

3 September 2018

VERDI'S *RIGOLETTO* OPENS SCOTTISH OPERA'S NEW SEASON

Scottish Opera's 2018/19 Season begins in October with Giuseppe Verdi's *Rigoletto*, a revival of the 2011 production by award-winning director **Matthew Richardson** and designer **Jon Morrell**.

Opening at Theatre Royal Glasgow on October 18, the production tours to Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Inverness. This tragic tale of seduction and revenge, set in a dark and dangerous underworld where cruelty is rife and women are treated as playthings, tells the story of Rigoletto's suffocating love for his daughter, Gilda.

Verdi's 1851 masterpiece, which premiered at La Fenice in Venice, is packed with some of the best-loved music in opera, including the moving Act III quartet and 'La donna è mobile', in which the libertine Duke of Mantua sings of his casual disregard for women.

Rumon Gamba conducts a talented cast including internationally-acclaimed baritone **Aris Argiris** as Rigoletto; **Lina Johnson**, who garnered praise for her Gilda in Trieste in 2016; **Adam Smith**, the award-winning British tenor and recent Jette Parker Young Artist programme graduate **David Shipley**. Former Scottish Opera Emerging Artist **Sioned Gwen Davies** (*Eugene Onegin* 2018) sings the role of Maddalena; **Stephen Gadd** (*Flight* 2018) is Count Monterone and **Dingle Yandell** is Count Ceprano. They are joined by Scottish Opera Emerging Artists **Alexey Gusev** (*Eugene Onegin* 2018), **Lucy Anderson** and **Bethan Langford**.

Matthew Richardson, who directed 2016's critically-acclaimed *The Devil Inside*, will also direct Scottish Opera's newly commissioned work *Anthropocene* by composer **Stuart MacRae** and librettist **Louise Welsh**, which has its world premiere next January. Joining Matthew's creative team for *Rigoletto* are

Robert B. Dickson, who will revive the original lighting designs by **Tony Rabbit**, and Choreographer **Kally-Lloyd Jones** (*Grace Notes* 2018).

Matthew Richardson said: '*Rigoletto* is one of Verdi's most vivid and exciting operas. It moves at a fast pace and this production aims to bring out the helter-skelter of its emotional highs and lows. I'm looking forward to spending time with it again and with our great cast.'

Alex Reedijk, Scottish Opera General Director added: '*Rigoletto* is a fascinating, high theatrical, musically thrilling and, ultimately, deeply moving opera which, in the hands of Matthew Richardson, Rumon Gamba and our marvellous cast, will be a superb night at the theatre.'

Those who wish to discover more about how the production was created can attend *Rigoletto* Unwrapped, one-hour tasters delving further into the show, as well as Pre-show Talks. Audience members with a visual impairment can enjoy the full opera experience at audio-described performances, which have a live commentary describing the action on stage without compromising the music.

Cast List

Rigoletto	Aris Argiris
Gilda	Lina Johnson
Duke of Mantua	Adam Smith
Sparafucile	David Shipley
Maddalena	Sioned Gwen Davies
Count Monterone	Stephen Gadd
Borsa	Aled Hall
Marullo	Alexey Gusev*
Count Ceprano	Dingle Yandell
Countess Ceprano	Lucy Anderson*
Giovanna	Bethan Langford*

*Scottish Opera Emerging Artist 2018/19

Creative Team

Conductor	Rumon Gamba & Derek Clark (17 & 20 Nov)
Director	Matthew Richardson
Set and Costume Designer	Jon Morrell
Original Lighting Designer	Tony Rabbit
Revival Lighting	Robert B. Dickson
Choreographer	Kally-Lloyd-Jones

Performance Diary

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

Thu 18 Oct, 7.15pm

Sun 21 Oct, 3pm

Wed 24 Oct, 7.15pm

Sat 27 Oct, 7.15pm

Rigoletto Unwrapped

Mon 22 Oct, 6pm

Rigoletto Pre-show Talk

Sat 27 Oct, 6pm

Rigoletto Touch Tour

Sat 27 Oct, 6pm

Rigoletto Audio-described performance

Sat 27 Oct, 7.15pm

His Majesty's Theatre, Rosemount Viaduct, Aberdeen AB25 1GL

Thu 1 Nov, 7.15pm

Sat 3 Nov, 7.15pm

Rigoletto Unwrapped

Fri 2 Nov, 6pm

Rigoletto Pre-show Talk

Sat 3 Nov, 6pm

Rigoletto Touch Tour

Sat 3 Nov, 6pm

Rigoletto Audio-described performance

Sat 3 Nov, 7.15pm

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

Fri 9 Nov, 7.15pm

Sun 11 Nov, 3pm

Thu 15 Nov, 7.15pm

Sat 17 Nov, 7.15pm

Rigoletto Unwrapped

Mon 12 Nov, 6pm

Rigoletto Pre-show Talk

Sat 17 Nov, 6pm

Rigoletto Touch Tour

Sun 11 Nov, 1.45pm

Rigoletto Audio-described performance

Sun 11 Nov, 3pm

Eden Court, Bishops Road, Inverness IV3 5SA

Tue 20 Nov, 7.15pm

Thu 22 Nov, 7.15pm

Sat 24 Nov, 7.15pm

Rigoletto Unwrapped

Wed 21 Nov, 6pm

Rigoletto Pre-show Talk

Sat 24 Nov, 6pm

Rigoletto Touch Tour

Sat 24 Nov, 6pm

Rigoletto Audio-described performance

Sat 24 Nov, 7.15pm

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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; complete Ring cycles at the 2003 Edinburgh International Festival, which won the 2004 South Bank Show Award for Best Opera Production; and the Achievement in Opera Award at the 2017 UK Theatre Awards for Sir David McVicar's production of Debussy's *Pelléas and Mélisande*. 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.



For additional press details please contact:

Emily Henderson, Press Manager, 0141 242 0511, emily.henderson@scottishopera.org.uk

Daisy Bartlett, Press Officer, 0141 242 0552, daisy.bartlett@scottishopera.org.uk