



ROYAL  
OPERA  
HOUSE

THE ROYAL OPERA

MUSIC DIRECTOR SIR ANTONIO PAPPANO  
DIRECTOR OF OPERA OLIVER MEARS

### Approximate timings

Live cinema relay begins at 7.15pm; opera begins at 7.30pm

Act I 60 minutes

#### Interval

Act II 30 minutes

#### Pause

Act III 45 minutes

The performance will end at approximately 10.20pm

Please note that there will be a short pause after Act I scene 1 (please remain seated), and that strobe lighting will be used during Act III.

Tweet your thoughts about tonight's performance before it starts, during the interval or afterwards with **#ROHrigoletto**

This production is available to buy on DVD and Blu-ray  
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### 2017/18 LIVE CINEMA SEASON

**TOSCA** WEDNESDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2018

**THE WINTER'S TALE** WEDNESDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2018

**CARMEN** TUESDAY 6 MARCH 2018

**BERNSTEIN CENTENARY** TUESDAY 27 MARCH 2018

**MACBETH** WEDNESDAY 4 APRIL 2018

**MANON** THURSDAY 3 MAY 2018

**SWAN LAKE** TUESDAY 12 JUNE 2018

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# RIGOLETTO

OPERA IN THREE ACTS

MUSIC **GIUSEPPE VERDI**

LIBRETTO **FRANCESCO MARIA PIAVE** AFTER  
VICTOR HUGO'S PLAY LE ROI S'AMUSE

CONDUCTOR **ALEXANDER JOEL**

DIRECTOR **DAVID MCVICAR**

REVIVAL DIRECTOR **JUSTIN WAY**

SET DESIGNER **MICHAEL VALE**

COSTUME DESIGNER **TANYA MCCALLIN**

LIGHTING DESIGNER **PAULE CONSTABLE**

MOVEMENT DIRECTOR **LEAH HAUSMAN**

REVIVAL MOVEMENT DIRECTOR **JO MEREDITH**

ROYAL OPERA CHORUS

CHORUS DIRECTOR **WILLIAM SPAULDING**

ORCHESTRA OF THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

CO-CONCERT MASTER **SERGEY LEVITIN**

DIRECTED FOR THE SCREEN BY **FRANCESCA KEMP**

LIVE FROM THE  
ROYAL OPERA HOUSE  
TUESDAY 16 JANUARY 2018, 7.15PM

# Synopsis

## Act I

### Scene 1

The Duke of Mantua tells his courtier Borsa that he means to seduce a beautiful young girl he has seen at church. The Duke then flirts with Countess Ceprano, whose husband is mocked by Rigoletto, the court jester. Another courtier, Marullo, tells Ceprano, Borsa and other courtiers that Rigoletto is keeping a mistress. They plot revenge on the vicious jester. Monterone, a nobleman whose daughter has been seduced by the Duke, bursts in. Rigoletto taunts him and the Duke orders Monterone's arrest. Monterone curses both Duke and jester.

### Scene 2

On the way home, Rigoletto meets Sparafucile, a hired assassin, and ascertains where he can find him in future. Alone, he rails at his unhappy fate. Rigoletto's 'mistress' (in fact his daughter Gilda) soon hurries to greet him. She has only recently come to Mantua and wants to know about her family – but Rigoletto will only tell her how much he loved her mother. He refuses to let Gilda go into the city and orders his servant Giovanna to guard her. After he has left, Gilda feels remorse – she has not told her father about the handsome man she met at church. This man (the Duke in disguise) now arrives. He passionately declares his love for Gilda, and tells her that he is a poor student named Gualtier Maldè. After he has left, Gilda exults in her new love. Courtiers enter, planning to abduct 'Rigoletto's mistress'. When Rigoletto returns, they trick him into believing that they are planning to abduct Countess Ceprano, blindfold him and confuse him into helping them break into his house. Rigoletto hears Gilda's cries, and realizes, too late, the courtiers' treachery.

## Act II

The Duke found Gilda's house deserted when he returned, and longs to see her again. When the courtiers tell him of their exploits, he realizes that 'Rigoletto's mistress' is Gilda, and hurries to find her. The courtiers mock Rigoletto as he searches for Gilda; he first responds angrily, then pleads for mercy. Gilda herself soon appears, weeping. Alone with her father, she confesses what has happened with the Duke. Monterone is dragged past on his way to prison. Rigoletto assures him that the Duke will be punished, and vows a terrible revenge.

## Act III

A month later, Rigoletto takes Gilda to Sparafucile's inn. Rigoletto forces Gilda to watch as the Duke, in disguise as a soldier, flirts with Sparafucile's sister Maddalena. He then orders Gilda to go home, dress in boy's clothes and ride to Verona, where he will shortly join her. When Gilda has left, Rigoletto agrees the price of the Duke's murder with Sparafucile (who is unaware of the Duke's identity) and tells him he will collect the body at midnight. After he has gone, Maddalena pleads with Sparafucile to spare the young man. Gilda returns and hears Sparafucile promise that if any traveller comes to their door before midnight he will kill them instead and give Rigoletto their body in the sack. Gilda decides to save the Duke and knocks on the inn door. Sparafucile stabs her. At midnight, Sparafucile duly presents Rigoletto with his heavy sack. Rigoletto gloats and is about to throw the sack into the river when he hears the Duke singing in the distance. He opens the sack to discover the dying Gilda, who begs him to forgive her. She dies, and Rigoletto – recalling the curse of Monterone – collapses.

# Cast

DUKE OF MANTUA	<b>MICHAEL FABIANO</b>
MATTEO BORSA A COURTIER	<b>LUIS GOMES</b>
COUNT CEPRANO A COURTIER	<b>SIMON SHIBAMBU</b>
COUNTESS CEPRANO	<b>JACQUELYN STUCKER</b>
RIGOLETTO COURT JESTER	<b>DIMITRI PLATANIAS</b>
MARULLO COURT POET	<b>DOMINIC SEDGWICK</b>
COUNT MONTERONE	<b>JAMES RUTHERFORD</b>
SPARAFUCILE A PROFESSIONAL ASSASSIN	<b>ANDREA MASTRONI</b>
GILDA RIGOLETTO'S DAUGHTER	<b>LUCY CROWE</b>
GIOVANNA GILDA'S NURSE	<b>KATHLEEN WILKINSON</b>
PAGE	<b>LOUISE ARMIT</b>
COURT USHER	<b>OLLE ZETTERSTRÖM</b>
MADDALENA SPARAFUCILE'S SISTER	<b>NADIA KRASTEVA</b>
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE COURT, SERVANTS	