

28 March 2011

INNOCENCE, FATE, VENGEANCE... *RIGOLETTO* HAS IT ALL

Scottish Opera completes its 2010/11 season in style with Verdi's operatic blockbuster, *Rigoletto*.

With a strong principal cast supported by a male chorus of 23, 63 musicians and massively popular arias like *La donna è mobile* and *Caro nome*, this new production of Verdi's epic tragedy will open at the Theatre Royal Glasgow on Wednesday 11 May.

Rigoletto is one of the most performed operas in the world, and with good reason. It is a powerful tale of innocence lost, vengeance found and the inevitability of fate – brought to life through a gripping combination of dark theatricality and sublime music.

Baritone Eddie Wade makes his *début* in the title role; with Edgaras Montvidas returning to Scottish Opera as The Duke after charming audiences and critics in 2009's *The Elixir of Love*; and Scottish Opera Emerging Artist Nadine Livingston – who has consistently won rave reviews in her principal roles for the company over the past 18 months – as Gilda.

Tobias Ringborg, familiar to Scottish audiences from the Company's production of *Così fan tutte* in 2009, conducts while Matthew Richardson – responsible for bringing Zoe Strachan and Nick Fells' *Sublimation*, as well as Ron Butlin and Lyell Cresswell's *The Money Man* to the stage in the Company's *Five:15 Operas Made in Scotland* in 2010 – directs.

The Company is also giving a special performance of *Rigoletto* for **readers of The Scottish Sun on Monday 9 May**. This will be the second year of the hugely successful audience development initiative, which saw a packed Theatre Royal for the first performance of Puccini's *La bohème* last February, with the majority of attendees having never been to a Scottish Opera performance before.

Join Scottish Opera for ***Rigoletto Unwrapped*** – an hour long, free introduction to opera – on Friday 13 May (Theatre Royal Glasgow) and Wednesday 25 May (Edinburgh Festival Theatre). Presented on an alternative night to performances, *Unwrapped* gives new audiences and interested opera attendees a fascinating chance to get a glimpse into each new production with singers and The Orchestra of Scottish Opera.

Alongside this, the Company is also touring a free, 20-minute, pocket sized take on the full scale production to public and private venues in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Inverness. ***A Little Bit of Rigoletto*** unfolds with a series of colourful illustrations and is brought to life by a storyteller, a singer and two musicians. Venue and performance information will be available from www.scottishopera.org.uk.

Rigoletto is sung in Italian with English supertitles.

Opening Night: Wednesday 11 May, Theatre Royal Glasgow

CAST & PRODUCTION TEAM

Rigoletto	Eddie Wade	Conductor	Tobias Ringborg Derek Clark (4 Jun)
Gilda	Nadine Livingston (10/11 Emerging Artist)		
Duke of Mantua	Edgaras Montvidas	Director	Matthew Richardson
Sparafucile	Gregory Frank	Designer	Jon Morrell
Maddalena	Louise Collett	Lighting Designer	Tony Rabbit

PERFORMANCE DETAILS

Theatre Royal Glasgow

Wed 11 May, Wed 18 May† & Sat 21 May, 7.15pm
Sun 15 May 4pm
Rigoletto Unwrapped Fri 13 May 6pm

Festival Theatre Edinburgh

Tue 24 May, Thu 26 May & Sat 28 May*† 7.15pm
Rigoletto Unwrapped Wed 25 May 6pm

His Majesty's Theatre Aberdeen

Thu 2 Jun & Sat 4 Jun*† 7.30pm
Rigoletto Unwrapped Fri 3 Jun 6pm

Eden Court Inverness

Thu 9 Jun & Sat 11 Jun 7.15pm*†
Rigoletto Unwrapped Fri 10 Jun 6pm

Running time approximately 2 hrs 40 Mins

*Pre-show talk

†Audio-described performance/TouchTour

-ENDS-

www.scottishopera.org.uk

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