



Georges Bizet died at the tragically young age of 36 while *Carmen* was still in its first run, and he never witnessed the huge international acclaim his opera received. Filled with jealousy and passion, the gripping and ultimately tragic narrative of *Carmen* initially shocked audiences, but with an abundance of memorable tunes, it remains unchallenged as one of the most popular operas ever written. *Carmen* received its premiere at the Opéra Comique in Paris in 1875, and this internationally acclaimed production, performed on period instruments, represents a triumphant return to its home theatre. '*Carmen* has never sounded more revolutionary, romantic or thrillingly vibrant' (*The Times*, London).

GEORGES BIZET (1838–1875)

CARMEN

Opéra-comique in four acts (1875)

Libretto by Henri Meilhac (1830–1897) and Ludovic Halévy (1802–1883)
after the novella *Carmen* by Prosper Mérimée (1803–1870)

Carmen **Anna Caterina Antonacci**
Don José **Andrew Richards**
Micaëla **Anne-Catherine Gillet**
Escamillo **Nicolas Cavallier**
Frasquita **Virginie Pochon**
Mercédès **Annie Gill**

Zuniga **Matthew Brook**
Morales **Riccardo Novaro**
Le Dancaire **François Dudziak**
Le Remendado **Vincent Ordonneau**
Lillas Pastia **Simon Davies**

Maîtrise des Hauts-de-Seine
Chorus Master **Gaël Darchen**

Monteverdi Choir
Orchestre Révolutionnaire et Romantique
Conductor **Sir John Eliot Gardiner**

Stage Director **Adrian Noble**
Set and Costume Designer **Mark Thompson**
Lighting Designer **Jean Kalman**
Movement Collaborator **Sue Lefton**

A production by the Opéra Comique in co-production with the Grand Théâtre de Luxembourg
Associate partner: Festival internacional de musica y danza de Granada

Filmed on 22 and 25 June 2009 at the Opéra Comique, Paris, France

Film Director **François Roussillon**

A co-production by François Roussillon et Associés, the Opéra Comique and Mezzo,
with the participation of France télévisions, and of TFI, TV5, RTBF,
with the support of the Centre national de la cinématographie

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