

Approximate timings

Live cinema relay begins at 7.15pm

The opera lasts approximately two hours, ten minutes.

There will not be an interval in tonight's performance.

The live relay will end at approximately 9.45pm

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS PRODUCTION REALISTICALLY DEPICTS AND REVISITS THE MURDER OF THE YOUNG CROWN PRINCE DMITRY. WE ADVISE THAT IT IS NOT SUITABLE FOR CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 12 YEARS.

Tweet your thoughts about tonight's performance before it starts, during the interval or afterwards with **#ROHboris**

2015/16 Live Cinema Season

GISELLE WEDNESDAY 6 APRIL 2016
LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR MONDAY 25 APRIL 2016
FRANKENSTEIN WEDNESDAY 18 MAY 2016
WERTHER MONDAY 27 JUNE 2016

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ROYAL
OPERA
HOUSE

THE ROYAL OPERA

MUSIC DIRECTOR SIR ANTONIO PAPPANO
DIRECTOR OF OPERA KASPER HOLTEN

BORIS GODUNOV

OPERA IN SEVEN SCENES (ORIGINAL VERSION)

MUSIC **MODEST PETROVICH MUSORGSKY**

LIBRETTO **MODEST PETROVICH MUSORGSKY** ADAPTED FROM THE HISTORICAL
TRAGEDY BY ALEXANDER SERGEYEVICH PUSHKIN

THE EDITION OF *BORIS GODUNOV* USED IN THESE PERFORMANCES IS PUBLISHED BY
VERLAGSGRUPPE HERMANN, EDITED BY MICHAEL ROT
PERFORMED BY ARRANGEMENT WITH ALKOR-EDITION KASSEL AND FABER MUSIC LTD, LONDON

CONDUCTOR **ANTONIO PAPPANO**

DIRECTOR **RICHARD JONES**

SET DESIGNER **MIRIAM BUETHER**

COSTUME DESIGNER **NICKY GILLIBRAND**

LIGHTING DESIGNER **MIMI JORDAN SHERIN**

MOVEMENT DIRECTOR **BEN WRIGHT**

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR **ELAINE KIDD**

ROYAL OPERA CHORUS

CHORUS DIRECTOR **RENATO BALSADONNA**

ORCHESTRA OF THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

CONCERT MASTER **PETER MANNING**

DIRECTED FOR THE SCREEN BY **JONATHAN HASWELL**

LIVE FROM THE
ROYAL OPERA HOUSE
MONDAY 21 MARCH 2016, 7.15PM

Synopsis

After the death of Ivan the Terrible the boyar Boris Godunov was appointed regent – Ivan's older son, Tsar Fyodor, was physically and mentally frail, and his younger son Dmitry was an infant. Dmitry died mysteriously at the age of eight; many believed Boris had arranged his murder. Now Fyodor is dead, and with no direct heir to the throne, Boris is the most likely candidate to be the next Tsar.

Scene 1

Boris has retreated to a monastery. A crowd gather outside and entreat him to accept the throne. Shchelkalov, clerk of the Boyars' Council, tells the crowd that Boris is reluctant to rule.

Scene 2

Boris is crowned Tsar in the Kremlin and his coronation is hailed by the people.

Years pass. Boris proves to be a good and wise ruler, and a devoted father. Under his rule Russia prospers. Then, unexpectedly, the country is visited by dreadful famines. The superstitious believe that this is divine punishment, visited on Boris for the murder of the Tsarevich Dmitry.

Scene 3

In the monastery within the Kremlin, the monk Pimen is interrupted by the young novice Grigory, who has had a nightmare. Grigory asks Pimen to talk about Russia's past. Pimen talks of Ivan the Terrible, of the saintliness of Ivan's son Fyodor, and of the murder of the Tsarevich Dmitry. On hearing that Dmitry resembled him and was about the same age, Grigory formulates a plan to impersonate the Tsarevitch, and stir up rebellion.

Scene 4

Grigory (now in secular clothes) comes to an inn near the Lithuanian border, with the monks Varlaam and Missail. The Frontier Guard arrives, searching for Grigory, and carrying an edict for his arrest. Grigory realizes that the Guard cannot read and doesn't know what he looks like, and so reads out the edict, describing the monk as resembling Varlaam, rather than himself. Varlaam protests his innocence and reads the edict correctly. Grigory escapes.

Scene 5

In the Tsar's apartments, Xenia laments the early death of her fiancé, while her brother Fyodor studies a map of Russia. Boris meditates on what he has achieved since he came to power. Prince Shuisky arrives with news that a pretender, calling himself the Tsarevich Dmitry, has appeared in Lithuania. Boris orders Shuisky to seal the border, and demands reassurance that Dmitry really did die. Shuisky describes Dmitry's murder, but hints that the Tsarevich's dead body may have miraculous powers. Boris, frightened, orders Shuisky to leave and, giving way to guilt and remorse, hallucinates that he can see the dead Dmitry.

Scene 6

Outside St Basil's Cathedral, the crowd are talking about the pretender Grishka (Grigory) Otrepiev. A Holy Fool sings a nonsensical song, and some urchins steal a penny from him. Boris and his retinue leave the Cathedral, and the hungry crowd beg for bread. The Holy Fool suggests that Boris should order the murder of the thieving urchins, just as he ordered the murder of Tsarevich Dmitry. Shuisky demands that the Holy Fool be arrested, but Boris instead asks the Holy Fool to pray for him. The Holy Fool refuses to pray for 'Tsar Herod' and laments the fate of Russia.

Scene 7

At the Kremlin, the Boyars' Council agree that Grigory and his followers should be executed. Shuisky reports that Boris claims to have seen the dead Tsarevich Dmitry and is deeply troubled. Boris appears, still in the grip of his hallucination. Pimen enters and tells Boris that the Tsarevich Dmitry has become a saint from beyond the grave, and cured an old man's blindness. Boris collapses in a seizure. He calls for his son Fyodor, bids the boy farewell and calls for God's blessing on his children. He names Fyodor the heir to the throne, begs forgiveness and dies.

Cast

BORIS GODUNOV	BRYN TERFEL
ANDREY SHCHELKALOV CLERK OF THE BOYARS' COUNCIL	KOSTAS SMORIGINAS
NIKITICH A POLICE OFFICER	JEREMY WHITE
MITYUKHA A PEASANT	ADRIAN CLARKE
PRINCE VASILY IVANOVICH SHUISKY	JOHN GRAHAM-HALL
PIMEN A MONK AND CHRONICLER	AIN ANGER
GRIGORY OTREPIEV LATER 'THE FALSE DMITRY'	DAVID BUTT PHILIP
HOSTESS OF THE INN	REBECCA DE PONT DAVIES
VARLAAM MISSAIL MONKS	JOHN TOMLINSON HARRY NICOLL
FRONTIER GUARD	JAMES PLATT
XENIA BORIS GODUNOV'S DAUGHTER	VLADA BOROVKO
XENIA'S NURSE	SARAH PRING
FYODOR BORIS GODUNOV'S SON	BEN KNIGHT
BOYAR	NICHOLAS SALES
YURODIVY (HOLY FOOL)	ANDREW TORTISE
RUSSIAN POPULACE, BOYARS, SOLDIERS, PILGRIMS	