

PRESS ARCHIVE

[Los Angeles Times](#): In almost every way "Fallujah" is Long Beach Opera at its unique best, bringing awareness through heightened emotion in ways only opera can.

[Los Angeles Times](#): Blood, Sand, and Tears. A Foreign Correspondent's View of Fallujah: Captures with the vividness I recall as a correspondent and the anguish, rage and bewilderment of disparate cultures and lives trapped by larger designs.

[San Francisco Classical Voice](#): Long Beach Opera excels in making the opera fit the clime...Stokes' score is a powerful, exceedingly listenable mélange of orchestral atmospheres...brilliantly executed set design and projections... skillfully and propulsively conducted.

[LA Weekly feature and review](#): a startling and effective work of art. Stokes and Raffo's collaboration shows that modern 'opera can still be extraordinarily relevant'

[Long Beach Press-Telegram](#) (LANG) (print and digital) syndicated. Appears in 9 LA papers: With its powerful libretto by Iraqi-American playwright Heather Raffo, and propulsive multi-dimensional score by Canadian composer, Tobin Stokes, "Fallujah" is a shock-and-awe experience that will open your eyes and rend your heart.

[Lauri's List](#): The eye-opening opera Fallujah tells a brilliant story... The cast's commitment to the story is palpable.

[Stage Raw](#): Long Beach Opera's Extraordinary Fallujah...The world premiere of Fallujah, with libretto by Heather Raffo and music by Tobin Stokes, manifests such immediate urgency that I implore you to secure your tickets to the few remaining performances before finishing this review. This new opera begs to be seen in performance, or at least one so stingingly vivid as this mounting, designed and directed by Long Beach Opera artistic director Andreas Mitisek, and I doubt any audio recording would do it remotely as much justice. The television may be superior to missing it entirely, though the primal axiom of theater is that you have to be there.

Musical America (PRINT): subscriber only magazine. Expertly conducted...-Fallujah immerses its audience in the sights, sounds and anguish of the Iraq war. Andreas Mitisek brings dramatic urgency to Fallujah.

[Gazettes](#): An immersive experience ...deeply moving...a potent production with a promising post-Long Beach future.

[LB Post](#): I want to take a moment to commend Long Beach Opera (LBO) for being one of the two most relentlessly progressive and trailblazing performing-art companies in our city. Fallujah,

running through this Sunday at the Army National Guard on 7th Street downtown, is as alive as the issues raised in the opera are real...a diverse and affecting score by Tobin Stokes and a hard-hitting and powerful libretto by Heather Raffo.

[Orange County Register](#): “Fallujah” has packed a punch... powerful moments... and by the end, a listener’s thoughts and feelings have been stirred...consistently strong cast...For those who want their opera relevant, here it is.

[Random Lengths News](#): Unfortunately, Fallujah will be as deadly relevant a decade from now as it is today, because the traumatic effects of the Iraq War will be with us for generations.

[People's World](#): Fallujah brings us, through searing performances and highly effective staging and projections, right into the beating heart of a place residents are trying to defend with the last shred of their civic honor, and where U.S. Marines are ordered to kill everything that moves.

[Classical Voice North America](#): Long Beach Opera chose an unlikely performance space for an opera — unlikely in a conventional sense but perfectly appropriate in this case. I think it is going to be a controversial piece because its treatment of Iraqis as real human beings clashes with attitudes held by some in this country. Hopefully, in a more enlightened time, it will be considered a period piece, but given the sad realities of human nature, it may always be relevant — and thus, worth attention.

[Easy Reader News](#): Long Beach Opera likes to keep us on our toes (and off-balance at the same time), which thus makes this an almost ideal venue in which to witness “Fallujah,..the opera is propelled by scenic projections and a compelling use of lighting and sound effects, thanks to light designer Dan Weingarten, video designer Hana S. Kim, and sound designer Bob Christian...There is much to praise in “Fallujah.”

[Times-Colonist](#): article on Tobin Stokes

[BH Courier](#)

[LB Post](#)

[The Fast Company](#)

[LA Explorer](#)

[This Stage](#)

[LBO official press photos](#): Keith Ian Polakoff, photographer.

[FLICKR](#): Hana S. Kim, video designer:

[FLICKR](#): Andreas Mitisek, photographer

[FLICKR](#): Doris Koplik, photographer

Comments from Media Guests:

Mike Napoli, Performing Arts Live:

"What a terrific production. Moving and powerful. The cast is excellent. Projections are outstanding. Music is dramatic. Not your mother's opera. It is one of our FEATURE events. Go! Last chance to go is today." - Performing Arts LIVE

Sheila Tepper (KUSC):

Wow! That was an amazing piece of art. So sorry I can't see it again. Perhaps you all will bring it back. Amazing.

RADIO:

[NPR](#) (referred to LBO by J. Damata, Fabric Media, interviews/rehearsal visit/ audio arranged by LBO): All Things Considered