

6 November 2017

EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL HIT *GREEK* COMES TO GLASGOW

Greek, the modern re-telling of the Oedipus myth by **Mark-Anthony Turnage**, is coming to Glasgow on February 2 and 3, following a critically acclaimed run at Edinburgh International Festival in August.

Based on the play by **Steven Berkoff**, this co-production with Opera Ventures, directed by Young Vic Artistic Associate **Joe Hill-Gibbins** is revived by **Daisy Evans**, and designed by **Johannes Schütz**.

Conducted by **Finnegan Downie Dear**, Emerging Artist **Alex Otterburn** (*La traviata* 2017), winner of an International Opera Award bursary, reprises the role of Eddy and is joined by a wealth of British talent: **Susan Bullock**, **Allison Cook** and **Henry Waddington**.

Turnage's anarchic, provocative opera exposes the seedy world of Eddy and his family. Stuck in a rut, Eddy longs for more, so when he is told of a prophecy that he will kill his father and bed his mother he is appalled, leaving home to seek a different life. But can he escape the plague that is coming, or is he, in fact, the source?

Joe Hill-Gibbins said: 'I love Greek. It's punky and irreverent, but beautiful and lyrical too. And it has an amazing contemporary resonance. Its air of discontent – of a black cloud hanging over society – really chimes with us today.'

Alex Otterburn said: 'The role of Eddy is a dream come true. He goes through a lot at a young age, and it's very traumatic, so you have a huge range of emotions to work with when playing him. Plus I get to wear a bright red tracksuit and trainers for most of the show! I can't wait to play him again. Performing *Greek* at the

opening weekend of Edinburgh International Festival felt surreal; a couple of months before I was still in college! I feel incredibly fortunate to have made my UK debut singing Eddy.'

Those who are visually impaired can enjoy the full opera experience at an audio-described performance of *Greek* on February 3, which has live commentary that describes the action on stage without compromising the music, as well as a free Touch Tour of the set, costumes and props before the show.

Cast List

Eddy	Alex Otterburn*
Eddy's Mum/Waitress/Sphinx	Susan Bullock
Eddy's Sister/Waitress later Eddy's Wife/Sphinx	Allison Cook
Eddy's Dad/Café Manager/Chief of Police	Henry Waddington

*Scottish Opera Emerging Artist

Creative Team

Conductor	Finnegan Downie Dear
Original Director	Joe Hill-Gibbins
Revival Director	Daisy Evans
Set Designer	Johannes Schütz
Costume Designer	Alex Lowde
Lighting Designer	Matthew Richardson
Video Designer	Dick Straker
Movement Director	Jenny Ogilvie
Dramaturg	Caroline Steinbeis

Performance Diary

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

Fri 2 Feb, 7.15pm

Sat 3 Feb, 7.15pm

Events for those with visual impairment

Greek, Touch Tour

Sat 3 Feb, 6pm

Greek, Audio-described performance

Sat 3 Feb, 7.15pm

-ENDS-

Notes to Editors

Scottish Opera

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.



Opera Ventures

Opera Ventures is a transformational new charity founded by John Berry CBE to develop major new opera and mixed-media projects in partnership with arts organisations world-wide. It works with leading directors and designers to produce exciting contemporary work, reaching out to new audiences through an affordable ticketing structure and by creating projects that cross the boundaries of music, theatre, film and the visual arts.

Opera Ventures is taking a leading role in encouraging arts organisations to work together and share resources to create original work. The charity funds each project through philanthropic gifts, and secures significant fixed-cost resources from its collaborating partners.

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