

Premiere / First ever performance in Frankfurt

GUERCŒUR

Tragédie en musique in three acts by Albéric Magnard

Libretto by the composer

Sung in French with German and English surtitles

Conductor: Marie Jacquot /

Takeshi Moriuchi (March 8th 2025)

Director: David Hermann

Set and Video Designer: Jo Schramm

Costume Designer: Sibylle Wallum

Lighting Designer: Joachim Klein

Chorus Master: Virginie Déjos

Dramaturge: Mareike Wink

Guercœur: Domen Križaj

Giselle: Claudia Mahnke

Heurtal: AJ Glueckert

Vérité: Anna Gabler

Bonté: Cecelia Hall /

Bianca Andrew

(February 21st, 23rd, March 1st, 8th 2025)

Beauté: Bianca Tognocchi

Souffrance: Judita Nagyová

Shadow of a Young Woman: Julia Stuart

Shadow of a Woman: Cláudia Ribas

Shadow of a Poet: Istvan Balota

Oper Frankfurt's Chorus and Extras; Frankfurt Opern and Museumsorchester

With generous support from the Frankfurt Patronatsverein – Sektion Oper

Guercœur, a three act Tragédie en musique, was written between 1897 and 1901. The composer **Albéric Magnard** (1865-1914) wrote his own libretto. During Magnard's lifetime act 1 (1908 in Nancy) and act 3 (1910 in Paris) were heard in concert. Composer and work were victims of World War I. Magnard's home was caught between the fronts. Just after war broke out, on September 3rd 1914, Magnard died in an exchange of fire with German soldiers, aged 49. Guy Ropartz, Magnard's friend and a composer, reconstructed *Guercœur* with the help of the piano score and his memory. The complete work was performed for the first time in 1931, in Paris. It has only been staged twice since then: in Osnabrück (2019) and Strasbourg (2024).

The plot: Guercœur can't find peace in the afterlife. He longs to return to earth – to his beloved Giselle and his people, who he led to freedom. Four goddesses Vérité, Bonté, Beauté and Souffrance fulfil his wish and recreate his body. But the world kept on turning: Giselle, who swore to be true to Guercœur forever, fell in love with his protégé Heurtal and wants to have his baby. Heurtal turned his back on the ideals of freedom and democracy and intends to become a dictator. The starving populace is divided, and the situation's getting out of control. While Heurtal is being proclaimed dictator, Guercœur dies a second time, in violent rioting. The dead man enters paradise again and is rocked to sleep by the four goddesses. „Hope“, is Guercœur's last word, before Vérité prophesies that his life-long dream of love and freedom will come true one day.

The French conductor **Marie Jacquot**, 1st Guest Conductor of the Vienna Symphony Orchestra since 2023/24, was named Chief Conductor of the Royal Danish Theatre in 2024/25 and takes up the same position with the WDR Symphony Orchestra in 2026/27. After her House Debut in Frankfurt with *Die Zauberflöte* in 2023/24 was postponed due to illness, she makes up for it now with *Guercœur*. Director **David Hermann** has worked regularly at Oper Frankfurt since 2004/05, most recently on *Warten auf heute*, an evening of works by Arnold Schönberg and Frank Martin. Led by **Domen Križaj** (Guercœur), **Claudia Mahnke** (Giselle) and **AJ Glueckert** (Heurtal) the cast largely consists of Members of **Oper Frankfurt's Ensemble and Opera Studio**, who are joined by the Munich-born soprano **Anna Gabler** (Vérité), who sang Gutrune in *Götterdämmerung* here in 2015/16, and the tenor **Istvan Balota**, who sang 1st Orderly in a new production of Henze's *The Prince of Homburg* in Frankfurt earlier this season.

Premiere / First ever performance in Frankfurt: Sunday February 2nd 2025, at 18hrs in the Opera House

Further performances: February 8th, 13th (19hrs), 16th, 21st (19hrs), 23rd (15.30hrs), March 1st, 8th 2025

Unless otherwise stated, all performance begin at 18hrs.

Tickets cost: € 16 to € 190 (with a 12.5% pre-booking fee when not purchased direct from the theatre)

Tickets can be obtained from the usual outlets, by telephone +49 (0)69 – 212 49 49 4 or online www.oper-frankfurt.de.

We do hope you might be able to publish this event. For further information, ordering photographs and reserving press tickets please contact Holger Engelhardt (Leitung Pressereferat) on +49 (0)69 – 212 46 727. His fax number is +49 (0)69 – 212 37 164 or you can email him on holger.engelhardt@buehnen-frankfurt.de.