

ENGLISH TOURING OPERA

AUTUMN 2008



La tragédie de   
**Carmen**  
DVOŘÁK BIZET  
**Rusalka**



# LOVE KILLS!

There are very few happy endings for lovers in opera – aside from Handel opera, as we'll show you next Autumn – and the lovers in this season fare about as ill as they could. But what better subject for music, and for the theatre of music?

Why has Carmen become so iconic? Why are we all so drawn to the woman who wants to be free to love as she chooses, even if it means death? *La tragédie de Carmen*, a distilled version of the opera for singers and actors, is about as raw a depiction of fatal passion as you can get: visceral, seductive, precise. This production, which has already won accolades at Wexford, returns the action to Bizet's native France between the wars.

*Rusalka*, on the other hand, warms more slowly, and haunts long after. The transparency of Iain Farrington's orchestral arrangement renders Dvořák's lush score even more poignant. Why, oh why does the Prince only learn what love is – that it is not acquisition, not domination

– when it is too late? While *La tragédie de Carmen* cuts straight to the heart of passion, *Rusalka* probes the ecstasy and the pain of love, until finally you feel you know what it is, even in a fatal kiss. In our production, set in the cloud forests and on the parched plains of Haiti, we are going to make that as clear and honest as we can.

I hope you will join us for these two nights of great opera. We have put together such strong casts of singers to recreate them for you. Approaching the 30th anniversary of ETO, we thought to give you very particular, very ETO versions of great classics.

And, if that's not enough, we have put together a cabaret performance, with songs that could have come from our Carmen's little club, sung by three exceptional singers who take part in *Rusalka*. It's more of love's terrible charms, but saucier, and a little bonus in your ETO season.

JAMES CONWAY  
GENERAL DIRECTOR

# DVOŘÁK Rusalka

Adapted by Iain Farrington.  
Performed in English.

She is the mermaid forbidden to mix with mortals. He is the handsome prince for whom she risks everything. Together they embark on a love affair that sees her sacrifice her home and her immortality. Dvořák's rapturous score, presented here in an acclaimed chamber version, is crowned by the poignant "Song to the Moon".

ETO's exciting new interpretation of this age-old story takes the audience to the misty cloud forests and parched plains of Haiti. Through the witchcraft of a Mambo, the innocent forest girl travels to the prince's rich plantation – and then both return, changed, in one of the most passionate final scenes in all opera.

A new production by James Conway and associate director Tom Daley, conducted by Alex Ingram, with designs by Paul Wills. Donna Bateman (Susannah, ETO Spring 2008) sings the title role, with Richard Roberts as the Prince, Fiona Kimm as Ježibaba and Camilla Roberts as the Foreign Princess.



# La tragédie de Carmen

## BIZET

Adapted by Peter Brook, Marius Constant,  
Jean-Claude Carrière.

Performed in French with English surtitles.

*La tragédie de Carmen* is a raw and powerful adaptation of Bizet's most popular work. Peter Brook and his collaborators have crafted a concentrated night of theatre that focuses on the fatal relationships between the gypsy, soldier, village girl and bullfighter.



© Ger Lawlor Photography

The romantic and destructive forces of love are at the heart of *Carmen*, and they are the light and shade of this intense, sharply-focussed production.

The score retains all of the most famous musical moments of the original: *Carmen's* Habanera and Seguidilla, Don Jose's Flower Song, and Escamillo's swaggering Toreador Song.

Directed by Andrew Steggall, conducted by Gareth Hancock, and featuring Leah-Marian Jones in the title role, with Sinead Campbell as Micaëla, David Curry as Don Jose, and Nicholas Garrett as Escamillo.

