

SHADOW CATCH

UBC Opera – March 12 and 13, 2022

A contemporary opera giving voice to the complicated, sorrowful, and beautiful history of Oppenheimer Park in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside



A contemporary chamber opera based
on the story of a young runaway
seeking safe haven one night in
Vancouver's Oppenheimer Park.

SHADOW CATCH

Oppenheimer Park, Image courtesy of Space2Place Architecture

q̓əm̓q̓əm̓ələp̓: A place of broadleaf maple trees. [Həŋq̓əmiŋəm̓]

lek̓'lek̓'í: Leaves falling on the ground. [Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh Sníchim]

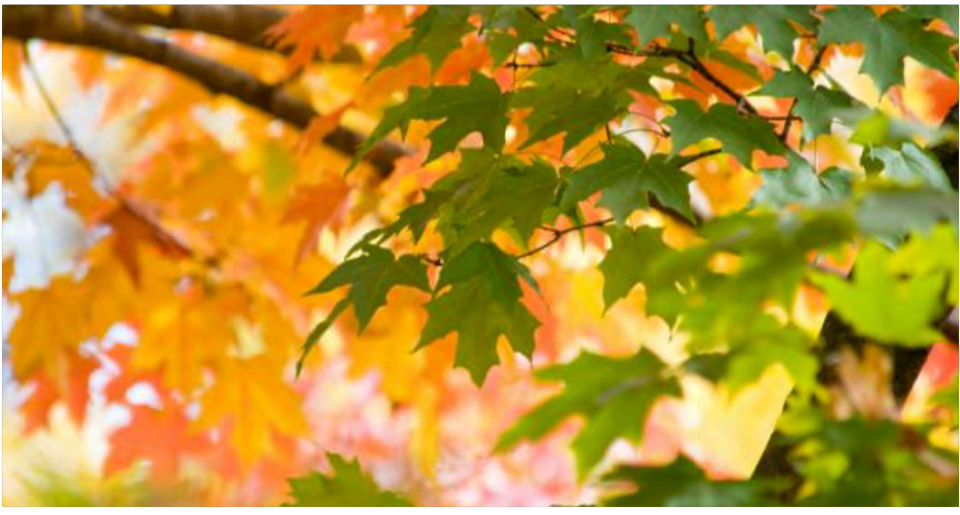
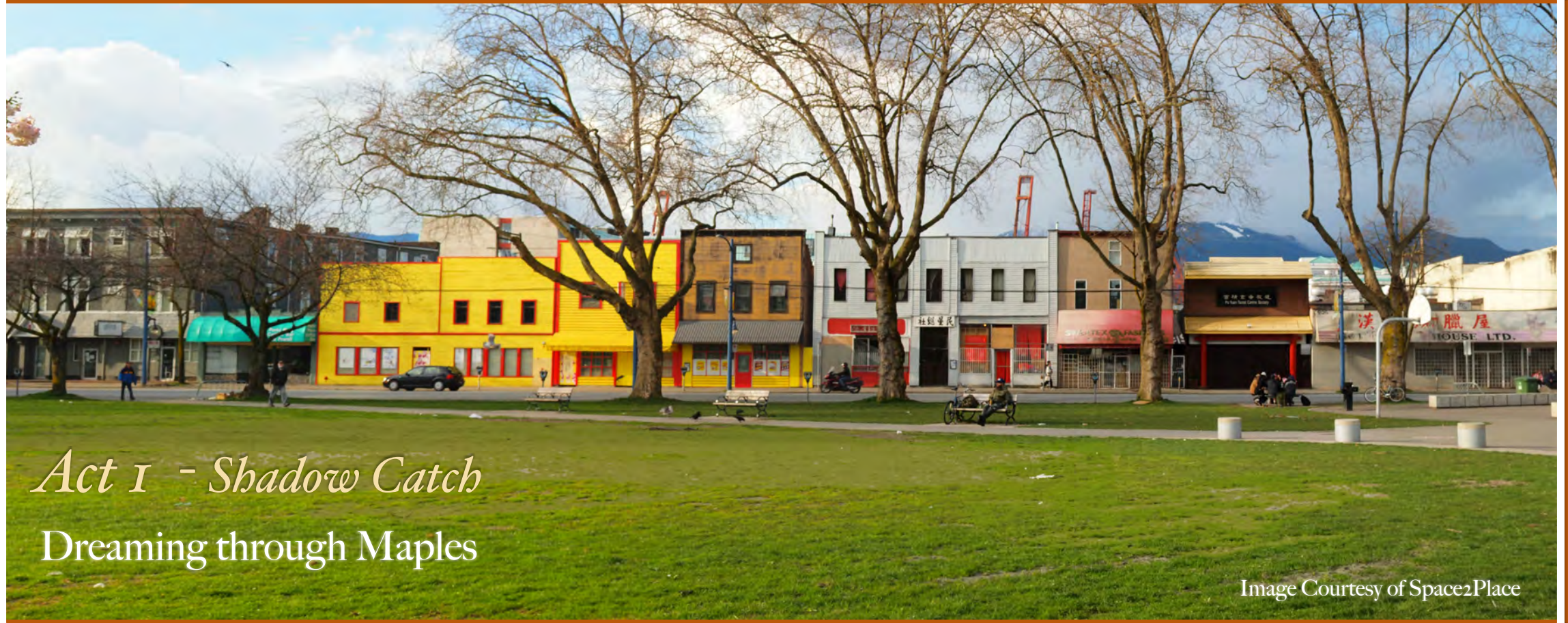


