

Approximate timings

Live cinema relay begins at 7.15pm

Act I 90 minutes
Interval 30 minutes
Act II 70 minutes

The live relay will end at approximately 10.35pm



ROYAL
OPERA
HOUSE

THE ROYAL OPERA

MUSIC DIRECTOR SIR ANTONIO PAPPANO
DIRECTOR OF OPERA KASPER HOLTEN

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during the interval or afterwards with **#ROHnorma**

2016/17 LIVE CINEMA SEASON

COSÌ FAN TUTTE MONDAY 17 OCTOBER 2016

ANASTASIA WEDNESDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2016

LES CONTES D'HOFFMANN TUESDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2016

THE NUTCRACKER THURSDAY 8 DECEMBER 2016

IL TROVATORE TUESDAY 31 JANUARY 2017

WOOLF WORKS WEDNESDAY 8 FEBRUARY 2017

THE SLEEPING BEAUTY TUESDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2017

MADAMA BUTTERFLY THURSDAY 30 MARCH 2017

JEWELS TUESDAY 11 APRIL 2017

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MARGUERITE AND ARMAND** WEDNESDAY 7 JUN 2017

OTELLO WEDNESDAY 28 JUN 2017

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NORMA

TRAGEDIA LIRICA IN TWO ACTS

MUSIC **VINCENZO BELLINI**

LIBRETTO **FELICE ROMANI** AFTER ALEXANDRE SOUMET'S VERSE TRAGEDY NORMA
THE EDITION OF NORMA USED IN THESE PERFORMANCES IS PUBLISHED BY BÄRENREITER-VERLAG KASSEL, EDITED BY
RICCARDO MINASI AND MAURIZIO BIONDI. PERFORMED BY ARRANGEMENT WITH FABER MUSIC LTD, LONDON

CONDUCTOR **ANTONIO PAPPANO**

DIRECTOR **ÀLEX OLLÉ** (LA FURA DELS BAUS)
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR **VALENTINA CARRASCO**
SET DESIGNER **ALFONS FLORES**
COSTUME DESIGNER **LLUC CASTELLS**
LIGHTING DESIGNER **MARCO FILIBECK**

ROYAL OPERA CHORUS
CHORUS DIRECTOR **WILLIAM SPAULDING**
CHORUS MASTER FOR NORMA **GENEVIEVE ELLIS**

ORCHESTRA OF THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE
CONCERT MASTER **PETER MANNING**

DIRECTED FOR THE SCREEN BY
JONATHAN HASWELL

LIVE FROM THE
ROYAL OPERA HOUSE
MONDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2016 AT 7.15PM

GENEROUS PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT FROM
MRS SUSAN A. OLDE OBE AND THE TSUKANOV FAMILY FOUNDATION

CO-PRODUCTION WITH OPÉRA NATIONAL DE PARIS

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Synopsis

Act I

Scene 1

Oroveso, the head of a religious order, orders his followers to watch for the first signs of the new moon, and then to initiate the sacred rite over which his daughter Norma will preside. The group call upon their gods to inspire Norma to hatred against the occupying forces (*Dell'aura tua profetica*).

Oroveso and his followers leave as Flavio and Pollione, members of the occupying forces, arrive. Pollione confides in Flavio that he once loved Norma and has two children with her, but he has now tired of her and fallen in love with her friend Adalgisa. He is terrified of Norma's anger if she finds out, and recounts a dream in which a phantom pursued him and Adalgisa to announce Norma's revenge (*Meco all'altar di Venere*). Hearing voices, the two men leave.

Norma and her followers prepare for their ceremony. Norma counsels the people against war and prays for peace (*Casta diva*) – but she also promises to lead a rebellion when the time is right. Norma's people order that her first victim be Pollione. Norma admits to herself that she cannot kill her former lover, and that if Pollione returns to her she will even defend his life (*Ah! bello, a me ritorna*).

