ETO HANDELfest

The stage works of Georg Frideric Handel represent the greatest flowering of opera in Britain, and one of the greatest moments in the history of opera. Handel’s gift for melody, and his arresting sense of character and fate, make him a natural composer of opera. In 2009, the 250th anniversary of the composer’s death, English Touring Opera celebrates with a touring festival of five of his great – and very different – operas, together with a series of stimulating discussions with experts and enthusiasts, recitals, masterclasses and workshops. It is a unique occasion to get a sense of Handel’s genius, and to let this splendid, sensuous music speak to your heart and mind.

ETO has assembled a cast of virtuoso singers and period players for productions as diverse as the operas themselves. They will interpret these lively, popular operas written for the greatest voices of the day.

ETO’s HANDELfest is an incredibly ambitious and exciting celebration of Handel’s opera, which has been such an important part of my career. I support the company’s work, and look forward to the 5 operas and accompanying recitals, masterclasses and talks. I urge you to join me there, for a unique chance to immerse yourself in a week of Handel opera!  

DAME ANN MURRAY, Mezzo-Soprano

AUTUMN 2009

LONDON
Britten Theatre
Royal College of Music
Performances at 7.30pm
15 October FLAVIO
16 October TESEO
17 October TOLOMEO
21 October FLAVIO
23 October ALCINA
24 October ARIODANTE
Box Office: 020 7833 2555

BATH
Theatre Royal
Performances at 7.30pm
9 November ALCINA
10 November TESEO
Box Office: 01225 448 844

SNAPE
Snape Maltings Concert Hall
Performances at 7.30pm
13 November ARIODANTE
14 November FLAVIO
Box Office: 01728 687 110

CAMBRIDGE
Arts Theatre
Performances at 7.30pm
17 November FLAVIO
18 November TESEO
19 November TOLOMEO
20 November ALCINA
21 November ARIODANTE
Box Office: 01223 503 333

MALVERN
Malvern Theatres
Performances at 7.30pm
27 October FLAVIO
28 October TESEO
29 October TOLOMEO
30 October ALCINA
31 October ARIODANTE
Box Office: 01684 892 277

EXETER
Exeter Northcott
Performances at 7.30pm
3 November FLAVIO
4 November TESEO
5 November TOLOMEO
6 November ARIODANTE
7 November ALCINA
Box Office: 01392 493 493

www.englishtouringopera.org.uk
For more information please contact ETO on 020 7833 2555
or email handel@englishtouringopera.org.uk
If you like Vermeer and Van dyck, Bonnie Prince Charlie, and the 17th-century Dutch painting, ETO’s production sets the drama of heart-broken Medea.

ETO’s new production in period costume on a brilliant blue set looks at the poor, the lost and the exploited people of the earth whose dignity and faith is truly inspiring. Tolomeo is a clergyman who makes a pact with the devil in order to gain love. The brightest hopes and innocence meet the wildest seas and bleakest thoughts, and go on a visceral journey back to light. ETO’s gripping production is set amongst a dissenting Scottish sect in the early nineteenth century, and recalls Bronte novels and Nordic paintings.

If you like fantasy, Canova sculpture, Tartkovsky films, Donne’s poetry, escape, islands, nostalgia, Kama Sutra, chandeliers, camembert, attics, lavender, the Winter Queen, ripe peaches, dangerous beauty – you will want to live in the world of Alcina.

If you like Tolomeo (1728), performed in Italian with projections, 2hrs 40mins, Performed in English.

If you like Ariodante (1735), set on the wintry Scottish coast, shows us what happens when love is forgotten, and sensuality is hidden. Falsely accused, a young woman is cast out by her father, and abandoned by her innocent lover. Her traducer is a clergyman who makes a pact with the devil in order to gain love. The brightest hopes and innocence meet the wildest seas and bleakest thoughts, and go on a visceral journey back to light. ETO’s gripping production is set amongst a dissenting Scottish sect in the early nineteenth century, and recalls Bronte novels and Nordic paintings.

If you like Northern lights, Strindberg plays, a wild sea, Ingmar Bergman, two way mirrors, the idea of order, Lars von Trier, saunas and snow, Hammershei paintings, peaty whiskey, lars van Trier, saunas and snow, two way mirrors, the idea of order, plays, a wild sea, Ingmar Bergman, Tarkovsky films, Donne’s poetry, escape, islands, nostalgia, Kama Sutra, chandeliers, camembert, attics, lavender, the Winter Queen, ripe peaches, dangerous beauty – you will want to live in the world of Alcina.

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