



AIDA

Giuseppe Verdi

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Logos for this production: **Rising Alternative + Teatro Real + Theatrum Mundi + TVE**

Libretto by Antonio Ghislanzoni, based on the play *Camille du Locle* by Auguste Mariette.

Opera in 4 acts

Sung in Italian.

Recorded March 2018

From Teatro Real, Madrid

Approximately 2h35

CREATIVE TEAM

Conductor	Nicola Luisotti
Director	Hugo de Ana
Sets and costumes	Hugo de Ana
Lightning	Vinicio Cheli
Choreography	Leda Lojodice
Chorus Master	Andrés Máspero

ARTISTIC TEAM

The King	Soloman Howard
Amneris	Violeta Urmana
Aida	Liudmyla Monastyrska
Radamès	Gregory Kunde
Ramfis	Roberto Tagliavini
Amonasro	George Gagnidze
High Priestess	Sandra Pastrana
A messenger	Fabián Lara

Produced by Teatro Real, in co-production with the Opera Lyric of Chicago and the Municipal Theater of Santiago de Chile.

Chorus and Orchestra of Teatro Real.

PRESENTATION

In *Aida*, the grandiose and the intimate converge as in few other operas: the bloody confrontation between Ethiopians and Egyptians is juxtaposed by the love of Radamès, Captain of the Egyptian Guard, for Aida, a slave of the Ethiopians. Their love is more powerful than the hatred between the two peoples, their social differences and incompatible perspectives. This love was as solid as the wall which blocked its consummation.

Verdi chose this story after rejecting several alternatives with comical or thematic plots to which he could have composed a grand opera. He became hugely involved with the writing of the libretto by Antonio Ghislanzoni, he had collaborated in the revision of *La forza del destino*. The success of the premiere in the opera house of Cairo, having opened two years previously, was sensational. As part of the Bicentennial celebrations, the Teatro Real pays tribute to its past by recouping part of the scenery of the 1998 production from its repository. Acclaimed at that time, the technical and material complexities have made it impossible to revive until now. Aida returns to the Teatro Real.

SYNOPSIS

ACT I

Garden of the Royal Palace at Memphis. The high priest, Ramfis, announces to Radames, Captain of the Royal Guard, that the Ethiopians are revolting. Radames hopes he will be chosen to lead the Egyptian forces, and thus claim Aida (the favorite slave of Princess Amneris and, unbeknownst to the Egyptians, the Ethiopian king's daughter) as his reward. Although Aida and Radames are in love, Aida is still fearful for her kinsmen and especially for King Amonasro, her father. Furthermore, Princess Amneris is in love with Radames, although the feelings are not returned. When Radames joyfully accepts the job of leading the charge against the Ethiopians, Amneris and Aida both rush to the temple to bless his journey—although Aida's loyalty is torn between her homeland and the man she loves.

ACT II

The Ethiopians have been defeated, and Radames is returning to Thebes. Amneris tricks her slave Aida into indirectly revealing her love for Radames, which makes the princess jealous.

Radames makes a triumphant entrance to the city, with a procession of newly captured prisoners, including Aida's father, King Amonasro. Amonasro makes an eloquent plea on behalf of his people, but does not reveal his noble title. Radames is moved by his speech, and requests that as his reward, the Ethiopian prisoners not be put to death. The King grants Radames' wish, and also gives Amneris' hand in marriage.

ACT III

It is night, near a temple where Amneris and the high priest Ramfis prepare for the princess' wedding to Radames. Amonasro orders his daughter to learn from Radames the secret of his military plans against the Ethiopians. As Aida obtains the information from Radames, Amneris and Ramfis appear. They have overheard his act of treason. Radames is taken prisoner by the imperial guards as Aida escapes with her father.

ACT IV

Radames is on trial for treason, and his life is at stake. Amneris offers him a bargain: if he will renounce Aida and accept her love, he will be freed. He refuses, uninterested in a life without Aida. He is then sentenced to be buried alive in a vault underneath the temple. Amneris is horrified; although Radames has rejected her, she still loves him, but his fate is sealed. Aida joins Radames voluntarily in the tomb, sharing his tragic fate.