



Music **Giorgio Battistelli**
Words **Sarah Woods**

March 14/17/18/19/20 2018
B12 Warehouse/Digbeth/Birmingham

 **Birmingham**
OPERA
company

www.birminghamopera.org.uk



A musical-dramatic experience that leaves you with ears buzzing, mind racing, and ready to reassess everything you thought you knew about opera.

Richard Bratby, The Arts Desk



I prayed for the end...

Richard Morrison,
The Times



No one could accuse Birmingham Opera Company of lacking ambition. The involvement of the non-professional performers, acting and singing, gave the evening its unique atmosphere.

Andrew Clements, The Guardian

I love the work here because it's of the city, not above it.

David Devan, General Director & President, Opera Philadelphia



Electrifying... A sold-out success.

Claire McGinn, Birmingham Post

Something fresh and vital with a message for our troubled and dangerous times.

Rang-zeb Rango Hussein,
Cultural Commentator

I was totally absorbed and changed by the whole experience.

Sara, Audience member



“

“It has
changed
my views
about opera,
I thought it
was posh.”

Wake
participant

THE DIRECTOR'S CUT

Wake was an enormous success.

How do I measure success?

It made me very happy. It made our volunteers happy, it challenged them and it brought them satisfaction.

It brought an audience together who focused, who concentrated, who stood in the cold and followed a complex, difficult piece, for an hour and a half. That I count as a success.

The composer was really happy with it, as was the writer. That I count as a success.

We did well, I think.

We are the only opera company I know that can sell out for a contemporary opera, with a challenging subject, with an audience which is enthusiastic and joyous as a result. Our audiences and our performers – you won't see their like in any other opera house in the world.

I know that opera can speak to a whole load of people who have no idea that it is for them. I know that its power can reach into the souls of people that would never dream of buying a ticket.

That's what Birmingham Opera Company does.

Graham Vick, Artistic Director

“

I'm feeling something!

I've never been to
anything like this.
I don't know what
it is but I'm feeling
something!

