

DRIFT

DRIFT is a story of motherhood, migration and climate change, exploring the forces that drive families from their homes into the uncertain refuge of new lands. Braiding an intimate narrative between Esmerelda and her childhood friend, James, DRIFT opens in a glacial landscape scarred by ecological disaster. Swinging between the domestic and the surreal, the second act returns to the terminal green of the characters' youths as they navigate a toxic-laden panorama of swamplands and power plants. An intersectional portrait of identity, DRIFT necessitates a radically new examination of motherlands, geography and memory.

Original story and libretto by J. Mae Barizo.

Currently under development, supported by Opera America's Discovery Grant program and made possible by the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation.

CREATIVE TEAM



COMPOSER
ALYSSA WEINBERG



CREATOR AND
LIBRETTIST
J. MAE BARIZO

DRIFT is actively seeking co-commissioners, presenters and workshop opportunities.

CONTACT

weinbergmusic@gmail.com
jmaebarizo@gmail.com



DURATION

100 minutes

INSTRUMENTATION

Chamber Orchestra
Fixed Electronics

CAST

Esmerelda

soprano

Nurse mother / Guard / Mother

mezzo soprano

Doctor / James / Border Agent

tenor

SATB Chorus

DEVELOPMENT

Libretto workshop

National Opera Center

January 2022

Libretto/vocal workshop

National Opera Center

June 2022

Listen to an excerpt:

