



ROYAL
OPERA
HOUSE

RIGOLETTO

Giuseppe Verdi | Opera in three acts
Sung in Italian | Running time: 2 hours 13 minutes (excluding intervals)

LIVE CINEMA RELAY TUESDAY 17 APRIL 2012

In *Rigoletto*, Verdi charts the fate of his larger-than-life characters – the tormented jester trying to avenge himself on his heartless playboy employer the Duke of Mantua, who has carelessly seduced Rigoletto’s innocent daughter Gilda – in music of immense theatrical punch and instant memorability. Based on Victor Hugo’s controversial play, *Le Roi s’amuse*, Verdi’s 1851 tragedy caused one of his many rows with the censors before its Venetian premiere. Following a few minor compromises, the work triumphed locally, then internationally. The score’s most celebrated highlights – the Duke’s ‘Questa o quella’ and ‘La donna e mobile’, Gilda’s ‘Caro nome’, and the famous quartet (which Hugo believed actually improved on his play at that point in the action) – are among the best known set-pieces in all opera. First seen in 2001, David McVicar’s production teems with life and colour and, with Tanya McCallin’s period costumes and Michael Vale’s starkly effective sets, it provides an ideal frame for Verdi’s exploration of love, emotional betrayal and the darkest revenge.

Rigoletto
Gilda
Duke of Mantua
Matteo Borsa
Count Ceprano
Countess Ceprano

Dimitri Platanias
Ekaterina Siurina
Vittorio Grigolo
Pablo Bensch
Jihoon Kim
Louise Armit

Marullo
Count Monterone
Giovanna
Page
Court Usher
Maddalena

ZhengZhong Zhou
Gianfranco Montesor
Elizabeth Sikora
Andrea Hazell
Nigel Cliffe
Christine Rice

Royal Opera Chorus
Orchestra of the Royal Opera House

Conductor
Stage Director

John Eliot Gardiner
David McVicar

Set design
Costume designs

Michael Vale
Tanya McCallin



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