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AIDA

AIDA

Giuseppe Verdi

Teatro Real, Madrid

Osoby a obsazení

Conductor
Nicola Luisotti

The King
Soloman Howard

Director
Hugo de Ana

Amneris
Violeta Urmana

Sets and costumes
Hugo de Ana

Aida
Liudmyla Monastyrska

Lightning
Vinicio Cheli

Radamès
Gregory Kunde

Choreography
Leda Lojodice

Ramfis
Roberto Tagliavini

Chorus Master
Andrés Máspero

Amonasro
George Gagnidze

Czech subtitles
Petra Ocelková

High Priestess
Sandra Pastrana

**Chorus and
Orchestra of
Teatro Real.**

A messenger
Fabián Lara

*Czech subtitles are based
from English subtitles
and are informative
character.*

*Premiere
December 24, 1871*

*Opera on 4 acts.
Sung in
Italian language.*

*Libretto
Antonio Ghislanzoni*

*Record from Teatro Real
Madrid, March 2018*

*Template
egyptologist
August Mariette*

In Aida, the grandiose and the intimate converge as in few other operas: the bloody confrontation between Ethiopians and Egyptians is juxtaposed by the love of Radamès, Captain of the Egyptian Guard, for Aida, a slave of the Ethiopians. Their love is more powerful than the hatred between the two peoples, their social differences and incompatible perspectives. This love was as solid as the wall which blocked its consummation.

*Verdi chose this story after rejecting several alternatives with comical or thematic plots to which he could have composed a grand opera. He became hugely involved with the writing of the libretto by Antonio Ghislanzoni, he had collaborated in the revision of *La forza del destino*. The success of the premiere in the opera house of Cairo, having opened two years previously, was sensational. As part of the Bicentennial celebrations, the Teatro Real pays tribute to its past by recouping part of the scenery of the 1998 production from its repository. Acclaimed at that time, the technical and material complexities have made it impossible to revive until now. *Aida* returns to the Teatro Real.*

FIRST ACT

Garden of the Royal Palace at Memphis. The high priest, Ramfis, announces to Radames, Captain of the Royal Guard, that the Ethiopians are revolting. Radames hopes he will be chosen to lead the Egyptian forces, and thus claim Aida (the favorite slave of Princess Amneris and, unbeknownst to the Egyptians, the Ethiopian king's daughter) as his reward. Although Aida and Radames are in love, Aida is still fearful for her kinsmen and especially for King Amonasro, her father. Furthermore, Princess Amneris is in love with Radames, although the feelings are not returned. When Radames joyfully accepts the job of leading the charge against the Ethiopians, Amneris and Aida both rush to the temple to bless his journey—although Aida's loyalty is torn between her homeland and the man she loves.

SECOND ACT

The Ethiopians have been defeated, and Radames is returning to Thebes. Amneris tricks her slave Aida into indirectly revealing her love for Radames, which makes the princess jealous. Radames makes a triumphant entrance to the city, with a procession of newly captured prisoners, including Aida's father, King Amonasro. Amonasro makes an eloquent plea on behalf of his people, but does not reveal his noble title. Radames is moved by his speech, and requests that as his reward, the Ethiopian prisoners not be put to death. The King grants Radames' wish, and also gives Amneris' hand in marriage.

THIRD ACT

It is night, near a temple where Amneris and the high priest Ramfis prepare for the princess' wedding to Radames. Amonasro orders his daughter to learn from Radames the secret of his military plans against the Ethiopians. As Aida obtains the information from Radames, Amneris and Ramfis appear. They have overheard his act of treason. Radames is taken prisoner by the imperial guards as Aida escapes with her father.

FOURTH ACT

Radames is on trial for treason, and his life is at stake. Amneris offers him a bargain: if he will renounce Aida and accept her love, he will be freed. He refuses, uninterested in a life without Aida. He is then sentenced to be buried alive in a vault underneath the temple. Amneris is horrified; although Radames has rejected her, she still loves him, but his fate is sealed. Aida joins Radames voluntarily in the tomb, sharing his tragic fate.