

Rameau's first opera *Hippolyte et Aricie* delivered a lyrical tragedy of such extraordinary intensity it changed the course of French music, stunning and overwhelming its audiences. This breathtaking spectacle involves prince Hippolyte, who asks his mother-in-law Queen Phèdre for help in wooing the beautiful Aricie, not knowing that Phèdre secretly wants Hippolyte for herself. In a single work Rameau re-invented *tragédie en musique* with dramatic expressiveness and shocking harmonic innovations. It is seen here in an acclaimed Opéra Comique production that personifies Rameau's assertion that 'music must speak to the soul, its true aim must be to express thoughts, feelings, and passions'.

JEAN-PHILIPPE RAMBOU (1683–1764)

HIPPOLYTE ET ARICIE

Tragédie lyrique in five acts (1733/42/57)

(Third version, 1757, created for the Académie royale de musique [Opéra])

Libretto by Abbé Simon-Joseph Pellegrin (1663–1745)

Hippolyte REINOUUD VAN MECHELEN

Aricie ELSA BENOIT

Phèdre SYLVIE BRUNET-GRUPPOSO

Thésée STÉPHANE DEGOUT

Œnone SÉRAPHINE COTREZ

Neptune / Pluton ARNAUD RICHARD

Diane EUGÉNIE LEFEBVRE

Prêtresse de Diane / Chasseresse / LEA DESANDRE

Matelote / Bergère

Tisiphone EDWIN FARDINI

Chorus and Orchestra PYGMALION

Conductor RAPHAËL PICHON

Stage Director JEANNE CANDEL

Dramaturgy and Director of Actors LIONEL GONZALEZ

Set Designer LISA NAVARRO

Costume Designer PAULINE KIEFFER

Lighting Designer CÉSAR GODEFROY

Movement Collaborator YANNICK BOSC

Lea Desandre appears courtesy of Erato/Warner Classics

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A production by Opéra Comique, in co-production with Opéra Royal – Château de Versailles Spectacles

Film Director FRANÇOIS ROUSSILLON

Filmed on 12 and 14 November 2020 at the Opéra Comique, Paris, France,
without an audience during the Covid-19 pandemic

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

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Total playing time: 140 minutes • NTSC 16:9 • PCM stereo and DTS 5.1 • Region: 0 (worldwide) • DVD 9
Language: French • Subtitles: French, English, German, Japanese, Korean

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