



RIGOLETTO

GIUSEPPE VERDI

Opera in three acts (1851)

Libretto by Francesco Maria Piave

Adapted from Victor Hugo's *Le Roi s'amuse* (1832)

In Italian with German surtitles

A huge jester's head jutting out of Lake Constance. It's a calm face that can morph from leering woman hater to screaming grimace. The ruffled collar he wears serves as a playground for some high-spirited partying. As if by magic, the jester can move his right hand, the bottom of a giant balloon gripped in his left. The Giuseppe Verdi opera is performed on a striking set created by Philipp Stölzl and Heike Vollmer, moving between spine-tingling spectacle and intimate chamber drama.

The Duke reveals his cynical philosophy in the world-famous aria »La donna è mobile«: women are flighty and dishonest, yet men must have their romantic way with them to be content. Court jester Rigoletto actively helps him in his conquests until his own daughter falls into the Duke's clutches.

Eager for revenge, help offered by a contract killer comes at just the right moment. However, a curse put upon Rigoletto becomes his downfall.

Verdi's music creates a uniquely intense atmosphere throughout the piece. Gala scenes reminiscent of a circus, an audacious kidnapping and an eerie night-time tempest are contrasted with intimate scenes between father and daughter, and between Gilda and the Duke.

Director and set designer Philipp Stölzl became well-known making music videos for Rammstein, shooting films such as *North Face*, *The Physician*, *Winnetou* and, most recently, *I've Never Been to New York*, playing in cinemas in October 2019. A celebrated opera conductor at the Salzburg Festival, the Theater an der Wien and State Operas in Berlin, Dresden and Munich, he is fulfilling a long-cherished dream by staging *Rigoletto* on the lake stage.

PREMIERE

23 July 2020 – 9:15 p.m.

FURTHER PERFORMANCES

24, 25, 26, 28, 29, 30, 31 July – 9:15 p.m.

1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 August – 9:00 p.m.

Seebühne | Festspielhaus

Musical director **Enrique Mazzola, Daniele Squeo**

Stage director **Philipp Stölzl**

Stage designer **Philipp Stölzl, Heike Vollmer**

Opera on the Lake



**BREGENZER
FEST
SPIELE**

Costume designer **Kathi Maurer**

Wired Aerial Theatre

Bregenz Festival Choir

Prague Philharmonic Choir

Stage music in cooperation with the Vorarlberg State Conservatory

Wiener Symphoniker

The 2020 Bregenz Festival runs from 22 July to 23 August 2020. For tickets and details visit www.bregenzfestspiele.com or call 0043 5574 4076.