



ROYAL
OPERA

16 SEPTEMBER 2014

CAST AMENDMENT

RIGOLETTO (Giuseppe Verdi)

17 September

Due to illness, Sardinian tenor **Piero Pretti** has withdrawn from singing the role of the Duke of Mantua on Wednesday 17 September. The role will now be sung by Albanian tenor **Saimir Pirgu**.

Saimir Pirgu made his Royal Opera role debut as the Duke of Mantua on 12 September 2014, and sings the role for all Cast A performances. He has previously sung the role for Zürich Opera and the Arena di Verona. He made his Royal Opera debut in 2007 as Rinuccio (*Gianni Schicchi*), returning in 2010 to sing Alfredo Germont (*La traviata*). His recent appearances include Tito (*La clemenza di Tito*) for Paris Opéra and Alfredo Germont in San Francisco. He will return to Covent Garden to sing the role of Shepherd (*Król Roger*) for The Royal Opera later in the 2014/15 Season.

The rest of the cast remains unchanged, with Greek baritone **Dimitri Platanias** in the title role, Japanese soprano **Eri Nakamura** as Gilda, Ukrainian bass **Alexander Tsymbalyuk** as Sparafucile and Jette Parker Young Artist Russian mezzo-soprano **Nadezhda Karyazina** as Maddalena.

The performance on 17 September will be relayed live across the UK as a [BP Big Screens](#) free outdoor screening. A list of venues can be found here: <http://www.roh.org.uk/about/bp-big-screens>

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PRESS OFFICE CONTACTS

Ann Richards/ Ruth Greenwood/ David Brownlie-Marshall/ Celia Moran

Opera Press Office, The Royal Opera

Tel: 020 7212 9132/9731/9504/9149

Fax: 020 7212 9725

ann.richards@roh.org.uk / ruth.greenwood@roh.org.uk / david.brownlie-marshall@roh.org.uk / celia.moran@roh.org.uk

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