



Pacamambo

Composed by: Zack Settel
Libretto by: Wajdi Mouawad
Produced by: Chants Libres
Translation by: Shelley Tepperman
Presented in French by Chants Libre (Montréal, Canada)

Missing for three weeks, little Julie is found in a basement with her dog Growl by the side of her dead grandmother's body. Sorrowful and angry, she refuses to co-operate with the psychologist. Gradually she reveals how she waited for Death to return for her and how she was comforted by her grandmother's legacy, the dream of *Pacamambo*, a mythical afterworld of harmony and peace.

The Librettist

Wajdi Mouawad was born in Lebanon in 1968. He was fourteen when he arrived in Québec. Since his graduation from National School of Theater in 1991, he leads a diversified career as actor, author, director, translator and producer. Radio-man and manager of his own theater company, "le Théâtre Ö Parleur", he is also the artistic manager of the "Théâtre de Quat'sous".



He is the author of different plays: *Willy Protagoras enfermé dans les toilettes*, *Partie de cache-cache entre deux Tchécoslovaques au début du siècle*, *Journée de noces chez les Cromagnons*, *Les Mains d'Edwidge au moment de la naissance*, *Alphonse*, *Littoral* et *Rêves*, He has been the producer of more than fifteen plays among which is the *Manuscrit trouvé à Saragosse*, in November 2001. He also adapted *Don Quichotte* from Cervantès, the first performance of which took place at the TNM in 1998 and again in fall 1999.

What to look for...

- ✓ *Pacamambo* was originally written as a play with no music. Opera librettos can come from many different sources.
- ✓ The story of *Pacamambo* is told in the form of a “memory play”, where the main portion of the plot evolves through a series of flashbacks. In this case, a psychiatrist asks Julie to explain the events of her grandmothers’ death and the three weeks following.

The Composer



Zack Settel was born in 1957 and raised in the New York area. He received a BFA in Music Composition, at the California Institute of the Arts (CalArts), where he studied composition with Leonard Stein, Morton Subotnick, Mel Powell, and Morton Feldman. In the summer of 1984 he received a scholarship to study computer music at the Massachusetts Institute of technology (MIT) and in 1986 Settel moved to Paris to continue studying computer music and composition. Settel now is in North America, where he chairs the Music Technology area at McGill University, teaching courses and conducting graduate seminars in computer music.

Much of Settel’s music includes the use of live interactive electro-acoustic systems. He is active as a visiting composer and guest lecturer, and has given workshops and seminars in computer music at various universities, institutes, and festivals throughout the world. He has composed chamber works, studio works, as well as music for film, video, television, theater and dance. He composed 2 operas for Chants Libres, compagnie lyrique de création (Montreal): *L’enfants des glaces* (2001) and *Pacamambo* (2002).

What to listen for...

- ✓ *Pacamambo* is scored for electroacoustic music, percussion and flute. Electroacoustic music is a form that combines both electronics and computers with live acoustic instruments. In this case, the flute, percussion instruments and even the singers sing into microphones that are connected to various electronic processors. A third person, acting somewhat like a DJ, can then alter the sound in REAL TIME (nothing is pre-recorded).