# AUTUMN 2008

## OCTOBER

Thu 09 CARMEN Hackney Empire London

Fri 10 RUSALKA Hackney Empire London ■

Sat 11 CARMEN Hackney Empire London

Box Office Number 020 89852424

Ticket Prices £10 - £27.50

Tue 14 CARMEN Malvern Festival Theatres ●

Wed 15 RUSALKA Malvern Festival Theatres ●

Thu 16 CARMEN Malvern Festival Theatres

Fri 17 CARMEN Malvern Festival Theatres

Sat 18 RUSALKA Malvern Festival Theatres

Box Office Number 01684 892277

Ticket Prices £16 - £22

Tue 21 CARMEN Northcott Theatre Exeter

Wed 22 RUSALKA Northcott Theatre Exeter

Thu 23 CARMEN Northcott Theatre Exeter

Fri 24 CARMEN Northcott Theatre Exeter

Sat 25 RUSALKA Northcott Theatre Exeter

Box Office Number 01392 493493

Ticket Prices £17 - £27

Thu 30 CARMEN Theatre Royal Lincoln ●

Fri 31 RUSALKA Theatre Royal Lincoln

Sat 01 CARMEN Theatre Royal Lincoln

Box Office Number 01522 525555/01522 519999

Ticket Prices £12.50 - £25.50

All performances at 7.30 pm except Malvern (8.00 pm)

■ Captioned performances

● Pre Show Talk

## NOVEMBER

Mon 03 RUSALKA Theatre Royal Bath

Tue 04 CARMEN Theatre Royal Bath

Box Office Number 01225 448844

Ticket Prices £21.50 - £35.00

Fri 07 CARMEN Lakes Leisure Kendal

Sat 08 RUSALKA Lakes Leisure Kendal ■

Box Office Number 01539 729702

Ticket Prices £16 - £19

Thu 13 CARMEN Snape Maltings Concert Hall ●

Fri 14 RUSALKA Snape Maltings Concert Hall ■ ●

Sat 15 CARMEN Snape Maltings Concert Hall

Box Office Number 01728 687110

Ticket Prices £11 - £28

Mon 17 CARMEN Buxton Opera House ●

Tue 18 RUSALKA Buxton Opera House ●

Box Office Number 0845 127 2190

Ticket Prices £14 - £28.50

Fri 21 CARMEN Assembly Hall Theatre Tunbridge Wells

Sat 22 RUSALKA Assembly Hall Theatre T. W. ■ ●

Box Office Number 01892 530613

Ticket Prices £19 - £26

Tue 25 CARMEN Cambridge Arts Theatre ●

Wed 26 RUSALKA Cambridge Arts Theatre ●

Thu 27 CARMEN Cambridge Arts Theatre

Fri 28 CARMEN Cambridge Arts Theatre

Sat 29 RUSALKA Cambridge Arts Theatre

Box Office Number 01223 503 333

Ticket Prices £10 - £35

# Join us

## Come to the Cabaret

Complementing *La tragédie de Carmen*, this season we present a celebration of French Cabaret. Step with us to the streets of Paris, as three chanteuses recall the smoky Paris nights of Edith Piaf and Josephine Baker.

## Join a Network

Get involved with the workings of ETO, offering invaluable local knowledge and support. This is an ideal opportunity for you to meet like-minded opera lovers, lend us a hand, and become involved with our year-round programme.

## Become a Member

By supporting the work that we do, ETO Members receive exclusive benefits and contribute to our ability to deliver top-quality opera in your community through performance and education initiatives.

## Building a New Generation of Audiences

We work with schools in all areas in learning and creative programmes that introduce students to opera and allow them to explore the amazing world of music theatre. This season this includes secondary school workshops based on *Carmen*, and multi-sensory on-stage workshops for Special Schools around the country.

## Learn More

Pre-show talks take place in most of our venues and offer an insight into the background to each opera and creative process involved in each production.

## Bring a Friend

Whether you are a seasoned opera goer, or just a sucker for a love story, ETO's Autumn Tour has something for you. So why not share it with a friend?

## Visit

Our website is the central portal to the company and features the most up to date listings of dates, venues and further activities, including video footage of the creative teams and dress rehearsals.

For more information

[www.englishtouringopera.org.uk](http://www.englishtouringopera.org.uk)