



©Photo: M. Magliocca - Opéra national de Paris

# Falstaff

GIUSEPPE VERDI

OPERA 2013

HDTV

Commedia lirica in three acts

Music by Giuseppe Verdi

Libretto by Arrigo Boito

after *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and

scenes from *Henri IV* by William Shakespeare

**FILMED AT** Opéra national de Paris

**IN** March 2013

**TV DIRECTOR** Philippe Beziat

**RUNNING TIME** 1 x 123'

# Falstaff

## ARTISTIC INFORMATION

### DESCRIPTION

“For forty years I have wanted to write a comic opera”. When Verdi wrote these words in 1890, he had already bid farewell to the stage not once but twice, with *Aida* and with *Otello*. Fifty years earlier, he had tried his hand at opera buffa with *Un Giorno de Regno*. The piece was a flop and, since his wife died during its composition, the failure left him highly embittered. Was it the desire to ward off the ill fortune that appeared in so many of his operas that made him take up his pen again one last time? Or was it the shadow of Shakespeare? Or perhaps the libretto written by the talented Boito, inspired by *Henry IV* and *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, overcame his reluctance? “I am having fun...” Verdi repeated continually when composing *Falstaff*. The composer views the escapades of the old penniless and pot-bellied knight, who wants to deceive the wives and ends up routed, in a dirty washing basket and tossed into the river Thames, with the clear-sighted, distant and mischievous gaze we recognise from his later photographs. At the age of eighty, his composing was leisurely and liberated from the rules. Arias, duets and ensembles merge together in the same musical movement, continuous and boisterous, making *Falstaff* an unsurpassed operatic comedy that, a century later, continues to give us the gift of joyous laughter.

### PERFORMERS

Ambrogio Maestri ..... *Sir John Falstaff*  
Artur Rucinski ..... *Ford*  
Paolo Fanale ..... *Fenton*  
Raúl Giménez ..... *Dottore Cajus*  
Bruno Lazzaretti ..... *Bardolfo*  
Mario Luperi ..... *Pistola*  
Svetla Vassileva ..... *Mrs Alice Ford*  
Elena Tsallagova ..... *Nannetta*  
Marie-Nicole Lemieux ..... *Mrs Quickly*  
Gaëlle Arquez ..... *Mrs Meg Page*  
Paris Opera Orchestra and Chorus

### ARTISTIC STAFF

**Musical conductor** Daniel Oren |  
**Stage director** Dominique Pitoiset | **Set** Alexandre Beliaev |  
**Costumes** Elena Rivkina | **Lighting** Philippe Albaric |  
**Chorus master** Patrick Marie Aubert |

**LANGUAGE VO** Italian | **LANGUAGES / ST** English, French |

## PRODUCTION

**PRODUCTION COMPANIES** Opéra de Paris Production, CinéTévé,  
in association with France Télévisions and the support of the CNC |

## DISTRIBUTION

**DISTRIBUTION COMPANY** Telmondis Distribution | 7, Rue du Dôme |  
F – 92100 Boulogne Billancourt | Tel/Fax: + 33 1 40 74 76 20 / 09 |  
**VIDEO FORMAT** HDCAM, Digibeta 16/9 |

[www.telmondis.fr](http://www.telmondis.fr)

**telmondis**  
DISTRIBUTION