



## ANAND WILDER BREAK LINE THE MUSICAL

Coal Into Diamonds Wedding Day Opportunity Hold You Tight They're Stealing Our Coal 4th Of July Better To Die It Doesn't Seem Right Fathers and Brothers I'm To Blame Hang Your Head High

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On a front porch in Philadelphia in early 2004, Anand Wilder and Maxwell Kardon sat with a guitar and a banjo and busily fingerpicked to keep their hands from freezing. After a few false starts they settled on a dirge in d-minor and began improvising lyrics about a labor conflict in a Western Pennsylvania coal town that their fathers had learned about from an old folk song taught in Quaker schools in the '50s.

The facts, as communicated, were a half-remembered pastiche of de facto segregation, frayed family ties, and double-dealing. The principal heroes and villains of the story were lost to history and buried in mineshafts and unmarked graves, and the particulars of the outcome were primarily recorded on newspapers lost in warehouse fires and floods. Nevertheless, the tragedy struck both as an ideal thread to weave through a series of stories they had been telling each other about a town full of unlucky, lovelorn people. Inspired by the classic rock operas of the 1970's and the golden age of musical theater, they began work on their own.

Wilder and Kardon spent the next several years traveling, each writing and tinkering with songs about their town and sending each other hastily recorded demos and fragments of lyrics. The story of Greenbelt grew and the cast of characters, from robber barons to union men, migrant farmers to crooked ministers, became fleshed out. They enlisted friends from myriad bands: Austin Fisher (Suckers), Haley Dekle (the Dirty Projectors), Ira Wolf Tuton and Christopher Keating (Yeasayer), Ryan Kattner (Man Man), Britt Myers (Chairlift), and Aku Orraca-Tetteh (Dragons of Zynth) to sing the parts of the town's luckless citizens.

In 2008, they put together a core band featuring Ira on bass and Christopher Powell of Man Man on drums and began arranging the songs of Break Line for a full ensemble. With the help of recording wunderkind Britt Myers (Chairlift, Yeasayer, Passing Strange) they finally began putting the music down onto tape, staying up late experimenting with sounds and arrangements.

In the years that followed, the two found moments whenever they could to complete the project. Neither can believe that what started with just the two of them huddled on a cold porch would grow to involve a once-in-a-lifetime cast of collaborators. A decade after its conception, they are proud to present to the public their vision of a classic story of betrayal, pride and lost love.

Welcome to Greenbelt.

Singers: Aku Orraca-Tetteh, Christopher Keating (Yeasayer). Haley Dekly (Dirty Projectors), Quinn Walker, Austin Fisher (Suckers), Ryan Kattner (Man Man), Tanya Houndsley, Cameron Hull, Anand Wilder

Musicians: Ira Wolf Tuton (Yeasayer), James Richardson, Christopher Sean Powell, Jason Trammell (Sinkane), K Ishibashi, Austin Fisher, Steve Marion (Delicate Steve), Lyndon Cordero Lopez, Daniel Schleifer, Charles Christopher Erway, Tanya Houndsley

## SELLING POINTS

- 1. Musical in two acts written and performed by Anand Wilder, singer/songwriter of Yeasayer
- 2. Features Yeasayer members Chris Keating, Ira Wolf Tuton in performance and writing duties
- 3. Limited quantities of 1000 CDs and 2000 LPs, download coupon included in LP purchase



