

Carmen, a tragedy of love, sun, death.

Bizet's Opera, Carmen, is a work I grew up with and have always loved. My intent is to reinvent Carmen, tell her story with a new point of view relevant today. The current political landscape in America was not the way it is now when we began to write, however it quickly became clear that our character's journey was incredibly timely.

Our Carmen is a Mexican Gypsy who crosses the U.S border early on in the film. She is arrested by Joe, a volunteer border patrol. The two fall madly in love and become lovers on the run. While almost losing her life crossing the border to America to pursue her dreams, Carmen soon finds herself with a man who attempts to create a border around her. Our Carmen is full of hope – it is Joe's tragedy (and America's) we witness as the film develops.

Carmen is a dramatic film musical. Our characters sing or dance because they are driven by a deep need to do so. The integration of music and dance is organic, necessary, and true. The camera work will be choreographed with sensitivity throughout the entire film. For the dances, the camera will act as a dancer by moving with the actors. Nicholas Britell's original score is unique – it encompasses inspirations from Mexican, Spanish, and Eastern European culture, but it is thoroughly modern. I will work with the actors to ensure exhilarating on screen dancing and develop physically expressive and emotional performances.

Carmen will be a musical roller coaster of love, sun, and death.

Benjamin Millepied