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La Fanciulla del West

OPERA IN THREE ACTS BY GIACOMO PUCCINI

OPERA 2013

HDTV

Libretto: Guelfo Civinini and Carlo Zangarini
based on David Belasco's play *The Girl of the Golden West* | **Musical direction:** Carlo Rizzi
Staging: Nikolaus Lehnhoff | **Original Production:** Dutch National Opera, Amsterdam

FILMED AT Opéra national de Paris
IN February 2014
TV DIRECTOR: Andy Sommer
RUNNING TIME: 1x130'



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ARTISTIC INFORMATION

SYNOPSIS

“In those strange days, people coming from God knows where, joined forces in that far Western land, and, according to the rude custom of the camp, their very names were soon lost and unrecorded, and here they struggled, laughed, gambled, cursed, killed, loved and worked out their strange destinies in a manner incredible to us of today. Of one thing only are we sure – they lived!”

Puccini prefaced his score with this quotation and, indeed, it is life itself that he aimed to capture, in a trail that would lead him to Paris in *La Bohème*, to Japan in *Madama Butterfly* and then as far as the Far West in a tale of passion, certainly, but also of humanity, brotherhood and compassion.

In a saloon bar known as The Polka, gold diggers brood over mothers left behind in Italy whilst Minnie, behind the bar, reads to them from the Bible. Love will come to Minnie in the guise of a criminal but, seeing beyond mere appearances, she will recognise the true heart beneath the rough exterior and realise the possibility of happiness. In the wake of the first literary westerns and as cinema began to exploit the genre, Puccini gave opera its first ever western: a tale of souls stranded at the edge of the world, a tale of laughter and of tears, both exotic and overwhelming. First performed at the Metropolitan Opera of New York in 1910, this genuine masterpiece finally enters the repertoire of the Paris Opera.

Original Production: Dutch National Opera, Amsterdam

PERFORMERS

Nina Stemme *Minnie*
Claudio Sgura *Jack Rance*
Marco Berti *Dick Johnson*
Roman Sadnik *Nick*
Andrea Mastroni *Ashby*
André Heyboer *Sonora*
Emanuele Giannino *Trin*
Roberto Accurso *Sid*
Igor Gnidi *Bello*

Eric Huchet *Harry*
Rodolphe Briand *Joe*
Enrico Marabelli *Happy*
Wenwei Zhang *Larkens*
Ugo Rabec *Billy Jackrabbit*
Anna Pennisi *Wowkle*
Alexandre Duhamel... *Jake Wallace*
Matteo Peirone *José Castro*
Paris Opera Orchestra and Chorus

ARTISTIC STAFF

Musical Direction Carlo Rizzi

Staging Nikolaus Lehnhoff | **Sets** Raimund Bauer | **Costumes** Andrea Schmidt-Futterer | **Lighting** Duane Schuler | **Video** Jonas Gerberding | **Choreography** Denni Sayers | **Chorus master** Patrick Marie Aubert

PRODUCTION

PRODUCTION COMPANIES Opéra national de Paris, CLC, with the participation of France Télévisions and the support of the CNC and of La Fondation Orange

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER Jean-François Boyer, Sabrina Azoulay, Pierre Moitron, Laurent Métivier

DISTRIBUTION

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VIDEO FORMAT HDCAM, Digibeta, stereo sound and dolby 5.1

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