



The Metropolitan Opera **HD LIVE**

Carmen

Georges Bizet

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Sat • Feb 2, 2019 • 1 pm

Loew Auditorium, Black Family Visual Arts Center

Sun • Feb 3, 2019 • 1 pm

Spaulding Auditorium

Carmen

Georges Bizet

Duration: 3 hours, 21 minutes

(Cast in order of vocal appearance)

Micaëla..... Aleksandra Kurzak
Carmen..... Clémentine Margaine
Don José..... Roberto Alagna
Escamillo Alexander Vinogradov

Conductor..... Louis Langrée
Production..... Sir Richard Eyre
Set & Costume Designer..... Rob Howell
Lighting Designer..... Peter Mumford
Choreographer Christopher Wheeldon
Live in HD Director Gary Halvorson
Live in HD Host Ailyn Pérez

Synopsis

ACT I

Spain. At a cigarette factory by Seville, soldiers comment on the townspeople, including a peasant girl, Micaëla. She asks for a corporal named Don José, and Corporal Moralès tells her that he will return with the changing of the guard. The relief guard soon arrives, and José hears that Micaëla has been looking for him. When the factory bell rings, the men of Seville gather to watch the female workers, especially their favorite, the gypsy Carmen, but one man pays no attention to her: Don José. Carmen throws a flower at him, and as the girls go back to work, José picks up the flower and hides it when Micaëla returns. José is about to throw away the flower when a fight erupts inside the factory between Carmen and another girl, and Zuniga sends José to retrieve Carmen. She refuses to answer Zuniga's questions, and José is ordered to take her to prison. Left alone with him, she entices José with suggestions of a rendezvous at Lillas Pastia's tavern, and, mesmerized, he agrees to let her get away. As they leave for prison, Carmen escapes and Don José is arrested.

ACT II

Carmen and her friends Frasquita and Mercédès entertain the guests at the tavern, and Zuniga tells them that José has just been released. The bullfighter Escamillo enters, boasting about the pleasures of his profession, and flirts with Carmen, who tells him that she is involved with someone else. After the tavern guests have left with Escamillo, the smugglers Dancaire and Remendado explain their latest scheme to the women. Frasquita and Mercédès are willing to help, but Carmen refuses because she is in love. The smugglers withdraw as José approaches, and Carmen makes him jealous by telling him how she danced for Zuniga. She dances for him now, but when a bugle call is heard he says he must return to the barracks. To prove his love, José shows her the flower she threw at him and confesses how it kept his hopes up during the weeks in prison. She is unimpressed: if he really loved her, he would desert the army and join her in a life of freedom in the mountains. But José refuses, and Carmen tells him to leave. Zuniga bursts in, and in a jealous rage José fights him. The smugglers return and disarm Zuniga, and now José has no choice but to join them.

Intermission (35 Minutes)

ACT III

Carmen and José quarrel in the smugglers' mountain hideaway. She admits that her love is fading and advises him to return to live with his mother. When Frasquita and Mercédès turn the cards to tell their fortunes, they foresee love and riches for themselves—but Carmen's cards spell death, for her and for José. Micaëla appears, frightened by the mountains and afraid to meet the woman who has turned José into a criminal. She hides when a shot rings out—José has fired at an intruder, who turns out to be Escamillo. He tells José that he has come to find Carmen, and the two men fight. The smugglers separate them, and Escamillo invites everyone, Carmen in particular, to his next bullfight. When he has left, Micaëla emerges and begs José to return home. He agrees when he learns that his mother is dying, but before he leaves he warns Carmen that they will meet again.

ACT IV

Back in Seville, the crowd cheers the bullfighters on their way to the arena. Carmen arrives on Escamillo's arm, and Frasquita and Mercédès warn her that José is nearby. Unafraid, she waits outside the entrance as the crowds enter the arena. José appears, begging Carmen to forget the past and start a new life with him, but she calmly tells him that their affair is over: she was born free and free she will die. José keeps trying to win Carmen back, but she takes off his ring and throws it at his feet before heading for the arena. In a fit of rage, José stabs her to death.

Upcoming Events



The Met Opera in HD **La Fille du Regiment**

Sat & Sun • Mar 2 & 3 • 1 pm

Bel canto stars Pretty Yende and Javier Camarena team up for a feast of vocal fireworks in this beloved comic opera.



The Met Opera in HD **Die Walküre**

Sat & Sun • Mar 30 & 31 • 12 pm

This second installment of Wagner's Ring cycle follows the warrior goddess Brunnhilde (soprano Christine Goerke) on her journey from Valhalla to earthbound humanity.



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Patrick Ross and Atlas Key play at the Season Launch Party cocktail hour for Hop members. (Photo credit: Ben DeFlorio)



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