Artaserse
LEONARDO VINCI (1690 – 1730)

OPERA 2012

Opera (dramma per musica) in three acts
Libretto: Pietro Metastasio
Created at Theatro Delle Dame, Roma – 4 February 1730
This was the last opera Vinci composed

FILMED AT: Opéra national de Lorraine
IN: November 2012
TV DIRECTOR: Louise Narboni
RUNNING TIME: 1 x 190'
Artaserse

SYNOPSIS
The main character of Metastasio's Artaserse is based on the life of king Artaxerxes I of Persia, a ruler of the fifth century B.C., son of Xerxes I. The opera opens in a moonlit garden of the palace of Serse (Xerxes). Mandane, the daughter of King Serse, and Arbace, the son of the King's general Artabano, are in love. Serse has opposed their marriage and banished Arbace from the palace. Arbace climbs the wall into the garden. As the young lovers express their love for each other and their despair at Arbace's banishment, Artabano arrives carrying a bloody sword. His fury at Serse's treatment of his son and his desire for Arbace to become King have led him to assassinate Serse. Artabano confesses the murder to Arbace and exchanges his bloody sword for that of Arbace. Artaserse, the King's younger son, arrives with his guards. Artabano tells him of his father's death and accuses Artaserse's older brother Dario of the murder, « Who but he at dead of night could penetrate the palace? Who approach the royal bed? Nay, more, his royal ambition... » Artaserse commands Artabano to avenge his father's death by killing Dario. Later in the garden, Artaxerxes expresses his love to Semira, the daughter of Artabano and sister of Arbace.

PERFORMERS
Philippe Jaroussky .......................................................... Artaserse
Max Emanuel Cenci .................................................................. Mandane
Daniel Behle ........................................................................... Artabano
Franco Fagioli ........................................................................ Arbace
Valer Barna-Sabadus ..................................................................... Semira
Yuriy Minenko ............................................................................... Megabise
Concerto Köln

ARTISTIC STAFF
Musical Direction Diego Fasolis
Staging Silviu Purcărete
Set, costumes and Light Helmut Stürmer
Lighting Jerry Skelton
Choreographer and baroque gestural advisor Natalie van Parys
Hairdress Cécile Kretschmar

LANGUAGE VO Italian
LANGUAGES / ST English, French

PRODUCTION
PRODUCTION COMPANIES Mezzo, Ozango, Opéra National de Lorraine
with Mirabelle TV, Alsace 20 and the support of the CNC

DISTRIBUTION
DISTRIBUTION COMPANY Telmondis Distribution
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VIDEO FORMAT HDCAM, Digibeta, stereo sound and dolby 5.1

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