After the ceremony, Adalgisa expresses her guilt over her relationship with Pollione, and prays for the strength to leave him (*Deh! proteggimi, o dio*). Pollione finds her, and urges her to run away with him (*Va, crudele, al dio spietato*). Adalgisa overcomes her reluctance and promises to renounce her vows and escape with him.

Scene 2

Norma has heard that Pollione has been recalled to his homeland, and is anxious. She hears someone approach, and asks her confidante Clotilde to hide her two children.

The visitor is Adalgisa. She confesses that she is in love with a man who she first met by chance (*Sola, furtiva, al tempio*). She describes their regular meetings and their love. Norma, remembering her own love affair, is sympathetic, and agrees to release Adalgisa from her vows (*Ah! sì, fa core e abbracciami*). She asks Adalgisa for her lover's name; Adalgisa names Pollione just as he arrives. Norma tells Adalgisa about her own relationship with Pollione and denounces him (*Oh! di qual sei tu vittima*). Pollione admits that he now loves Adalgisa, and again begs her to leave with him. Adalgisa refuses and Norma orders Pollione out of the house (*Vanne, sì: mi lascia, indegno*).

Interval

Act II

Scene 1

Norma watches her children sleeping, and worries about their future. She decides to kill them to prevent their suffering when their parentage is revealed (*Teneri, teneri figli*). However, she loves them too much to commit murder, and instead orders Clotilde to bring Adalgisa to her. Norma suggests to Adalgisa that she marry Pollione, and take the children with her to his country, but Adalgisa wants to try to persuade Pollione to return to Norma (*Mira, o Norma*). The women vow eternal friendship (*Sì, fino all'ore estreme*).

Scene 2

Pollione has been recalled to his country. Oroveso warns his followers that a more tyrannical governor may take his place, and worries about Norma's lack of interest in the people's struggle. He urges his followers to wait patiently; soon they will have their revenge (*Ah! del Tebro al giogo indegno*).

Scene 3

Clotilde informs Norma that Pollione will not return to her, and is planning to abduct Adalgisa. In revenge, Norma gives the sign for her people's rebellion to begin. The people sing a ferocious war hymn (*Guerra, guerra! Le galliche selve*). Oroveso asks Norma why she has not completed her sacrificial rite, and she replies that the victim is now ready. Pollione is dragged in – he has been found nearby. He refuses to respond to Oroveso's interrogation. Norma prepares to kill Pollione, but finds she cannot do so. She orders the others away, leaving her alone with her former lover.

Norma offers Pollione his freedom if he will abandon Adalgisa (*In mia man alfin tu sei*). Pollione refuses, and Norma threatens to kill him and their children and have Adalgisa burned alive.

Norma recalls the people, and announces that the sacrifice will be a guilty priestess. When Oroveso and the people ask who this is, Norma condemns not Adalgisa (as Pollione expects), but herself (*Qual cor tradisti*). Oroveso only now learns the truth of his daughter's situation. She begs him to spare her children and look after them, and he reluctantly agrees (*Deh! non volerli vittime*). Norma and Pollione die together.

Cast

OROVESO
A RELIGIOUS LEADER

BRINDLEY SHERRATT

POLLIONE

JOSEPH CALLEJA

FLAVIO
POLLIONE'S FRIEND

DAVID JUNGHOOON KIM

NORMA*
OROVESO'S DAUGHTER, A PRIESTESS

SONYA YONCHEVA

ADALGISA
A YOUNG PRIESTESS

SONIA GANASSI

CLOTILDE
NORMA'S CONFIDANTE

VLADA BOROVKO

NORMA'S CHILDREN

NIAMH WORRELL
MATTEO DI LORENZO

RELIGIOUS OFFICIALS, NORMA'S PEOPLE, SOLDIERS

*THE ROLE OF NORMA IS GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY VIRGINIA SLAYMAKER

CASTING IS CORRECT AT TIME OF PRINTING. DETAILS OF LIVE PERFORMANCE ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.
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