



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 BONITATIBUS
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 TITTO
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,
in association with ARTE France, with the participation of Naxos, and with the support
of the Centre national du cinéma et de l'image animée



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