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NAXOS

Francesco Cavalli, a natural successor to Monteverdi, was the most famous and influential Italian opera composer during the mid-17th century. Cardinal Mazarin, chief minister to the king, commissioned Cavalli to create a Parisian spectacle to celebrate the wedding of the 'Sun King' Louis XIV and the Infanta of Spain. *Ercole amante* ('Hercules in Love') was the flattering subject chosen for this regal extravaganza combining larger-than-life characters with mythology, and genuine human emotions with natural and cosmic phenomena. The result is a sumptuous Baroque spectacle, conceived on a vast scale in this lavish production by directors Valérie Lesort and Christian Hecq.

FRANCESCO CAVALLI (1602-1676)
ERCOLE AMANTE

Opera in a prologue and five acts (1662)

Libretto by Francesco Buti (1604-1682)

Ercole	NAHUEL DI PIERRO
Giunone	ANNA BONITABUS
Deianira	GIUSEPPINA BRIDELLI
Iole	FRANCESCA ASPROMONTE
Hyllo	KRYSTIAN ADAM
Pasithea / Clerica / Terza Grazia / Secondo Pianeta	EUGÉNIE LEFEBVRE
Venere / Bellezza / Cinzia	GIULIA SEMENZATO
Nettuno / Eutyro	LUCA TITTOTO
Il Paggio	RAY CHENEZ
Licco	DOMINIQUE VISSE

Choir and Orchestra PYGMALION
Conductor RAPHAËL PICHON

Stage Directors VALÉRIE LESORT
and CHRISTIAN HECQ (Sociétaire de la Comédie-Française)
Set Designer LAURENT PEDUZZI
Costume Designer and Machinery VANESSA SANNINO
Lighting Designer CHRISTIAN PINAUD
Movement Collaboration RÉMI BOISSY

Puppets CAROLE ALLEMAND, SOPHIE COEFFIC and VALÉRIE LESORT

A production by the Opéra Comique in co-production with the Château de Versailles Spectacles
and the Opéra National de Bordeaux

Film Director FRANÇOIS ROUSSILLON

Filmed on 6 and 8 November 2019 at the Opéra Comique, Paris, France

A co-production by the Opéra Comique, François Roussillon et Associés and Radio France,
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of the Centre national du cinéma et de l'image animée

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