talbot
Composer



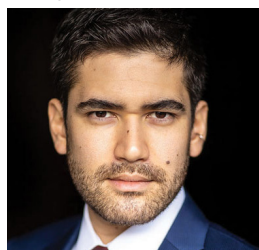
Gene Scheer
Librettist



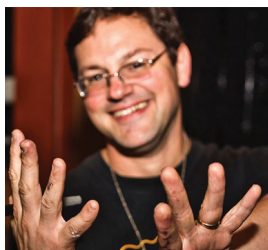
Brian Staufienbiel
Director & Creator



Nicole Paiement
Conductor



David Murakami
Projection Designer



Mark Simmons
Illustrator



Jacquelyn Scott
Scenic Designer



Miles Lassi
Sound Engineer

PRODUCTION TEAM

Everest - A Graphic Novel Opera (2021)

Jessica Bejarano Assistant Conductor

Evan Miller Camera Operator

Sam Clevenger Lead Animator, **Umair Fareed** Animator,

Tony Shayne Production Manager, **Ian W. King** Unit Production Manager,

Daniel Harvey Project Manager & Additional Content Producer/Editor,

Learn more about the film that inspired the experience here: operaparallele.org/everestfilm

*This production is dedicated in loving memory to our dear friend and OP champion,
Dina Kuntz,
who made everything count.*

SYNOPSIS

Everest follows the true-life stories of three climbers, Rob Hall, Doug Hansen, and Beck Weathers as they attempt to summit Mount Everest in 1996. Throughout the experience we move between the climbers' present realities on the mountain, that of their loved ones and their pasts as they slip in and out of consciousness.

From the shadows of Mount Everest, the spirits of all those who have died attempting to reach the summit sing to Beck Weathers, who is unconscious on the mountain's South Col, the final stop in the push to reach the summit. These ethereal spirits now turn their attention to Rob Hall, the expedition leader and guide, who is just reaching Everest's highest peak at 2:30 p.m., thirty minutes past the safe turnaround time. Rob sees his client Doug Hansen a mere forty feet below.

The scene shifts back to Beck Weathers. In his unconscious, dreamlike state, the stranded climber hallucinates that he is enjoying a Texas barbecue in his backyard. Beck holds court and begins to describe his experiences on Everest. Suddenly, from the edge of Beck's consciousness, the voice of his daughter Meg sings to him.

As we see Rob straining to help Doug reach the summit, time stops, and Doug sings an aria in which he describes the tormenting, deep-seated obsession that has led him to this moment. Rob takes a picture of Doug at the instant he has achieved his goal, and the guide is jarred by the memory of photographing his pregnant wife, Jan, before leaving their home in New Zealand for the Himalayas.

While Rob endeavors to get his client down from the summit of Everest, we see Beck lying, delirious, on the South Col. Once again, his daughter calls out to him in vain. From the depths of his consciousness, ruminations on his struggle with profound depression slowly merge with the memory of the events that took place on the climb earlier that same day.

Rob is increasingly desperate. He has a disabled client on the top of the mountain as the storm begins raging around them both. Jan, Rob's wife, is contacted and told of her husband's life-threatening situation.

Beck, beginning to emerge from his coma, sees the climbers on the South Col huddling together in a frantic attempt to survive the storm. Beck's internal soliloquy slowly allows him to make sense of what is happening and comprehend the cold, hard truth: he is dying.

In a quartet, Doug, Rob, Jan, and Beck sing of their plight. As the quartet concludes, we see Rob propelling Doug toward a sheltered spot on the South Summit, where he hopes they can make it through the night.

Beck has finally awakened to the harsh reality that if he is going to survive another hour, he will have to save himself.

ENHANCE YOUR EXPERIENCE

Go behind the scenes to explore how Opera Parallèle created this unique production. Don't miss the exclusive conversation with librettist **Gene Scheer** and the real-life subject of the opera, **Beck Weathers** to hear about Beck's extraordinary tale of survival.

operaparallele.org/everestenhance

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If an error or omission is noted, please accept our sincere apologies and contact development@operaparallele.org with any updates.



Special thanks to the staff of **Z Space** for their generous and collaboratives spirit in transforming their theater and championing artistic risk-taking.

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Aileen Tat *Development Director*

Daniel Harvey *Artistic & Community Manager,
Asst. to the General & Artistic Director*

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Jack Beuttler *Production Manager (The Shining)*

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Ben Engelmann *Intern*

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A Night At

THE
OVERLOOK
HOTEL

No Work All Play

Benefiting Opera Parallèle
April 26, 2023
The Lodge at The Regency Center

BABA

The Life and Death of Stana

A new opera
inspired by the lives of
Balkan sworn virgins by
Karmina Šilec
performed by
Kitka Women's Vocal Ensemble

World Premiere Performances
February 23-26, 2023
Z Space
San Francisco

Kitka.org

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THE
SHINING

COMPOSER PAUL MORAVEC LIBRETTIST MARK CAMPBELL
BASED ON THE NOVEL BY STEPHEN KING
JUNE 2-4, 2023
BLUE SHIELD OF CALIFORNIA THEATER AT YBCA, SAN FRANCISCO