Image courtesy of Space2Place

OPPENHEIMER PARK

THE BACKYARD OF THE DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE,
THE UNCEDED LAND OF THE X^wMəθK^wəYəm̓ (MUSQUEAM), SK̓WX̓WÚ7MESH
(SQUAMISH) AND Səlilwətaʔ (TSLEIL-WAUTUTH) PEOPLES.

A city within a city, Oppenheimer Park is one of Vancouver's oldest park spaces for unhoused peoples. Full of activism and voice, the park has been home to over a century of movements driven by its residents.



Through time immemorial, the maples and the trees of the park gave life, shelter, wellness. The trees experienced the trauma of the park alongside the other residents of the park



Shadow Catch

Act 2

The Asahi Baseball Team

Oppenheimer Park 1914–1941

The **Asahi Baseball Team** (1914-1942) was a team of young Japanese Canadian baseball players.



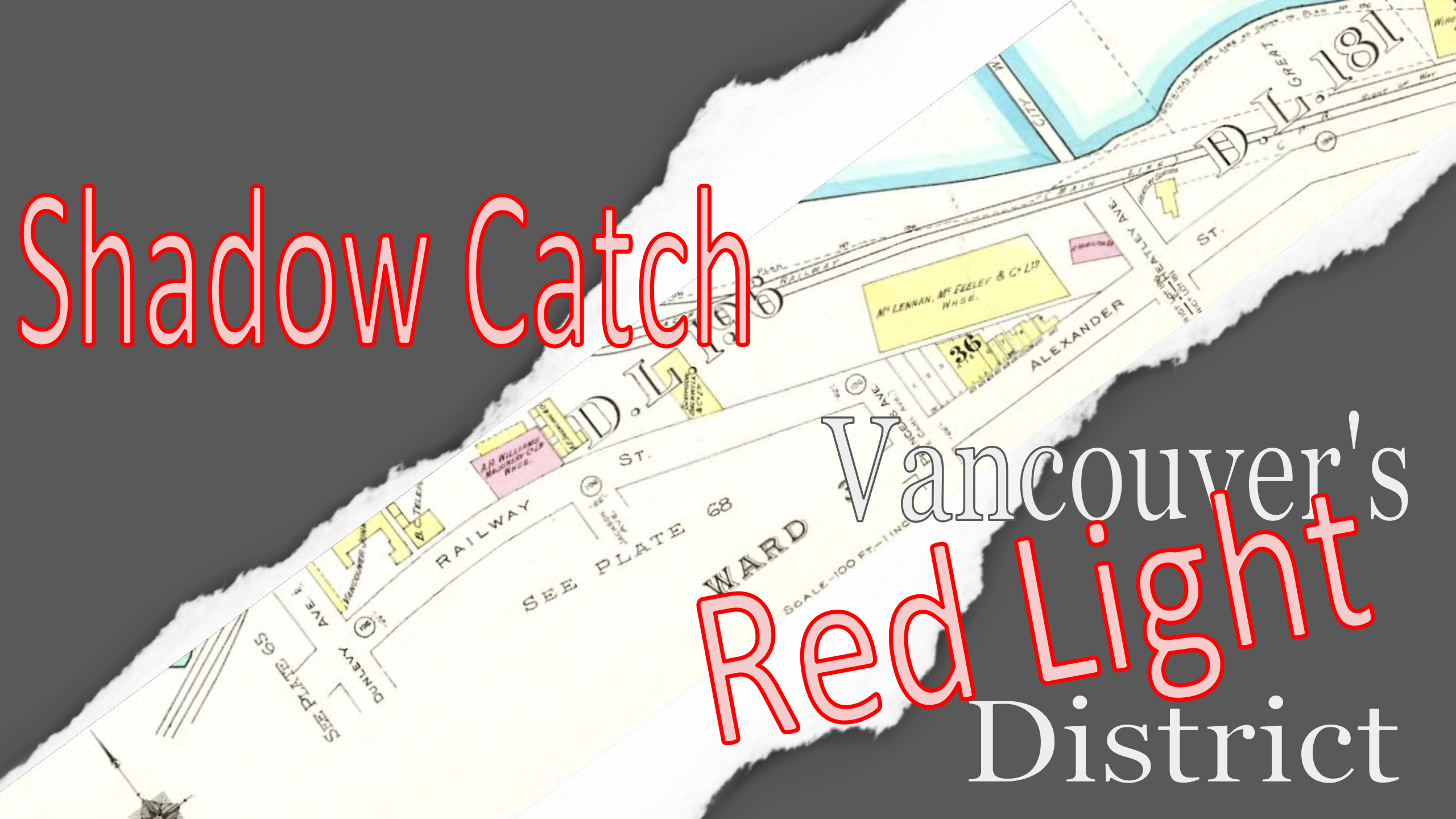
The Asahi Baseball Team at the Powell Street Grounds, May 10, 1920

