

Premiere

LADY MACBETH OF MTSENSK

Opera in four acts (nine scenes) by Dmitri D. Shostakovitch

Libretto by the composer and Alexander G. Preis

based on Nikolai S. Leskov

Sung in Russian with German and English surtitles

Conductor: Sebastian Weigle

Director: Anselm Weber

Set and Costume Designer: Kaspar Glarner

Lighting Designer: Olaf Winter

Video: Bibi Abel

Chorus and Extra Chorus Master: Tilman Michael

Dramaturge: Konrad Kuhn

Katerina Ismailowa: Anja Kampe

Sergei: Dmitry Golovnin

Boris Ismailow / Old forced labourer: Dmitry Belosselskiy

Sinowi Ismailow: Evgeny Akimov

Shabby man: Peter Marsh

Sonjetka: Zanda Švėde

Pope: Alfred Reiter

Chief of Police: Iain MacNeil

Custodian / Sergeant: Anthony Robin Schneider

Axinja: Julia Dawson

House boy: Mikołaj Trąbka

Policeman / Guard: Dietrich Volle

Teacher / 1st foreman: Theo Lebow

Drunk guest / 2nd foreman: Michael McCown

3rd foreman: Hans-Jürgen Lazar

Female labourer: Barbara Zechmeister

Coachman: Alexey Egorov

Miller: Yongchul Lim

Oper Frankfurt's Chorus, Extra Chorus and Extras; Frankfurter Opern- und Museumsorchester

With generous support from the Frankfurt Patronatsverein – Sektion Oper

January 22nd 1934 was the day when *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk* by **Dmitri D. Shostakovitch** (1906-1975) was a great success at its world premiere in the Maly Theater in Saint Petersburg. The libretto for his second opera, written by this Russian composer in collaboration with Alexander G. Preis, was based on the novel by the same name by Nikolai S. Leskov (1865). The work vanished from the repertoire of theatres in the Soviet Union for many years after Stalin banned it from being performed in 1936. It is more than a quarter of a century since *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk* was seen in Frankfurt, in Werner Schroeter's production, which opened on March 7 1993.

The story: Katerina, the merchant Sinowi's wife, cheats on him with a labourer, Sergei. This has not gone unnoticed by her father-in-law Boris, who had also cast his eye over the young woman in his son's absence. The old man thrashes Sergei, so Katerina poisons him. Sinowi, who already knows about his wife's liaison, comes home earlier than expected and is killed by the lovers. Sinowi's body is discovered during the new couple's wedding celebrations. Katerina and Sergei are sentenced to life in a labour camp, where Sergei takes up with Sonjetka, another forced labourer. Katerina then kills her rival and herself.

The conductor is GMD **Sebastian Weigle**, leading his first new production of the 2019/20 season in his home house. Frankfurt's Schauspiel Intendant **Anselm Weber** is working in the neighbouring house, where he directed Weinberg's *Die Passagierin / The Passenger* in 2015. The German soprano **Anja Kampe** (Katerina Ismailowa) appeared at the theatre on Willy Brandt Platz for the first time in 2007/08, as Lisa in Tchaikovsky's *Pique Dame*. She sang Katerina Ismailowa at the Bayerische Staatsoper in 2017. International engagements have taken this Bavarian Kammersängerin to the Bayreuth and Salzburg festivals and opera houses including those in Berlin, Hamburg, Vienna and Paris. The tenor **Dmitry Golovnin**, who has sung Sergei before, is appearing in Frankfurt for the first time. Future plans for this Russian singer include Grigori Otrepiev in Mussorgsky's *Boris Godunow* at the Opéra Bastille in Paris. The role of Pimen in this Paris production is one of his compatriot **Dmitry Belosselskiy's** (Boris Ismailow) forthcoming engagements. This sought-after bass recently sang Philipp II in Verdi's *Don Carlo* at the Teatro Real in Madrid, in Oper Frankfurt's production. The Russian tenor **Evgeny Akimov** (Sinowi Ismailow), who enjoys a close relationship with the Mariinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg, is singing in Frankfurt for the first time. Nearly all the other roles are being sung by **Members of the Ensemble** and **Chorus Soloists**, including new Ensemble Members **Iain MacNeil** (Chief of Police) and **Anthony Robin Schneider** (Custodian / Sergeant).

Premiere: Sunday November 3rd 2019, at 18.00hrs in the Opera House

Further performances: November 7th, 10th (15.30hrs; with free child minding for those aged between 3 and 9), 14th, 17th (18.00hrs), 22nd, 29th, December 8th (18.00hrs), 12nd 2019
Unless otherwise stated, all performances begin at 19.00hrs

Tickets cost: € 15 to € 165 (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