
THE STORY

ACT I

Weary of life and the vain pursuit of knowledge, the aged Faust decides on suicide. He is stopped in his tracks by the light of dawn and voices singing God's praises. Faust bitterly renounces God and calls on Satan. Méphistophélès duly appears. He will satisfy Faust's hedonistic demands in return for the philosopher's soul. Hesitating before signing the diabolic contract, Faust is finally swayed by a vision conjured up by Méphistophélès of the beautiful and innocent Marguerite.

ACT II

The town is celebrating. Valentin is preoccupied with thoughts of leaving to fight in the war. He asks his friends to look after his sister Marguerite while he is away; among them is Siébel, who is in love with her. They are interrupted by Méphistophélès, who sings a blasphemous song and makes innuendos about Marguerite. This is too much for Valentin who is roused to defend his sister and attack Méphistophélès, but his sword breaks mid-air and everyone hastily withdraws. Méphistophélès is joined by Faust; when Marguerite appears she rejects Faust's attentions.

ACT III

Siébel is in love with Marguerite and leaves a bouquet of flowers for her. Next, Faust extols the virtues of Marguerite's home while Méphistophélès also finds something to leave her: a box full of jewels. Marguerite appears, lost in thought, but is overcome with excitement as she discovers the jewel box and tries on its

contents. Marthe Schwertlein, Marguerite's neighbour, thinks that the jewels must be from an admirer. When both women are joined by Méphistophélès and Faust, the former distracts Marthe so that Faust can seduce Marguerite.

ACT IV

Five months have passed. Marguerite has been deserted by Faust, but is carrying his child. In church, her prayers are repeatedly interrupted by demons. She faints as Méphistophélès's final curse denies her the hope of salvation.

Soldiers return from the war, Valentin among them. He asks Siébel to tell him how his sister is, but Siébel's evasions prompt him to rush angrily into Marguerite's house to find out for himself. Méphistophélès and Faust arrive, and the Devil satirically serenades Marguerite. Valentin emerges from the house demanding to know who is responsible for his sister's shame. In the ensuing duel, Faust mortally wounds Valentin, who with his final words denies Marguerite any Christian compassion and damns her for eternity.

ACT V

It is Walpurgis Night and a diabolic ballet ensues. Faust is subjected to visions, the last of which is of Marguerite in prison for the murder of their child and awaiting execution. Faust wants to go to her, and Méphistophélès obliges. Together in the cell, Faust and Marguerite remember their shared moments of love and Faust urges her to flee with him, but she resists, calling for divine protection. Marguerite's supplication is answered: her soul ascends to heaven.



ROYAL
OPERA
HOUSE

CINEMA

THE ROYAL OPERA

MUSIC DIRECTOR ANTONIO PAPPANO
DIRECTOR OF OPERA KASPER HOLTEN

FAUST

OPÉRA IN FIVE ACTS

MUSIC CHARLES-FRANÇOIS GOUNOD
LIBRETTO JULES BARBIER AND MICHEL CARRÉ AFTER
CARRÉ'S FAUST ET MARGUERITE AND
JOHANN WOLFGANG VON GOETHE'S FAUST PART I

CONDUCTOR EVELINO PIDÒ

DIRECTOR DAVID MCVICAR

REVIVAL DIRECTOR LEE BLAKELEY

SET DESIGNS CHARLES EDWARDS

COSTUME DESIGNS BRIGITTE REIFFENSTUEL

LIGHTING DESIGN PAULE CONSTABLE

CHOREOGRAPHY MICHAEL KEEGAN-DOLAN

REVIVAL CHOREOGRAPHY DAPHNE STROTHMANN

ROYAL OPERA CHORUS

CHORUS DIRECTOR RENATO BALSADONNA

ORCHESTRA OF THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

CO-CONCERT MASTER SERGEY LEVITIN

CO-PRODUCTION WITH OPÉRA DE MONTE CARLO, OPÉRA DE LILLE
AND FONDAZIONE TEATRO LIRICO GIUSEPPE VERDI, TRIESTE

DIRECTED FOR THE SCREEN BY SUE JUDD

LIVE FROM THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

WEDNESDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2011

IN ASSOCIATION
WITH

Bank of America
Merrill Lynch

CAST

FAUST	VITTORIO GRIGOLO
MÉPHISTOPHÉLÈS	RENÉ PAPE
MARGUERITE	ANGELA GHEORGHU
WAGNER	DANIEL GRICE†
VALENTIN	DMITRI HVOROSTOVSKY
SIÉBEL	MICHÈLE LOSIER
MARTHE SCHWERTLEIN	CAROLE WILSON

STUDENTS, SOLDIERS, TOWNSPEOPLE, DEMONS

†DANIEL GRICE IS PARTICIPATING IN THE JETTE PARKER YOUNG ARTISTS PROGRAMME

ROYAL OPERA CHORUS, EXTRA CHORUS, ACTORS AND DANCERS

APPROXIMATE TIMINGS

Acts I and II	55 minutes
Scene change	2 minutes (please remain seated)
Act III	54 minutes

INTERVAL 30 minutes

[Interval feature, 'Behind the Scenes: the Dresser', will begin 15 minutes after the start of the interval]

Acts IV and V 73 minutes

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Music Preparation David Syrus, Mark Packwood, Jean-Paul Pruna†, Stephen Westrop (organ), Alice Farnham
Dance Rehearsal Pianist David Sutton-Anderson
French Language Coach Sonja Nerdrum
Assistant Directors Barbara Lluch, Luc Mollinger
Assistant to the Revival Choreographer Milos Galko Fight Arranger Terry King
Surtitles Jeremy Sutcliffe
Production Manager Chris Harding-Roberts Costume Supervisor Anna Watkins
Assistant to the Production Manager Alison Southern
Assistant to Charles Edwards Mamoru Iriguchi
Assistant to the Costume Supervisor Annette Herold
Stage Management Simon Catchpole, Emma Turner, Rosina Webb, Sarah Waling, Benjamin Lynch

†Jean-Paul Pruna is participating in the Jette Parker Young Artists Programme

Scenery construction and painting, props and armoury Royal Opera House Production Departments
Scenic cloths Paint Studio of Fondazione Teatro Lirico Giuseppe Verdi, Trieste
Steel structure for organ and theatre box Cardiff Theatrical Services
Steel structure and motors for house truck Scenery Jessel
Fibreglass casting Jonathan Miller Studios Suspension Ropes A1 Ropes and Rigging
Costumes, hats, headdresses, dyeing, jewellery, wigs Royal Opera House Production Department
Additional costumes Lal d'Abo, Jenny Adey (millinery), Robert Allsopp, Debbie Boyd (millinery), Tracy Caulfield, Brian Coventry, Roxy Cressy, Karen Crichton, Karen Griffiths, Sonja Harms, Liz Healy, Boris Horsefield, Jane Johnson, Gill Lindley, Paul and Christine Manning, Andrea Moon, Annabel O'Docherty, David Plunkett, Ingrid Pryer, Alan Selzer, Karen Sharp, Sue Smith, Charles White, Mervyn Wallace
Footwear Gamba Ltd.

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FOX
OF COVENT GARDEN
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The children are from Stagecoach and various schools Children's Co-ordinator Janet O'Connor

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