

CULTURE • OPERA

Fall Culture Preview: Comic Books, Sex Workers and Life in a Thai Restaurant

Opera in English? Dance as fashion show? This fall, “highbrow” genres go hard on pop culture and social issues.

By [David Cote](#) · 09/05/25 8:00am



We live in interesting cultural times. Institutions face existential challenges: private donations and foundation grants dwindling, graying arts patrons and younger audiences who'd rather look at their phones than dance or opera. Then you've got the politicians who want to police content and use places like the Kennedy Center for propaganda, not excellence. What to do? Bring a friend to one of these events. Show them the work is relevant and accessible. Maybe by demystifying “highbrow” forms, we can protect them from being co-opted by ideologues.

In opera

Madam at Gallery Particulier, Brooklyn

November 7-11



Karina Camille Parker in *Madam*. Photo courtesy of Killer Queen Opera

Not all opera happens in the concert hall. Take a trip to Brooklyn's Gallery Particulier for [Killer Queen Opera's](#) immersive event. This story focuses on Russian Jewish immigrant Polly Adler, who ran a string of brothels in Manhattan during the Roaring Twenties. Composer [Felix Jarrar](#) and librettist [Bea Goodwin](#) explore this iconic sex worker and entrepreneur, played by soprano and director [Karina Camille Parker](#).