

Woman of Salt

A WORLD PREMIERE OPERA
BY A NOVICE EUGENE COMPOSER
EXAMINES OUR CAPACITY TO HEAL

by Rachael Carnes

It was at Anice Thigpen's lowest emotional point that the protagonist in her new opera *The Woman of Salt* came to her.

"I was walking in the woods. And she took the wind out of the firs and made that the voice for the first song," she says.

The Woman of Salt — Thigpen's first opera — was born from deep trauma.

"I was there, in the childhoods of my children — flooded — and I turned around, and there, floating in space, is an oversized, feminine figure," Thigpen says. "I recognized her as Lot's wife. She telepathed to me, 'Look back!'"

But before she could write the opera, which premieres June 23 at Springfield's Wildish Theater, a part of Thigpen had to die.

ANICE THIGPEN PHOTO BY TODD COOPER

