Les Enfants Terribles
ADAPTED FROM THE WORK OF JEAN COCTEAU

Music Philip Glass
Lyrics Philipp Glass and Susan Marshall
Musical Direction Emmanuel Olivier

FILMED AT Grand Théâtre de Bordeaux
IN November 2011
TV DIRECTOR Fabrice Levillain
RUNNING TIME 1 x 90'

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ARTISTIC INFORMATION

DESCRIPTION

Les Enfants Terribles, Jean Cocteau’s novel (written in 1929 and was later made into both a play and a film) forms the basis of the third instalment of the trilogy of music/theatre works began with Orphée and continued with La Belle et la Bête. In the previous two works (Orphée and La Belle et la Bête), film and opera were combined to create a hybrid form.

SYNOPSIS

Les Enfants Terribles is a brilliant novel written in 90 days in 1929 by a convalescing Jean Cocteau, in need of recognition. The feverish story of Paul and Elisabeth, of a brother and sister bound to each other until death. Their life is a game of confrontation, desire and provocation which leads them to destruction. Their room is transformed into an unsinkable fortress, carried by the never-ending wave of their loves and jealousies. The composer Philip Glass has transformed the storyline into an operatic form, accompanied by three pianos and sung by a soprano, a baritone bass, a tenor and a mezzo-soprano. The pianos’ harmonic combinations give great intimacy to the brother/sister tête-à-têtes, whilst preserving the great power of the drama. A complex system of twelve cameras, seven focused exclusively on the pianos, shows how much Glass’s work is a sensitive, and not merely a complex work. The opera Les Enfants Terribles was co-written with Susan Marshall and created on May 18th 1996 at the Théâtre Casino de Zug in Switzerland.

PERFORMERS

Chloé Briot, Soprano ............................................................ Elisabeth
Amalia Dominguez, Mezzo-soprano .................................. Dargelos, Agathe
Olivier Dumait, Ténor .......................................................... Gérard
Guillaume Andrieux, Baryton ................................................. Paul
Emmanuel Olivier ...................................................................... Piano
Jean-Marc Fontana ................................................................. Piano
Françoise Larrat ...................................................................... Piano
National Orchestre of Bordeaux

ARTISTIC STAFF

Musical Direction Emmanuel Olivier
Staging, Sets, and Lighting Stéphane Verité

LANGUAGE

French

ENGLISH, FRENCH

PRODUCTION

PRODUCTION COMPANIES Oxymore, The Teatro Arriaga de Bilbao, Opéra National de Bordeaux, Mezzo, Jim & Jules, with the support of France Télévisions, Philip Glass and Comité Cocteau

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION COMPANY Telmondis Distribution
24 – 26, Quai Alphonse Le Gallo F – 92100 Boulogne Billancourt
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VIDEO FORMAT HDCAM, Digibeta, stereo sound and dolby 5.1

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