

Douglas J. Cuomo  
**Ashes and Snow**

**(A Winterreise Dream)**

a music-theatre piece in one act, inspired by Schubert's *Winterreise*  
text (Eng) adapted by Douglas J. Cuomo from the  
original poems by Wilhelm Müller

Jonathan Moore, director  
Tony Boutté, tenor

for tenor (amplified) and 3 on-stage musicians:  
electric trumpet, piano (keyboards), guitar and electronics

Duration: ca. 75'



**DRAMA:**

Darkness. Suddenly a pin-head spot on a face in agony.

The light widens to reveal: A naked man crawling on his hands and knees, holding a bottle of Jack Daniels. We see he is in a cheap, run-down Motel room. Detritus everywhere. Pizza boxes, empty bottles and beer cans. Possibly some drug paraphernalia. Breaking Bad meets Samuel Beckett.

As the man starts to sing, we realize that here is someone at the end of his rope. Someone who must confront his demons and face up to everything he has done, and all he has lost, in his life. He is searching for forgiveness, enlightenment and atonement. He is holed up in the middle of nowhere. He looks out of the window. We see a desert landscape. He looks out another time. This time we see a snowy, winter landscape. Although grounded in reality, we realize we are also in an existential space.

The whole seventy five minute performance is tonally like a solo operatic "Long Days Journey Into Night", "King Lear" and Beckett's "Not I" rolled into one. It will be performed at an agonizing emotional intensity which will leave the performer and audience gasping for breath, exhilarated and disturbed. A journey to a Dante-esque underworld. And possibly back, to redemption...

**SET:**

A very simple, single set that doesn't change. A cheap motel room. A bed. Two chairs. Entrance door. Doorway leading to a bathroom, the interior of which we do not see. Microscopic naturalism in the room. One of the walls is also a scrim, through which we can occasionally see band members. A tv screen, on which can be seen banal commercials (mute), News etc. The (pre recorded) images of loved ones from his past could magically merge with these images as he refers to them. He may video himself as a "video diary" which we see on the tv screen also.

**MUSIC:**

21st century art-song, acid jazz, punk energy, raw and emotional. Often hard-edged, at times lyrical. A tour de force for the tenor. The trumpet is the second solo voice in the score, interacting dramatically and musically with the singer. A wide range of techniques and colors in the score — electronic grooves and ambiances, contemporary classical piano, death metal guitar, improvisation and instrumental effects.

**CREATIVE TEAM****DOUGLAS J. CUOMO:**

Has composed music for concert and theatrical stages, dance, television, and film. His works include the opera Doubt, with a libretto by John Patrick Shanley; the opera/oratorio Arjuna's Dilemma, premiered at the BAM Next Wave Festival; Only Breath, commissioned and performed by Maya Beiser, at The International Festival of Arts and Ideas, Ravinia, Carnegie Hall and others; Black Diamond Express Train to Hell, a double concerto for cello and sampler, commissioned by the American Composers Orchestra and The Orchestra of the Swan, premiered at Carnegie Hall; and Kyrie, commissioned and performed by Chanticleer. Work for television and film includes: themes for Sex and The City, NOW with Bill Moyers and Wide Angle, music for Homicide: Life On The Street and many others. Upcoming projects include a song cycle for Denyce Graves and the Romero Guitar Quartet; a companion piece to Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 2 for The Orchestra of the Swan; and a piece celebrating the 15th anniversary of the chorus Seraphic Fire. [www.douglasjcuomo.com](http://www.douglasjcuomo.com)

**JONATHAN MOORE:**

Actor, published playwright, librettist and director. As director Jonathan has collaborated on world premieres with Michael Nyman, Hans Werner Henze, Mark-Anthony Turnage, Stewart Copland, Macmillan, Schnittke etc, working in houses like ENO, Covent Garden, La Fenice, Scottish Opera, Munich, Bonn Opera, etc, theatre and film pieces with music by Punk legends Killing Joke, Joe Strummer of The Clash, Reggae star Eddy Grant, the jazz pianist Uri Caine and the violinist Daniel Hope at venues including Donmar Theatre, Almeida, Royal Court, Shakespeare's Globe, West End, BBC TV and site specific, experimental, immersive pieces with Industrial band Test Dept. He has been on the cover of Time Out magazine, spoken on the Arts at Oxford University, The London School of Economics and is a regular contributor to BBC tv and radio arts programmes. Awards include: the Royal Philharmonic Society Award, The Munich Biennale Best Director and Best Libretto Awards, two Fringe First Awards at the Edinburgh Festival and was nominated for an Olivier award. [www.jonathanmooreuk.com](http://www.jonathanmooreuk.com)



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**TONY BOUTTÉ:**

Made his professional operatic debut as Orfeo in the groundbreaking Monteverdi Cycle with Skylight Opera of Milwaukee. Since then he has appeared in a wide range of roles, including Ottavio in Don Giovanni, Acis in Handel's Acis & Galatea with soprano Elizabeth Futral, and Gandhi in the Philip Glass opera Satyagraha. As an oratorio and concert singer, Tony has performed with top-notch ensembles, including Les Arts Florissants, Tafelmusik, Les Talens Lyriques, Opera Lafayette, Washington Bach Consort, New York Collegium, Violons du Roy, Boston Baroque, Orchestra of St. Luke's, and Musica Angelica. Tony has performed numerous premiers, including John Eaton's Benjamin Button (Symphony Space,) Arjuna's Dilemma by Douglas Cuomo (BAM), Michael Gordon's Chaos, Betsy Jolas' Motet III, Bang on a Can's Carbon Copy Building and In the Penal Colony by Philip Glass. Tony has recorded a wide range of material, from Bach's St. John Passion (Smithsonian Chamber Orchestra) and operas by Lully (Armide) and Sacchini (Oedipe à Colone) to world premier recordings of Carbon Copy Building and Arjuna's Dilemma. His festival appearances include Salzburg, Aspen, Bard, Schleswig-Holstien, Settembre, Aldeburgh, Versailles Autumn Festival and Tage Alte Muzik Regensburg. Tony made his Carnegie Hall debut in 2006 singing Handel's Messiah with Masterwork Chorus. He is currently on the voice faculty of University of Miami's Frost School of Music and co-directs ARCANUM, a baroque ensemble based in Miami, FL. [www.tonyboutte.com](http://www.tonyboutte.com)

*For more information, contact Norman Ryan at Schott Music at [norman.ryan@eamdc.com](mailto:norman.ryan@eamdc.com).*