



THE ROYAL OPERA

Music Director
SIR ANTONIO PAPPANO
Director of Opera
OLIVER MEARS

RIGOLETTO

OPERA IN THREE ACTS

Music **GIUSEPPE VERDI**
Libretto **FRANCESCO MARIA PIAVE** after Victor Hugo's play *Le Roi s'amuse*

Conductor **ANTONIO PAPPANO**

Director **OLIVER MEARS**
Set designer **SIMON LIMA HOLDSWORTH**
Costume designer **ILONA KARAS**
Lighting designer **FABIANA PICCIOLI**
Movement Director **ANNA MORRISSEY**

ROYAL OPERA CHORUS
Chorus Director **WILLIAM SPAULDING**

ORCHESTRA OF THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE
Principal Guest Concertmaster by arrangement with Trittico
VASKO VASSILEV
Directed for the screen by **PETER JONES**
Production supported by



Season Principal **MRS ALINE FORIEL-DESTEZET**
Position of Music Director Maestro Antonio Pappano
generously supported by **MRS SUSAN A. OLDE OBE**
Generous philanthropic support from **JULIA AND
HANS RAUSING, SANDRA AND ANTHONY GUTMAN,
CHARLES HOLLOWAY, MELINDA AND DONALD QUINTIN,
SIMON AND VIRGINIA ROBERTSON** and
THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE ENDOWMENT FUND

Recorded live at the Royal Opera House on
FRIDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 7.30PM

APPROXIMATE TIMINGS

PRE-SHOW 15 minutes

ACT I 60 minutes

INTERVAL 20 minutes

ACT II 30 minutes

PAUSE 1 minute

ACT III 35 minutes

CURTAIN CALL 10 minutes

LANGUAGE

Sung in Italian with English subtitles

GUIDANCE

Suitable for ages 12+. Contains violence and moderate, implied sexual activity. Act III features flash lighting.

CAST

Duke of Mantua **LIPARIT AVETISYAN**
Borsa **EGOR ZHURAVSKII***
Count Ceprano **BLAISE MALABA***
Countess Ceprano **AMANDA BALDWIN**
Rigoletto **CARLOS ÁLVAREZ**
Marullo **DOMINIC SEDGWICK**
Count Monterone **ERIC GREENE**
Sparafucile **BRINDLEY SHERRATT**
Gilda **LISETTE OROPESA**
Giovanna **KSENIIA NIKOLAIEVA***
Page **LOUISE ARMIT**
Court Usher **NIGEL CLIFFE**
Maddalena **RAMONA ZAHARIA**
Noblemen, Ladies, Pages, Halberdiers
ROYAL OPERA CHORUS
Monterone's Daughter **SABINA ARTHUR**
Actors **FERNANDO MARIANO, SULEIMAN SULEIMAN**
and **ANDREW LEISHMAN**
Dancers **JESSAMIN LANDAMORE, HAYLEY CHILVERS,
KEIKO HEWITT-TEALE, SARAH HIRSCH, JESSIE NG,
AIMEE DULAKE** and **SOLEDAD DE LA HOZ**
*Kseniia Nikolaieva, Egor Zhuravskii and Blaise Malaba are
members of the Jette Parker Young Artists Programme



Supported using public funding by
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LOTTERY FUNDED

SYNOPSIS

ACT I

The Duke of Mantua is a serial womaniser. At a palace party, not content with the married Countess Ceprano, the Duke reveals he is also infatuated with a mysterious woman he has seen in church. The jester Rigoletto jokes that the Duke should have the Countess's husband murdered. Count Ceprano vows to kidnap Rigoletto's lover as punishment. The elderly nobleman Monterone confronts the Duke about his seduction of his daughter. Rigoletto taunts him and the old man curses the Duke and the jester.

Rigoletto's so-called 'lover' is in fact his daughter, Gilda, whom he keeps under lock and key at home. She has secretly fallen in love with the disguised Duke of Mantua. Rigoletto is tricked into facilitating the abduction of his daughter by Count Ceprano. When he realises his daughter is gone, Rigoletto fears the power of Monterone's curse.

INTERVAL

ACT II

The Duke returned to see Gilda but the house was empty. Now back in his palace, he curses whoever has robbed him of his prize. His courtiers rush in to tell him about their exploits of the previous night. The Duke guesses that Rigoletto's 'mistress' and daughter are the same person. He goes to find Gilda.

Back at the Duke's mansion, Rigoletto is dismayed to learn that Gilda has been delivered into the Duke's clutches. Monterone is sent to prison, and Rigoletto swears revenge on the Duke.

PAUSE

ACT III

A month has passed. Rigoletto has hired an assassin, Sparafucile, to murder the Duke. Sparafucile's sister, Maddalena, acts as bait, luring him to their home. Rigoletto forces Gilda to witness the Duke seducing Maddalena. Gilda is heartbroken.

Maddalena falls for the Duke and begs her brother to kill Rigoletto instead. Gilda overhears Sparafucile's alternative plan – to stab the next traveller who knocks at their door – and sacrifices herself. When Rigoletto discovers his dying daughter, he is haunted by Monterone's curse.

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Music preparation **PAUL WYNNE GRIFFITHS, MICHAEL PAPADOPOULOS***, **MICHAEL SIKICH*** and **PATRICK MILNE**

Assistant Directors **MATHILDA DU TILLIEUL MCNICOL** and **DANIELLE URBAS**

Fight Director **KEV MCCURDY**

Language coach **MARIA CLEVA**

Surtitled translation **KENNETH CHALMERS**

Surtitler **ANDREW KINGSMILL**

Opera Stage Management **SIMON CATCHPOLE, SARAH WALING, JONATHAN HARDEN** and **ANNABEL BUTLER**

Production Manager **SARAH O'CONNOR**

Model Room Draughtsperson **FLORENCE HAZARD**

Costume Production Manager **VICTORIA JAMES**

Assistant Costume Production Manager **CAROLINA JOBB**

*Members of the Jette Parker Young Artists Programme

THE ROYAL OPERA

Patron **HRH THE PRINCE OF WALES**

Music Director **SIR ANTONIO PAPPANO**

Director of Opera **OLIVER MEARS**

Director of Casting **PETER MARIO KATONA**

Administrative Director **CORMAC SIMMS**