

With Shakespearian operas all the rage in Paris during the 19th century, Ambroise Thomas and his librettists Michel Carré and Jules Barbier adapted *Hamlet* to create a romantic spectacle in which the character of Ophélie shines with a haunting radiance. With its virtuosic arias, stunning ensembles and vivid orchestration – with the colourful addition of the newly invented saxophone – Thomas composed one of the most successful operas in the French repertoire. This is further enhanced by director Cyril Teste's multi-layered production, reinstating its powerful original ending, and including cinematic techniques to create 'a very palpable hit' (bachtrack.com).

AMBROISE THOMAS
(1811-1896)

HAMLET

Opera in five acts (1868)

Libretto by Michel Carré (1821-1872) and Jules Barbier (1825-1901) after William Shakespeare (1564-1616)

Hamlet	Stéphane Degout
Ophélie	Sabine Devieilhe
Claudius	Laurent Alvaro
Gertrude	Sylvie Brunet-Grupposo
Laërte	Julien Behr
The Ghost	Jérôme Varnier
Marcellus, Second Gravedigger	Kevin Amiel
Horatio, First Gravedigger	Yoann Dubruque
Polonius	Nicolas Legoux

Les éléments
Chorus Master Joël Suhubiette

Orchestre des Champs-Élysées
Conductor Louis Langrée

Stage Director Cyril Teste
Set Designer Ramy Fischler
Costume Designer Isabelle Deffin
Lighting Designer Julien Boizard
Projection Designers Nicolas Dorémus and Mehdi Toutain-Lopez
Dramaturgy Leïla Adham

A stage production of the Opéra Comique in co-production with Collectif MXM, the Opéra Royal de Wallonie-Liège and the Croatian National Theatre, Zagreb, within the framework of the partnership Beijing Music Festival / Opéra Comique

Video Director François Roussillon

Filmed on 19 and 21 December 2018 at the Opéra Comique, Paris, France

A co-production by the Opéra Comique, Mezzo and François Roussillon et Associés in association with medici.tv,
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