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RE: Entertainment, New Music/Musical Theatre, Rock Music, Women’s Issues, Summer Concerts/Events, New York City Tourism

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The Rock Opera Gets a Facelift and Makeover

In the summer of 2018, hard rock is about to have a face lift and a makeover because this time, the ladies have entered the realm of the Rock Opera—a genre previously dominated by male angst.

*Bad Ass Beauty: The Rock Opera* is an official selection of the 2018 New York Musical Festival’s Next Link Project.

The New York Musical Festival nurtures the creation, production, and public presentation of stylistically, thematically, and culturally diverse new musicals to ensure the future vitality of musical theater.

Now in its fifteenth year, the Festival is the premier musical theater event in the world. The preeminent site for launching new musicals and discovering new talent, the Festival provides an affordable platform for artists to mount professional productions that reach their peers, industry leaders, and musical theater fans. More than 90 Festival shows have gone on to productions on and Off-Broadway, in regional theaters in all 50 states, and in more than 24 countries worldwide. Festival alumni have received a wide array of awards including the Tony Award® and the Pulitzer Prize. In 2013, NYMF received a special Drama Desk Award in recognition of its work "creating and nurturing new musical theater, ensuring the future of this essential art form."

*Bad Ass Beauty*: *The Rock Opera* was selected from hundreds of applicants from all over the world and ironically, it was the very first script that fifty-four year old New Jersey native, Stefanie Seskin, ever wrote. This is no overnight success story, however, as everything that went into this musical a product of Seskin’s thirty-plus years in the music business as an award-winning songwriter, producer, independent artist and multi-instrumentalist. Each member of the team has also spent decades honing their craft for this amazing opportunity.

The rock opera stars powerhouse singer and performer LaQuinta Prince, a Berklee trained Goddess of Rock, originally from Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania. LaQuinta co-wrote most of the songs for the musical with Anthony Gemingnani and had been performing them around the New York and New Jersey music circuit. Stefanie Seskin met LaQuinta after answering a Craigslist ad for backup singers and dancers and the two became friends. Over time, LaQuinta’s hard knock life story surfaced and Stefanie was suddenly inspired to write a script, fictionalizing the story to include humorous “been there, done that” experiences that so many women in the entertainment industry can relate to.

The music has the bare bones honesty of *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, the humor of *Spinal Tap*, and the crunching, cascading guitars of a mix between bands like In Living Color and the Transiberian Orchestra. La Quinta’s voice equals, if not surpasses that of artists and bands like Heart, Janis Joplin, Aretha Franklin, and Evanescence. Behind the Alpha female force-of-nature is a heavenly choir of sassy backup singers—her alter egos, Beauty and Bad Ass, and the guardian angels who fill out the gospel rock wall of sound.

*Bad Ass Beauty: The Rock Opera* was chosen by the New York Musical Festival not only for its amazing music, but because it artfully and poignantly delivers the personal story of a strong, independent woman who struggles with and reflects upon the balance between the artistic fire that burs with important contemporary issues like childhood trauma, failed relationships, mental illness, substance abuse, female exploitation/#metoo, personal and professional compromise, and ultimately how the power of music can make the parts whole and heal one’s soul. The musical contains adult themes and mature content and language, but this is no *Disney* Princess play—it’s a hard rock life!

Although the New York Musical Festival provides fiscal sponsorship and underwrites approximately $30,000 of the costs to produce the rock opera, the team must still raise the remainder of the budget to provide at least five professional, union-scale productions this summer. An Indiegogo site has been set up and there is a link on the [www.badassbeautymusical.com](http://www.badassbeautymusical.com) website where patrons big and small can donate directly through the NYMF.org website to receive their tax deduction.

NYMF is the flagship program of National Music Theater Network, Inc., a 501(c) (3) not-for-profit organization. 2018 NYMF is sponsored by The City of New York Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment, PRG, TheaterMania, Clear Channel Outdoor, Tinc Productions and Fox Stage Productions and is supported, in part, by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts, and by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.

The NYMF PASS is a great way to experience The New York Musical Festival. With a NYMF PASS, you can get into the theater before individual ticket holders. Passes also offer the exclusive ability to book tickets before they go on sale to the public.

The 2018 New York Musical Festival will take place July 9th - August 5th. For more information, please visit: [www.nymf.org](http://www.nymf.org/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank). For more information on Bad Ass Beauty: The Rock Opera, visit [www.badassbeautymusical.com](http://www.badassbeautymusical.com),