La Fanciulla del West
OPERA IN THREE ACTS BY GIACOMO PUCCINI

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’
La Fanciulla del West

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 Boheme, 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.

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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 Gnidii ................... Bello
Eric Huchet ...................... Harry
Rodolphe Briand ............ Joe
Enrico Marabelli .......... Happy
Wenwei Zhang ............ Larkens
Ugo Rabell .......... Billy Jackrabbit
Anna Pennisi ........ Wokkle
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 Moïtron, Laurent Métivier

Distribution

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