

Angela Renée Simpson: Well, I've been an opera singer for over 27 years now. I did my first "Show Boat" in 2006 in London. It was the first time I've done a musical since high school. My biggest thing was movie musicals. I thought that singing and being in a

I was content to sing musical theater when I first got out of college, but the program I was in, I had to avail myself of classes in classical music and opera. I told myself if I didn't like it after two years, I would leave. Well, I did like it and I took to it, my voice defi-

ARS: She cooks the meals, she oversees the other people who are hired to clean the boat and to prepare the boat for shows. I want to say she's a jack of all trades. I like the fact that she doesn't take any guff from anybody, especially when she is called the n-word in the beginning of the show. My back-story with her, my big question is,

I am getting kind of the best of both worlds now that the opera companies have decided to do these traditional musical theater pieces in their seasons. I am doing a musical theater piece in an opera house, so it kind of works out for me.

“was she a slave?” The time period is maybe only 12 years after the emancipation proclamation, so was she a slave? It’s something I haven’t answered yet. She’s very strong willed as you see with how she acts with her husband. I think she is respected, I think, to a point. She’s treated like an equal, in some respects.

ARS: My favorite line has something to do with flapjacks and popcorn, let's say that. Flapjacks and popcorn and my husband, Joe.

ARS. I think it is very brave of them to keep the words as far as dialogue is concerned. I think the people of Portland are very conscious about and sensitive about the n-word being used. I'm very glad they are using the word. I think if you whitewash history, then you tend to repeat it. If you

(The Director) Chris Mat-
taliano was very, very
adamant about preparing the
audience for what was about
to be said. I myself am a
person of shock value —
just don't tell them, just do
it and see what the repercu-
sions are afterwards.

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