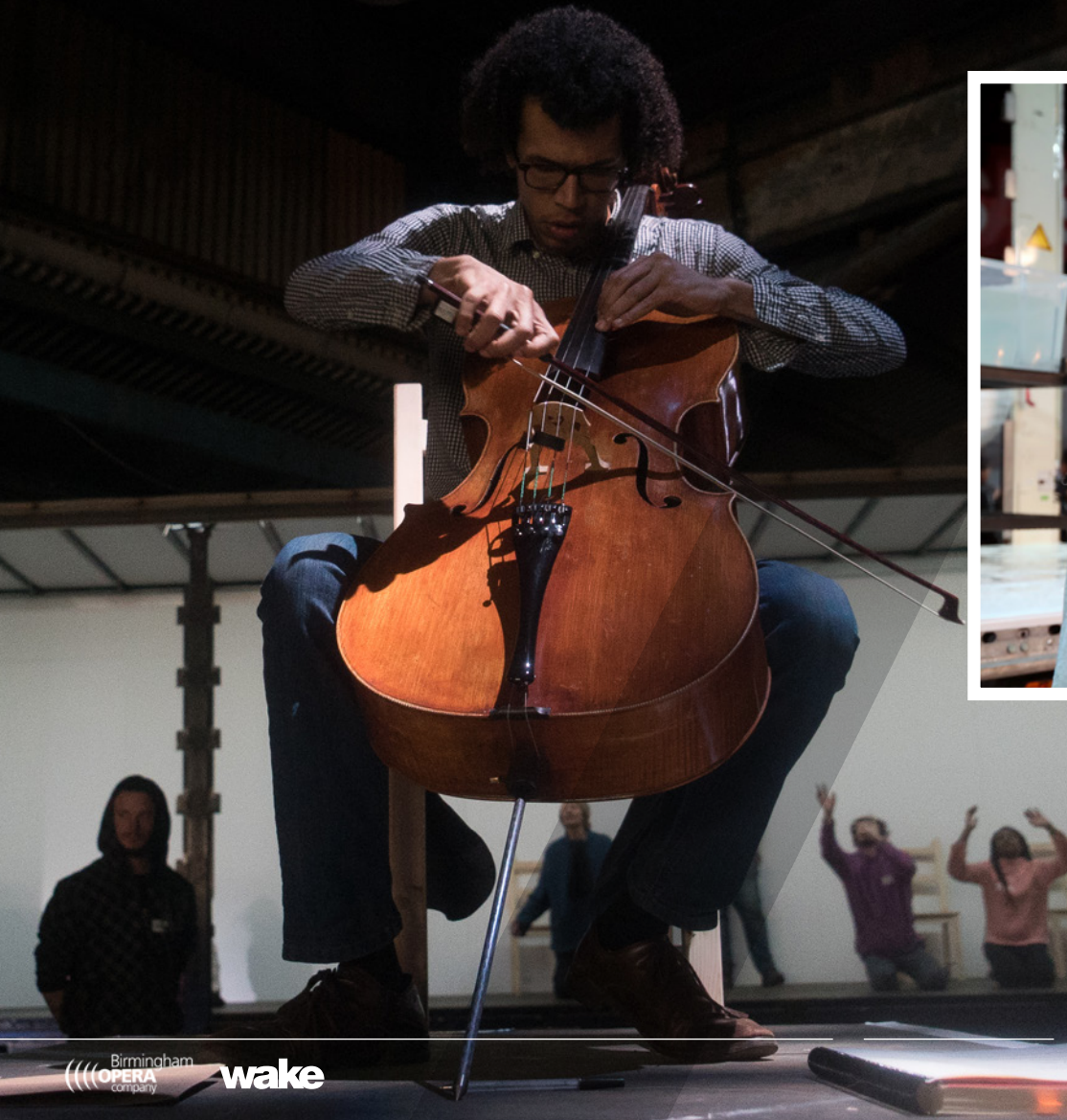
Audience member



MUSIC by Giorgio Battistelli

Who is Lazarus
of the modern day?
It could be the call
to the reawakening
of our social
conscience.

Giorgio Battistelli



Compelling, unsettling,
immersive: we've come to
expect this from Birmingham
Opera Company, and Battistelli
has created a music drama
tailored to those strengths.

Richard Bratby, The Arts Desk

Had the most incredible couple of weeks performing in WAKE with [@BirminghamOpera](#), such a fantastic experience! [#percussiononthemove](#) [#somuchgear](#) [#lazarus](#)

Miriam Kitchener @mizzakitch • Mar 21

It's random,

it's good to change though

innit.

Very intense,
you feel very involved.

Controversial but not;
it's what a lot of people are thinking.

It's good though,
good to get everyone
together.

Just like mix it up.

I'D DEFINITELY COME AGAIN.

WORDS

by Sarah Woods

It's the idea that for all of us, there are times when we feel alienated, separated.

And in feeling afraid, in feeling different or other, we lose our ability to be our best selves, to be useful and alive members of society.

You could feel people in the audiences' focus and attention – not to what they were thinking about, but what they were feeling; to a sense of what it is to be human.

And that's what this opera is about, our humanity and our ability to connect to each other.

Sarah Woods



“

This is an opera written for the people. It tells their stories, and it speaks with their language.

Rang-zeb Rango Hussein



#WAKE @BirminghamOpera is a proper jolt to the system – everyone should watch this show! I'm left thinking about all sorts. Death. Life. Society. When the world is at its darkest, ART is the light? Right?

Natalie Russo @Natjcook • Mar 17





WAKE

WALK IN
THE LIGHT



THE SOLOISTS

Time to say goodbye to WAKE and the amazing @BirminghamOpera after two unforgettable months. Big love to everyone who made this show happen, particularly the inspirational chorus and actors - look forward to watching you in action next year
Mimi Doulton @MimiDoulton • Mar 21



Elliott Carlton Hines – Jesus



Nardus Williams – Martha



Joshua Stewart – Lazarus



Mimi Doulton – Mary

No-one, however, can have missed the raw, radiant blast of tone that Hines unleashed as he woke Lazarus (Joshua Stewart).

