

December 2009

LA BOHÈME: ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE?

This February, Scottish Opera presents one of the world's most loved operas.

Transporting Puccini's epic romantic tragedy from the café society of 19th Century Paris to the art society of 21st century New York, Tony award-winning director and designer Stewart Laing gives us the modern equivalents of Mimi, Rodolfo and friends.

Credit-rich but cash-poor, the friends and lovers are unsuccessful artists struggling on the fringe of the new centre of the art world - New York. Trying desperately to scrape a living, they stubbornly cling to their dreams of love and success.

Based on his own experience of living in the vibrant artist colony of Williamsburg, New York, Laing's vision of Puccini's magnificent opera captures the work's contemporary relevance and comments on the *faux riche* nature of society today.

Irish soprano Celine Byrne makes her UK début as Mimi, while French tenor Avi Klemberg and Christian Sist make their respective Scottish Opera débuts as Rodolfo and Colline. Scottish Opera Emerging Artist Nadine Livingston - fresh from her title role in Janáček's *Káťa Kabanová* - takes on her first principal role on the main-stage as Musetta. Benjamin Bevan (Marcello), Julian Hubbard (Schaunard) and Adrian Powter (Alcindoro/Benoît) all make welcome returns to Scottish Opera.

Dramatic, touching and highly evocative, Puccini's sublime music needs no introduction and is played by The Orchestra of Scottish Opera under Music Director and conductor Francesco Corti.

The production – popular with audiences and acclaimed by critics - was first performed in 2004.

La bohème is sung in Italian with English supertitles.

Opening Night: Sat 27 February, Theatre Royal Glasgow

CAST

PRODUCTION TEAM

Mimi	Celine Byrne	Conductor	Francesco Corti
Rodolfo	Avi Klemberg	Director/Designer	Stewart Laing

Marcello	Benjamin Bevan	Associate Costume Designer	Theo Clinkard
Colline	Christian Sist	Movement Director	Ian Spink
Schaunard	Julian Hubbard	Lighting	Heather Carson
Musetta	Nadine Livingston	Fight Director	Alison de Burgh
Alcindoro/Benoît	Adrian Powter		

PERFORMANCE DATES

Theatre Royal Glasgow

Sat 27 Feb, 7.15pm; Wed 3, Sat 6, & Thu 11 Mar 7.15pm

Sat 13 March, 2.15pm **++

La bohème Unwrapped, Tue 2 Mar, 6pm

Box Office: 0844 8717647

www.theatreroyalglasgow.com

Festival Theatre Edinburgh

Sun 18 Apr 4pm

Tue 20, Thu 22 & Sat 24 Apr, 7.15pm*+

La bohème Unwrapped, Mon 19 Apr, 6pm

Box Office: 0131 529 6000

www.eft.co.uk

His Majesty's Theatre, Aberdeen

Thu 29 Apr 7.30pm

Sat 1 May, 7.30pm *+

La bohème Unwrapped, Fri 30 Apr, 6pm

Box Office: 01224 641122

www.boxofficeaberdeen.com

Eden Court, Inverness

Thu 6 & Sat 8 May*+, 7.15pm

La bohème Unwrapped, Fri 7 May, 6pm

Box Office 01463 234234

www.eden-court.co.uk

Grand Opera House, Belfast

Thu 10 & Sat 12 June++, 7.15pm

La bohème Unwrapped, Fri 11 June, 6pm

Box Office 028 9024 1919

www.goh.co.uk

Running time - approximately 2 hours and 20 minutes

*Audio Described Performance/ Touch Tour 6pm ** 1pm

++Pre-show Talk 6pm + 1pm

-ENDS-

www.scottishopera.org.uk

For additional press details please contact:

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Notes to Editor:

1. Scottish Opera is core funded by The Scottish Government.
3. Belfast performances of *La bohème* are supported by the Cross Border Touring fund. The Cross Border Touring fund was established in 2001 as a joint initiative of the four UK arts councils to support the touring of our large scale dance, theatre and opera companies throughout the UK and enabling audiences to experience their excellent artistic work. For audiences in Northern Ireland, without its own opera company, this visit by Scottish Opera will be an excellent opportunity to see high quality opera.



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