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STEPPING OUT

Making music Off-Broadway

Alexander Sovronsky composes for Glenn Close's latest play

Posted November 9, 2018



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Glenn Close stars as Joan of Arc's mother, a sensible, hard-working, God-fearing peasant woman, in the new play "Mother of the Maid." The epic is tale told through an unexpected new perspective.

COURTESY JOAN MARCUS

By Iris Wiener

Name an instrument and Alexander Sovronsky can surely play it; the triple threat actor-musician-composer began developing a talent for creating sound in various art forms at 3-years-old, eventually using his gift to contribute to innovative and thought-provoking work.

His oeuvre as a composer and co-sound designer is currently on display in his third piece with the Public Theater, "The Mother of the Maid," starring Glenn Close. Additionally, Sovronsky is the composer and music director for "Indecent" at Washington D.C.'s Arena Stage, where he is also appearing in the award-winning play as Mayer Balsam (a character who happens to be. — you guessed it — a musician).

Sovronsky credits the resources he had locally with helping him to become the artist that he is today. He initially learned to play the violin in Glen Cove and Locust Valley with Long Island Suzuki Strings, and took lessons and honed his craft in a church on Forest Avenue in Glen Cove.

"Playing became a big part of my life and it also completely shaped my life as an artist," he says. "All of the music that I design and write is entirely based on what I can do and what I can play." Sovronsky studied with Tal and Joe Schifter of Suzuki Strings, musicians who remain a fixture in the area and at many of his shows. "You've got to know where you came from," he says gratefully of the support he receives from former teachers.

One of the foundations of Suzuki training is learning to hear music and then repeat it with an instrument, playing it by ear. "It is why I can hear a tune and just repeat it immediately," Sovronsky says of how he honed his skills with improvisation and composition.

He came into his own as an actor when he got to Syosset High School where he was a regular on director Gene Connor's stage (a favorite role being Hamlet). After studying theater and classical acting in college, Sovronsky went on to work as a musician, composer, actor and even fight director, for shows ranging from Broadway's "Cyrano de Bergerac" with Jennifer Garner and Kevin Kline, to multiple productions at Shakespeare & Company and Atlantic Theater Company.

In 2007, Sovronsky played a musician and actor in the Public Theater's "Romeo and Juliet," while also co-arranging the music written by Michael Friedman ("Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson").

