

Premiere

**AIDA**

Opera lirica in four acts by Giuseppe Verdi

Libretto by Antonio Ghislanzoni after Auguste Mariette

Sung in Italian with German and English surtitles

Conductor: Erik Nielsen

Director: Lydia Steier

Set Designer: Katharina Schlipf

Costume Designer: Siegfried Zoller

Lighting Designer: Joachim Klein

Chorus Master: Tilman Michael

Dramaturge: Mareike Wink

Aida: Guanqun Yu

Radamès: Stefano La Colla / Alfred Kim (December 29th 2023, January 1st, 13th, 20th 2024)

Amneris: Claudia Mahnke / Agnieszka Rehlis (December 29th 2023, January 1st, 13th, 20th 2024)

Ramfis: Andreas Bauer Kanabas / Kihwan Sim (December 29th 2023, January 1st, 13th, 20th 2024)

Amonasro: Nicholas Brownlee / Iain MacNeil (December 29th 2023, January 1st, 13th, 20th 2024)

King of the Egyptians: Kihwan Sim / Andreas Bauer Kanabas (December 29th 2023, January 1st, 13th, 20th 2024)

Messenger: Kudaibergen Abildin

Priestess: Monika Buczkowska

Oper Frankfurt's Chorus and Extras; Frankfurt Opern und Museumsorchester

With generous support from the DZ Bank and Frankfurt Patronatsverein – Sektion Oper

The Viceroy of Egypt, who was passionate about opera, gave Verdi a very lucrative commission to write the work for the opening of the Suez canal in 1869, but construction and political problems caused it to be postponed several times, so the World Premiere took place on December 24th 1871, to a rapturous full house in Cairo's Opera House. The first performance at La Scala on February 8th 1872 was a great success with the audience too. Critics were more restrained, thinking they could make out influences of Richard Wagner and Giacomo Meyerbeer in Verdi's latest masterpiece.

The story about the Ethiopian slave Aida, torn between her feelings for the Egyptian commander Radamès and patriotic duty to her people, suffering under Egyptian suppression, belongs to international Opera Houses core repertoire. Within the broad spectrum of lavish arena productions and ambitious interpretations – the most recent, and sensational, in Frankfurt was staged by Hans Neuenfels in 1981 – this New Production invites you to listen to a masterpiece again, which has always seemed familiar.

**Erik Nielsen** worked at Oper Frankfurt from 2003 to 2012 – as a soloists' coach and then Kapellmeister. This American conductor built up a broad repertoire while he was here, from Monteverdi to Lachenmann. He was named Chief Conductor of the Bilbao Symphony Orchestra in 2015; a position he holds until 2024, was Music Director of Theater Basel from 2016 to 2018 and named Chief Conductor of the Tirol Festival in Erl in 2022, where he led a new *Ring des Nibelungen*. Director **Lydia Steier** comes from America too. She made her debut in Frankfurt in 2018 with a Stravinsky *Oedipus Rex* / Tchaikovsky *Iolanta* double bill. Recent productions have included Strauss' *Salome* at the Opéra National de Paris, *Die Frau ohne Schatten* at this year's Baden-Baden Opera Festival and Verdi's *Don Carlos* at the Grand Théâtre de Genève. Upcoming engagements for Chinese soprano **Guanqun Yu** (Aida) include Donna Anna in Mozart's *Don Giovanni* and Liù in Puccini's *Turandot* at Los Angeles Opera and Leonora in Verdi's *Il trovatore* at the Hamburg State Opera. Much sought-after around the world, roles sung by Italian tenor **Stefano La Colla** (Radamès) in Frankfurt have included Luigi (*Il tabarro* / *Il tritico*), Pollione (*Norma*) and Cavaradossi (*Tosca*). Led by **Claudia Mahnke** (Amneris), other Members of the Ensemble taking part are **Andreas Bauer Kanabas** (Ramfis), **Nicholas Brownlee** (Amonasro), **Kihwan Sim** (King of Egypt), **Kudaibergen Abildin** (A Messenger) and **Monika Buczkowska** (A Priestess). There are cast changes sung by other **Members of the Ensemble and Guests** during the run.

**Premiere:** Sunday December 3rd 2023, at 18hrs in the Opera House

**Further performances:** December 6th (19hrs), 8th (19hrs), 10th, 17th (15.30hrs, with free childminding for children aged between 3 and 9), 21st (19hrs), 26th, 29th (19hrs) 2023, January 1st, 13th, 20th 2024  
Unless otherwise stated, all performances begin at 18.00hrs

**Tickets cost:** € 16 to € 190 (with a 12.5% pre-booking fee when not purchased direct from the theatre)

Tickets can be obtained from the usual outlets, by telephone +49 (0)69 – 212 49 49 4 or online [www.oper-frankfurt.de](http://www.oper-frankfurt.de).

We do hope you might be able to publish this event. For further information, ordering photographs and reserving press tickets please contact Holger Engelhardt (Leitung Pressereferat) on +49 (0)69 – 212 46 727. His fax number is +49 (0)69 – 212 37 164 or you can email him on [holger.engelhardt@buehnen-frankfurt.de](mailto:holger.engelhardt@buehnen-frankfurt.de).