

Premiere

LA JUIVE (THE JEWESS)

Opera in five acts by Fromental Halévy

Libretto by Eugène Scribe

Sung in French with German and English surtitles

Conductor: Henrik Nánási

Director: Tatjana Gürbaca

Set Design, Lighting and Animation: Klaus Grünberg

Costume Designer: Silke Willrett

Chorus and Extra Chorus Master: Tilman Michael

Dramaturge: Maximilian Enderle

Rachel: Ambur Braid

Éléazar: John Osborn

Léopold: Gerard Schneider

Eudoxie: Monika Buczkowska

Cardinal Brogni: Simon Lim

Ruggiero / Executioner: Sebastian Geyer

Albert / Imperial Army's Herald: Danylo Matviienko

Oper Frankfurt's Chorus, Extra Chorus and Extras

Frankfurt Opern- und Museumsorchester

With generous support from the Frankfurt Patronatsverein – Sektion Oper

In the 19th century *La Juive (The Jewess)* by **Fromental Halévy** (1799-1862) – with a libretto by Eugène Scribe – became one of the most performed works in Europe, with more than 500 performances in Paris alone. Reactions to the work after its World Premiere in Paris in 1835 were as divided as France in those days: Conservative critics sneered at the „Jewish subject“ and negative portrayal of the Catholic church; for republican theatre-goers, who were disparaging about the Paris Opera anyway, the criticism of religion wasn't far reaching enough, but it went down very well with the bourgeois-liberal *Juste milieu*, who supported King Louis Philippe's reign – not least because of its thrilling music. Halévy, whose luminaries, apart from his composition mentor Cherubini, included Mozart, introduced a tectonic in the overture which allowed lyrical moments to suddenly turn into destructive cascades of sound. The protagonists' conflicting motives in the plot become manifest in large scale arias juxtaposed with virtuoso ensembles. The chorus symbolises a collective hatred, which becomes the real driving force of the action.

Constance during the great Council in 1414: Jewish goldsmith Éléazar dared work on a Catholic feast day, making an angry mob determined to drown him and his daughter in the lake. They're protected by Imperial Prince Léopold, who's secretly having a love affair with Rachel. When Léopold ends the relationship, Rachel publicly accuses him of fornication. Cardinal Brogni sentences Léopold, Éléazar and Rachel to death, without knowing he's her real father...

Henrik Nánási is back at Oper Frankfurt, where he made his debut in 2009 conducting *La bohème*, returning for, amongst others, *I masnadieri* (Verdi), *L'étoile* (Chabrier) and *La gazza ladra* (Rossini). **Tatjana Gürbaca** has made quite a name for herself directing seldom performed operas. She staged Luigi Dallapiccola's *Ulisse* in Frankfurt in 2022 – a production which went down very well with press and public. **Ambur Braid** (Rachel), a Member of the Ensemble in Frankfurt from 2018 to 2023, still enjoys close ties with the house, returning earlier this season for Salome, one of her best known roles. After singing his first Werthers here in 2014, and triumphant performances of Arturo in a new Bellini's *I puritani*, in 2018, **John Osborn** returns to Frankfurt for Éléazar in *La Juive* and a recital on June 8th 2024. South Korean bass **Simon Lim**, who made his debut at Oper Frankfurt in 2019 as Filippo II (*Don Carlo*), is back to sing Cardinal Brogni. All the other roles are taken by Members of the Ensemble: **Gerard Schneider** (Léopold) enjoyed great success earlier this season as Falsacappa in a new Offenbach's *The Bandits*. **Monika Buczkowska** (Eudoxie) has just been singing Livia in Cimarosa's *L'italiana in Londra*. **Sebastian Geyer** (Ruggiero) triumphed in the Bockenheimer Depot as Don Perlimplín in Wolfgang Fortner's *Don Perlimplín's Love for Belisa in his Garden*, and the young baritone **Danylo Matviienko** (Albert), who moves to the Semperoper in Dresden in the 2024/25 season, sang Papageno in *Die Zauberflöte*. With the exception of John Osborn, all are singing their roles for the first time.

Premiere: Sunday June 16th 2024, at 17hrs in the Opera House

Further performances: June 20th, 23rd (15.30hrs), 28th, July 6th (17hrs), 11th, 14th (15.30hrs) 2024
Unless otherwise stated, all performances 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.