Dido and Aeneas

OPERA 2014

Opera in three acts by Henry Purcell
Libretto by Nahum Tate

FILMED AT Opéra de Rouen Haute-Normandie
IN May 2014
TV DIRECTOR: Stéphane Vérité
RUNNING TIME: 1x80'

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ARTISTIC INFORMATION

SYNOPSIS
Queen Dido’s lady-in-waiting Belinda attempts to cheer up the lovelorn queen: surely the Trojan hero Aeneas returns her love. Dido admits her infatuation, and Aeneas enters to renew his love-suit. Belinda and the chorus encourage Dido’s acquiescence and predict a happy outcome. At their cave, however, witches plot Dido and Carthage’s downfall.

Their spirit, dressed as Mercury, will impress upon Aeneas the need for him to leave immediately and complete his destiny to found Rome as the new Troy. During a hunt, a storm sends Dido and the courtiers back to the city, but Aeneas is held back by Mercury and submits to his commands. The following day, Aeneas’s sailors prepare to leave port. The witches are thrilled, but Dido distraught and angry. Even Aeneas’s offer to disobey the gods and stay does not move her: she rejects him. He leaves, and before taking her life she asks Belinda to remember her, but not her fate. The chorus calls on cupids to scatter roses on her tomb.

PERFORMERS
Vivica Genaux ................................................................. Dido
Henk Neven ........................................................................... Aeneas
Ana Quintans ................................................................. Belinda
Marc Mauillon ........................................................................ Sorceress, Sailor
Tatyana Ilyin ........................................................................ First Witch
Caroline Meng ................................................................. Second Witch
Lucile Richardot ................................................................. Spirit
Jenny Daviet ........................................................................ Second woman
Orchestra of the Poeme Harmonique
Chorus Accentus - Opera de Rouen Haute-Normandie

ARTISTIC STAFF
Musical Direction: Vincent Dumestre
Staging, choreography, sets, costumes: Cecile Roussat, Julien Lubek

PRODUCTION
PRODUCTION COMPANIES Oxymore, Opéra de Rouen Haute-Normandie, Mezzo, Alpha Productions, France Télévisions, Poeme Harmonique and the support of the CNC
ASSOCIATE PRODUCER Jean-Romain Sales

DISTRIBUTION
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