Richard Bratby,
The Arts Desk

The four incredible soloists, in the roles of Jesus (Elliott Carlton Hines), Lazarus (Joshua Stewart), Martha (Nardus Williams) and Mary (Mimi Doulton) held the action together.

Claire McGinn,
The Birmingham Post

Joshua Stewart who, after reacting with very plausible shock to his reanimation, found an eloquent lyricism that nicely complemented the ringing vocal warmth of both Williams and Doulton.

Richard Bratby,
The Arts Desk

The cast, led by Joshua Stewart, Nardus Williams, Mimi Doulton and Elliott Carlton Hines, are faultless.

Richard Morrison,
The Times

“

They bring stories that are interesting, they haven't all been through six years of conservatoire training or choir school or whatever, they're real people, who've lived.

Mimi Doulton, Mary

“

It's an honour to work with someone of Graham's calibre, who actually understands what art should do for the community, and understands that art is for the people.

Joshua Stewart, Lazarus

“

[So] it's nice [to be able to show that and] to have people that won't necessarily think that opera is for them coming to see it and they will then realise that opera is for everyone.

Nardus Williams, Martha

ART IS FOR THE PEOPLE

ORCHESTRA



WAKE was unexpectedly one of the most remarkable experiences I've ever had. Battistelli's imaginative and powerful score and Vick's direction combined with the social diversity of the production created an experience far richer and deeper than the sum of its parts. The work was challenging, enriching, uncompromising and, in a time of spiritual drought in society, it served as a powerful reminder of the strength of human connection and empathy.

Rakhi Singh, First Violin

“

The pleasure of being in something that no one else has been in. That's what we do here, things that no one else does.

Natalis, volunteer singer





As a young person I enjoyed this experience as it allowed me to meet new people with different backgrounds and ages, which I feel we young people don't get to do as often.



My life wouldn't be the same without the BOC family. Better than any drug!



Uplifting to work with people from all walks of life. Co-operate, create, appreciate.

A real refuge for me. A thrill and an honour to be involved.



It was a life-changing experience



Support #ShareOpera



No preaching, just use your own mind.



I was told I could not sing when I was a child and have not sung since then – until now! So my confidence in my musical ability has been completely transformed.



When I was at my absolute lowest they (Jeelan) picked me up and made me feel more supported and welcomed than ever. They inspired me to apply for other events I would've never had the courage to do before.

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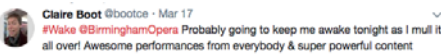
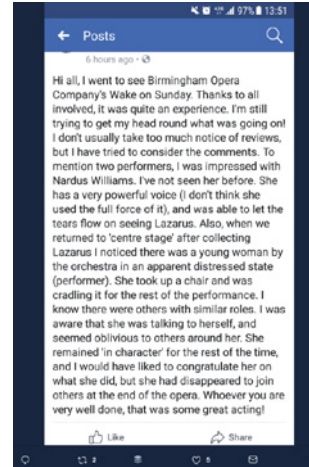
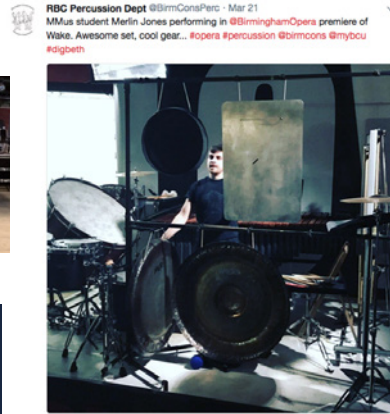


Gold dust



I try learn English. I'm making more practice.







“WE WERE ALL SHINING STARS

Simi, volunteer singer



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Page 3	Richard Willacy
Page 4	Blue Monday
Page 5	Blue Monday (left), Adam Fradgley (right)
Page 6	Blue Monday
Page 7	Adam Fradgley (left, top right, bottom), Blue Monday (centre)
Page 8	Reality Media Group
Page 9	Blue Monday
Page 10	Adam Fradgley (left), Blue Monday
Page 11	Blue Monday
Page 12	Twitter
Page 13	Richard Willacy
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