

21 November 2017

JONATHAN DOVE'S *FLIGHT* RECEIVES ITS SCOTTISH OPERA PREMIERE

Jonathan Dove's hugely popular comedy opera *Flight* receives its Scottish professional premiere in February 2018, with performances in Glasgow and Edinburgh. Based on the true story of a refugee who was stranded for 18 years at Paris' Charles de Gaulle Airport, *Flight* tells the tale of a group of total strangers stuck in an airport during an electrical storm. Thrown together, their lives and relationships soon start to unravel; passengers and crew are forced to take stock of their turbulent lives.

Director **Stephen Barlow** and his creative team will reimagine their production, which originated at Investec Opera Holland Park, for the Scottish stage.

Funny and accessible, *Flight* has become one of the most popular and most performed British operas in recent years. Dove's vividly inventive score channels a wide range of influences into his own distinctive style – from the fast-paced brilliance of Rossini, to Mozart, Ravel and Bernstein.

Music Director **Stuart Stratford** conducts a superb ensemble cast including former Scottish Opera Emerging Artist **Jennifer France** (*Ariodante* 2016) as the Controller, **James Laing** as the Refugee and **Victoria Simmonds** as Minskwoman, all reprising their highly-praised roles in the Investec Opera Holland Park production.

Former Scottish Opera Emerging Artist **Sioned Gwen Davies** (*The Mikado* 2016), who represented Wales at BBC Cardiff Singer of the World this year, will play the Stewardess, joined by **Jonathan McGovern** as the Steward and **Stephen Gadd** (*La traviata* 2017) as Minskman. **Peter Auty** (*Le villi* 2017) as Bill, **Stephanie Corley** (*Inés de Castro* 2015) as Tina, **Dingle Yandell** as the Immigration Officer and **Marie McLaughlin** (*The Marriage of Figaro* 2016) as the Older Woman complete the cast of British talent.

Jonathan Dove said: 'When I was starting out as a composer, modern operas were never funny. In fact, laughter pretty much deserted opera for the whole of the 20th century! As an admirer of Mozart and Rossini, I wanted to redress the balance.

'In the twenty years since it was first performed, *Flight* hasn't got less funny, but its darker aspect has become, if anything, more topical. We have become more sensitised to the plight of refugees. Stephen Barlow's beautiful production has a perfect balance of the dark and the light, and is also very moving.'

Stephen Barlow said: '*Flight* is that most rare bird – a modern opera that tingles with melody and optimism from the get-go and reminds us that, although turbulence inevitably lies ahead, ultimately the future is shining.'

Audiences also have the chance to attend *Flight Unwrapped*, a one-hour taster delving further in to the show and how it was created. Those who are visually impaired can enjoy the full opera experience at audio-described performances, which have live commentary that describes the action on stage without compromising the music.

This production is supported by the Dunard Fund.

Cast List

Refugee	James Laing
Controller	Jennifer France
Bill	Peter Auty
Tina	Stephanie Corley
Older Woman	Marie McLaughlin
Stewardess	Sioned Gwen Davies
Steward	Jonathan McGovern
Minsk man	Stephen Gadd
Minsk woman	Victoria Simmonds
Immigration Officer	Dingle Yandell

Creative Team

Conductor	Stuart Stratford
Director	Stephen Barlow
Set and Costume Designer	Andrew Riley
Lighting Designer	Richard Howell
Projection Designer	Jack Henry James
Choreographer	Sam Spencer Lane

Performance Diary

Theatre Royal Glasgow, 282 Hope Street, Glasgow G2 3QA

Sat 17 Feb, 7.15pm

Wed 21 Feb, 7.15pm

Sat 24 Feb, 7.15pm

Flight Unwrapped

Mon 19 Feb, 6pm

Flight Pre-show Talk

Sat 24 Feb, 6pm

Flight Touch Tour

Sat 24 Feb, 6pm

Flight Audio-described performance

Sat 24 Feb, 7.15pm

Festival Theatre, 13–29 Nicolson Street, Edinburgh EH8 9FT

Thu 1 Mar, 7.15pm

Sat 3 Mar, 7.15pm

Flight Unwrapped

Fri 2 Mar, 6pm

Flight Pre-show Talk

Sat 3 Mar, 6pm

Flight Touch Tour

Sat 3 Mar, 6pm

Flight Audio-described performance

Sat 3 Mar, 7.15pm

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www.scottishopera.org.uk

Notes to Editors

Scottish Opera is Scotland's national opera company and the largest performing arts organisation in Scotland. It was founded by Alexander Gibson in 1962 and was inaugurated with a production of *Madama Butterfly* at the King's Theatre in Glasgow.

Notable achievements include the world premiere of James MacMillan's *Inés de Castro* at the 1996 Edinburgh International Festival and complete Ring cycles at the 2003 Edinburgh International Festival, which won the 2004 South Bank Show Award for Best Opera Production. Recent commissions include

Five:15 Operas Made in Scotland (2008-10); *The Lady from the Sea*, *Clemency*, the double bill of *In the Locked Room* and *Ghost Patrol* (winner of a South Bank Sky Arts Award) which premiered at the 2012 Edinburgh International Festival and 2016's *The Devil Inside* by Stuart MacRae and Louise Welsh.

Scottish Opera is committed to bringing the widest possible range of opera, performed to the highest possible standards, to the maximum audience throughout Scotland and the UK. Each year it performs in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Inverness, as well as smaller theatres, village halls and community centres throughout the country.

Scottish Opera's Education and Outreach Department was the first of its kind of any opera company in Europe. It operates an extensive programme which involves over 8,000 primary school children every year, as well as many other activities including adult learning and *Unwrapped* taster sessions.

Scottish Opera is supported by the Scottish Government.



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