Between 1919 & 1940, they won 10 city championships.

In 1942, team members were among the 21,000+ Japanese Canadians interned by the **War Measures Act.**

They would never play as a team again.

Shadow Catch

A historical map of Vancouver, British Columbia, showing the area around the waterfront. The map is tilted diagonally. It features a railway line running along the waterfront, with several buildings and streets labeled. Notable labels include 'WARD 68', 'ALEXANDER', 'DUNLEVY AVE.', 'RAILWAY', 'ST.', 'SEE PLATE 65', 'SEE PLATE 68', 'SCALE-100 FT-1 INCH', 'M. L. 181', 'M. L. 182', 'M. L. 183', 'M. L. 184', 'M. L. 185', 'M. L. 186', 'M. L. 187', 'M. L. 188', 'M. L. 189', 'M. L. 190', 'M. L. 191', 'M. L. 192', 'M. L. 193', 'M. L. 194', 'M. L. 195', 'M. L. 196', 'M. L. 197', 'M. L. 198', 'M. L. 199', 'M. L. 200'. The map is color-coded with yellow for buildings and blue for water. The text 'Vancouver's Red Light District' is overlaid on the map in a large, stylized font. 'Vancouver's' is in white, 'Red Light' is in red with a white outline, and 'District' is in white.

Vancouver's
Red Light
District

Act 3

From a brief period in the early 1900s almost all of the buildings and businesses in Vancouver's Red Light District and surrounding area were owned by women

Today, this area contains various, recognized historic buildings, however the former brothels are not part of the heritage register



Series of buildings (formerly used as brothels) on the 600 block of Alexander Street - developed and owned by **Addie C Alter**

A photograph of **Mary Scott** - the Madame running the brothel at 666 Alexander Street



This photograph was taken by the Vancouver Police Department in 1912

SHADOW CATCH

ACT IV

POLICE BRUTALITY AND STRIKE CONTROL

A story about repression, inequality, imperialism, labour strikes, and revolutions that shook the world



SHADOW CATCH AND THE BATTLE OF BALLANTYNE PIER 1935

At Ballantyne Pier, Vancouver, **dockers** went on strike, led by **Ivan Emery**. The **RCMP attacked** the workers, injuring 100 civilians were injured. Constable **Len Cuthbert** of the RCMP later became infamous for his high level of **corruption**. The Policeman in the opera is a larger allegory of **police power and brutality** during the Great Depression.

This project was prepared by:

Students from Modern European Studies at the Department of Central, Eastern, and Northern European Studies and the UBC Witnessing Auschwitz seminar; Lisa Rutloh, Nina Weng, Puloma Kaushal, Macy Richards, Dr. Carlos Halaburda, and Charlotte Gibbs;

And Dr. Tricia Logan, Susan Atkey, Professor Nancy Hermiston, and Dr. Bozena Karwowska;

With support from Demi London and the Gallery Gachet.

Thank you to space2place Architecture, the Department of Central, Eastern, and Northern European Studies, the UBC School of Music, UBC Library, UBC Opera, and UBC Go Global.



UBCOPERA

