

*Opera Up Close presents*

# HOPERA™

*Adrian Dunn  
production*

*You can be anything  
you want to be...*

**April 6 at 8 p.m.**

Produced by Adrian Dunn, founder and CEO of HoperaWorld Entertainment

## DESCRIPTION

**HOPERA: A Fallen Hero** blends the magic of hip hop and opera to tell the tale of the challenges faced by many inner-city youth. Set in Chicago, the story follows Obadiah and the complex relationship he has with his single mother, and the powerful impact of a positive male mentor. Through gun violence, teen pregnancy, and fatherlessness, the musical play ultimately illustrates that you really can make it - if you want to.



## ADRIAN DUNN BIOGRAPHY

Adrian Dunn is an accomplished singer, composer and producer. He is the founder and CEO of HoperaWorld Entertainment. He has performed in the CCM Spoleto Opera Festival in Spoleto Italy and was nominated for “Best Music Director” from the Black Theater Alliance Awards for his work with HOPERA- A hip hop opera in 2010. He opened for international hip hop recording artists The Roots at Indiana University Auditorium in 2005 and was a featured solo artist on the Higher Ground Live DVD recording in Finland (2007). He has prepared and provided background vocals for numerous pop, R&B and gospel artists in the United States and abroad, including Tony Momrelle (UK band Incognito), Rena Darling (EU), Max C (EU) and others. He has also sung with the Chicago Symphony Chorus, Grant Park Symphony Chorus, and appeared as a vocalist with the Rob Parton Jazz Orchestra.

He holds a Bachelor of Music and Masters of Music in vocal performance from Roosevelt University and additional studies at the [Sibelius Academy of Music, Helsinki Finland.](#)

## CONTEXT

HOPERA to Adrian is an antidote to a larger opera. “This project is a slice of America. “This is opera on my own terms, outside the confines,” says Adrian. He passionately talks about traditional opera as being somewhat racist (Turandot, Aida, Carmen) and not welcoming to everyman.

Hear why Adrian Dunn made Hopera:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Vt3WEEZ1fc&feature=youtu.be>

Listen to Adrian Dunn discuss Hopera vs. Traditional Opera:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t-uEyuc4WuE&feature=youtu.be>

Loosely based on the Libretto from Othello, Dunn makes the opera and the story accessible to youth who may be affected by gun violence today through the use of dance, a band v. an orchestra and spoken word elements. These more contemporary and familiar sounds allow for a wider audience to appreciate both opera and the messages conveyed.

Hear what Adrian has to say: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gQvB9dD83M>

## **CHARACTERS**

Zion- The voice of God, Principle Rapper

Obadiah- Lead Role

Erica King- Obadiah's Mother

Kesha Jones- Darren's Girl Friend

Darren - Obadiah's Best Friend

## **DISCIPLINARY CONNECTIONS**

Theatre and Performance Studies

English Literature

Media Studies

Identity Studies

Communication Studies

Anthropology and Sociology

Criminal and Social Justice

Social Work

Counseling (Suicide and alcoholism, teen pregnancy)

A sample of Adrian's recent work and topics explored:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xTpnkIzaLJ4>

## Campus Engagement Opportunities

- **Pre-Performance Lecture/Workshop/ Interactive Panel** (Thursday, April 4- potential date)  
The goal of this activity is to bring community together to raise awareness of the issue of gun violence and racial profiling in the black community, to remove pricing and programming barriers, and to build bridges of understanding.

- **Curriculum Integration: Sample Assignment**

Assign this article, which is based on "Black Boy," as required reading, and have the students reflect on the following questions:

*What comes to mind when you think of Opera?*

*What role does hip hop have in Opera, if any?*

*Does music have a role in Social Justice or social change?*

*Does it matter if persons of color are included on the Opera Stage?*

**Black Boy video:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IkK3YBzjduo>

**Black Boy (Audio Only)**

<https://youtu.be/sbYlmdEgBNE>

Link to paper: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PtgdJyKfOuM&feature=youtu.be>

- **Post-show Q & A** will capture patrons' responses to the performance and will include Artistic Director Adrian Dunn, select artists, and GSU scholars addressing the questions raised in this performance, in the context of social, economic and community challenges and opportunities.

## An invitation from Adrian Dunn:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MUG1\\_L1Kptc&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MUG1_L1Kptc&feature=youtu.be)