

Premiere / First ever performance in Frankfurt
THE BANDITS (LES BRIGANDS)
 Opéra bouffe in three acts by Jacques Offenbach
 Text by Henri Meilhac und Ludovic Halévy
 New German version by Katharina Thoma
 Sung in German with German and English surtitles

Conductor: Karsten Januschke
 Director: Katharina Thoma
 Set Designer: Etienne Pluss
 Costume Designer: Irina Bartels
 Lighting Designer: Olaf Winter
 Chorus Master: Tilman Michael
 Dramaturge: Konrad Kuhn

Falsacappa: Gerard Schneider
 Pietro: Yves Saelens
 Carmagnola: Jonathan Abernethy
 Domino: Michael McCown
 Barbavano: Jarrett Porter
 Fiorella: Elizabeth Reiter
 Fragoletto: Kelsey Lauritano
 Pipo: Kudaibergen Abildin
 Pipa / Marquise: Cláudia Ribas
 Pipetta: Ekin Su Paker

The Prince of Mantua: Peter Marsh
 Baron Campotasso: Theo Lebow
 Captain of the Carabinieri: Magnús Baldvinsson
 Antonio: Peter Bronder
 Count Gloria-Cassis: Abraham Bretón
 Princess of Granada: Juanita Lascarro
 Adolfo of Valladolid: Tianji Lin
 Steward: Pilgoo Kang
 and others

Oper Frankfurt's Chorus and Extras
 Frankfurt Opern und Museumsorchester

With generous support from the Frankfurt Patronatsverein – Sektion Oper

This lavishly cast, elaborate operetta about robbers, which was very popular since the romantic era, shows us **Jacques Offenbach** (1819-1880), that master of satirical biting wit and virtuosic situation comedy at the height of his creativity. He composed his three act Opéra bouffe *The Bandits*, with his librettists Henri Meilhac and Ludovic Halévy, in only three months. Now this work, which received its World Premiere in 1869 at the Théâtre des Variétés in Paris, is being performed for the first time in Frankfurt on January 28th 2024.

Robber chieftain Falsacappa's bandits are unhappy about the hauls from their latest robberies. Falsacappa's daughter fell in love with Fragoletto, and vice versa, during the recent raid on his farm. Now he wants to be a bandit too and kidnaps a cabinet's courier. Papers found on him reveal that the Princess of Granada is on her way to marry the Prince of Mantua. Her dowry consists to a large extent of debts owed by the Mantuans to Spain. The remaining sum is to be handed over to the delegation from Granada. Falsacappa cooks up a plan ...

Conductor of this first ever performance in Frankfurt is **Karsten Januschke**, who worked at Oper Frankfurt until 2015 – where he was made a Kapellmeister. Last season he led revivals of *Eugene Onegin* and Handel's *Tamerlano* and forthcoming projects include *Hänsel und Gretel* at the Staatsoper in Stuttgart. **Katharina Thoma**, who directed a Pergolesi *Stabat Mater / La serva padrona* double bill and *Tristan und Isolde* in Frankfurt in 2020/21, recently staged a new *Frau ohne Schatten* at Cologne Opera and *Rusalka* at the Staatstheater in Karlsruhe. With the exception of **Yves Saelens** (Pietro) and **Peter Bronder** (Antonio) the cast is made up of **Members (and former Members) of Oper Frankfurt's Ensemble and Opera Studio**. The Austrian-Australian tenor **Gerard Schneider** (Falsacappa) sings Narraboth (*Salome*) here again this season and Léopold as a role debut in a new staging of Fromental Halévy's *La Juive*. American soprano **Elizabeth Reiter** (Fiorella) recently sang Amanda in Ligeti's *Le Grand Macabre* for the first time. **Kelsey Lauritano** (Fragoletto) sang Cherubino in the new *Le nozze di Figaro*; this Japanese-American mezzo-soprano can also be heard again as Emilia in Rossini's *Otello*. **Peter Marsh** (The Prince of Mantua) thrilled audiences here as Piet the Pot in Ligeti's *Le Grand Macabre* this season.

Premiere / First ever performance in Frankfurt: Sunday January 28th 2024, at 18hrs in the Opera House

Further performances: February 1st, 10th, 16th, 18th (15.30hrs; with free childminding for children aged between 3 and 9), 22nd,
 March 1st, 10th (18hrs), 15th 2024
 Unless otherwise stated, all performances begin at 19.30hrs

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.