



ROYAL  
OPERA  
HOUSE

## THE ROYAL OPERA

Music Director  
SIR ANTONIO PAPPANO *cvo*

Director of Opera  
OLIVER MEARS

# CARMEN

## OPÉRA COMIQUE IN FOUR ACTS

Music GEORGES BIZET

Libretto HENRI MEILHAC and LUDOVIC HALÉVY  
after Prosper Mérimée's 1845 novella *Carmen*

Spoken text after MEILHAC, HALÉVY and MÉRIMÉE

Conductor ANTONELLO MANACORDA

Director DAMIANO MICHIELETTO

Set Designer PAOLO FANTIN

Costume Designer CARLA TETI

Lighting Designer ALESSANDRO CARLETTI

Dramaturg ELISA ZANINOTTO

ROYAL OPERA CHORUS

Chorus Director WILLIAM SPAULDING

ORCHESTRA OF THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

Concert Master MAGNUS JOHNSTON

Directed for the screen by PATI MARR

A co-production with  
TEATRO REAL, MADRID and LA SCALA, MILAN

Exceptional philanthropic support from  
Royal Opera House Principals  
JULIA AND HANS RAUSING

Generous philanthropic support from SIR MICK AND  
LADY BARBARA DAVIS, THE FOYLE FOUNDATION,  
DAVID FRANSEN, HUO FAMILY FOUNDATION, MELINDA  
AND DONALD QUINTIN, THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE  
ENDOWMENT FUND and an anonymous donor

The Youth Opera Company is generously supported by  
YVONNE AND BJARNE RIEBER and THE PETERS FAMILY  
FOUNDATION cio

Young ROH is generously made possible by SIR LLOYD  
AND LADY DORFMAN OBE, THE BUNTING FAMILY,  
SIR SIMON ROBNEY, TIM ASHLEY AND JOHN BOOTH,  
THE JOHN BROWNE CHARITABLE TRUST and THE  
LAIDLAW OPERA TRUST. Additional kind support from  
JOSH HARRIS AND LAYLA NEMAZEE



Broadcast live from the Royal Opera House on  
WEDNESDAY 1 MAY 2024

## APPROXIMATE TIMINGS

This performance will last about 3 hours and 10 minutes,  
including one interval.

PRE-SHOW 15 minutes

ACT I 55 minutes

ACT II 45 minutes

INTERVAL 25 minutes

ACT III 40 minutes

ACT IV 20 minutes

CURTAIN CALL 10 minutes

## LANGUAGE

Sung in French with English subtitles

## GUIDANCE

Suitable for ages 8+

This production contains themes of a sexual nature and  
moderate violence

## CAST

Moralès GRISHA MARTIROSYAN\*

Micaëla OLGA KULCHYNSKA

Don José PIOTR BECZALA

Zuniga BLAISE MALABA

Carmen AIGUL AKHMETSHINA

Frasquita SARAH DUFRESNE\*

Mercédès GABRIELÉ KUPŠYTĚ\*

Escamillo KOSTAS SMORIGINAS

Dancaïro PIERRE DOYEN

Remendado VINCENT ORDONNEAU

Bohemian DAWID KIMBERG

Marchande d'oranges LOUISE ARMIT

Policemen, children, cigarette girls, smugglers

\*Jette Parker Artist

Extra Chorus

Sopranos JENNIFER COLEMAN, KATHRYN JENKIN,  
NATASHA PAGE, ELEANOR PENNELL-BRIGGS, ALISON  
RAYNER, ELIZABETH ROBERTS, VANESSA WOODFINE

Mezzo-sopranos JEANETTE AGER, HYACINTH NICHOLLS,  
JENNIFER WESTWOOD

Tenors PHILLIP BELL, JAMES GEER, RICHARD MONK

Basses GAVIN HORSLEY, JAMES QUILLIGAN

Actors MARIKA DE SILVA, ANNA GUZAK, JAMIE FRANCIS,  
SULEIMAN SULEIMAN, JOHN CRAGGS

Acting Children ANASTASIYA HRISTOVA, EVELYN ROSE  
RATA, ALFIE SHARP

The Singing Children are members of the  
YOUTH OPERA COMPANY



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**

---

## SYNOPSIS

ACT I  
THE SQUARE OF A SMALL TOWN

Groups of children are playing, while men and women gather in the town square. Carmen enters. Only one man, Don José, seems not to notice her.

In fact, José is disturbed by Carmen, but the arrival of Micaëla, who brings greetings from his distant mother, diverts his thoughts. After Micaëla departs, a quarrel erupts among the women over Carmen's behaviour. She is arrested, but once left alone with Don José, she seduces him, persuading him to help her escape. Following mild resistance from José, Carmen has her handcuffs removed and she flees.

ACT II  
ABOUT A MONTH LATER IN A NIGHTCLUB

Carmen awaits José's release from prison, where he has been imprisoned for aiding her escape. The smugglers accompanying Carmen want her to join them in the illegal trade of weapons, but she, aware of José's release and grateful for the freedom he provided, decides to wait for him.

Amid general acclaim, the wealthy and famous bullfighter Escamillo enters. He flaunts his prowess, and after seeing Carmen, seeks to overcome her resistance.

José arrives, and Carmen tries to entice him to leave with her, spurred on by her accomplices. Despite José declaring his love for Carmen, at the sound of the police force's retreat he prepares to return to duty. Carmen is greatly disappointed, and when Captain Zuniga arrives, a brawl ensues between him and José, both men desiring to possess Carmen. The smugglers deal with the captain, and José is forced to permanently abandon his uniform and join them.

INTERVAL

ACT III  
THE SAME NIGHT

Don José reflects, with guilt and nostalgia, on his mother and the life he has abandoned. Carmen does a tarot card reading. She reveals the card representing death.

Don José violently clashes with Escamillo, who wishes to see Carmen again. But upon hearing about his mother's imminent death from Micaëla, José decides to go with her, threatening Carmen who challenges him.

ACT IV  
A FEW DAYS LATER

After dressing for his bullfight, Escamillo, accompanied by Carmen, is celebrated by the gathering crowd. Friends warn Carmen that Don José is lurking nearby. Carmen is unafraid and asserts her freedom. José kills her.

– Elisa Zaninotto

---

## PRODUCTION

Music preparation RICHARD HETHERINGTON,  
CHRISTOPHER WILLIS, ANDRÉ CALLEGARO\*, PATRICK  
MILNE, MARK PACKWOOD, LEANNE SINGH-LEVETT

Assistant Directors DAN DOONER, ELEONORA  
GRAVAGNOLA, MATHILDA DU TILLIEUL MCNICOL

Language Coaches SONJA NERDRUM, HERVÉ GOFFINGS

Set Design Assistant GIANLUCA CATALDO

Costume Design Assistant GIULIA GIANNINO

Movement Consultant DENNI SAYERS

Fight Arranger LOCKHART OGILVIE

\*Jette Parker Artist

---

## THE ROYAL OPERA

Patron THE FORMER PRINCE OF WALES

Music Director SIR ANTONIO PAPPANO *cvo*

Director of Opera OLIVER MEARS

Director of Casting PETER MARIO KATONA

Administrative Director CORMAC SIMMS

---

## SUPPORT OUR ONGOING RECOVERY

We are so glad to welcome our artists back to our theatres to perform for you the opera and ballet you love. During the pandemic we lost £3 in every £5 of our income and we continue to feel the impact as we recover. Sustaining the future of ballet and opera has never been so important. Please consider making a donation to the Royal Opera House community today and help support the future of ballet and opera.

[roh.org.uk/donate](https://roh.org.uk/donate)