

Nina Clausen

Aida – Cast Theben

The Danish-born soprano will sing the title role of our AIDA - Aida. Nina Clausen's unconventional nature is also evident in her repertoire, which ranges from classics and standard works to a whole series of experimental productions. Nina celebrates her debut in our AIDA in the role of a modern, strong Aida. Nina, is there anything that you have always wanted to say? "What I want to say? Actually, I do say this at every opportunity: Vulnerability is the most important thing if you want to connect on a deeper level with other humans. It takes Courage, but it's worth it. I use this hard-earned wisdom in my daily life, but also as a singer: Only when I dare to be vulnerable on stage and show a little part of my real self can I truly touch the audience. So that's my aim. Always!"

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Giuseppe Verdi

AIDA



Yana Kleyn

Aida – Cast Memphis

Yana will take on the title role of Aida in our Memphis cast and it won't be the first time she has sung it so far. She is trained as a pianist at the Gnesins Academy of Music from a young age and finished her many years of musical training with a Master at the Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts in Denmark, where she moved from Moscow and where she still lives today. She recently sang Cio-Cio in Puccini's Madame Butterfly, a role for which BR-Klassik described her as "a discovery in terms of performance and a sensation in terms of singing". Yana, what did you want to be when you were a little girl?

"I thought that I would become a pianist or a dancer, but my secret dream was to be a rock singer. I think I have come as close as possible to that dream despite no rock voice talent... 😊"

Nora Sourouzian

Amneris – Cast Memphis

For the mezzo-soprano, who was born in Montreal (Can) and lives in Berlin, the role of Amneris is not an unknown one. She already sang the role in the 2021/2022 season at "Den Jyske Opera" (Arhus, DK) and also in the 2022/23 season she sang Amneris at the Royal Danish Opera in Copenhagen. During her career, which has taken her to the opera houses of Zurich, Amsterdam, Copenhagen, Paris, Naples, Essen, Cologne, Graz, the Met in New York, Seattle, Bellas Artes in Mexico or Tokyo, she has held numerous leading roles. Conductors such as Christoph Eschenbach, Sir John Eliot Gardiner, Marc Minkowski, Leif Segerstam or Franz Welser-Möst invited her to sing in concerts and soon, under the direction of our conductor Michael Ellis Ingram, she will embody Amneris in our AIDA.

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Sophia Maeno

Amneris – Cast Theben

With the mezzo-soprano Sophia from Schwerin, we have found the perfect cast for Amneris, daughter of the Egyptian king and rival of Aida. Her repertoire is rich and versatile. Nor is this the first time she has sung the role of Amneris. Sophia, which prejudice about opera singers is wrong/which one is true? "Hahaaa... Well, there's probably some truth in every cliché. In any case, for me the term "diva" has a rather positive connotation: singers who perform at the highest level achieve an enormous amount physically, mentally, and artistically, and in order to live up to these demands and expectations in the long term, they need a corresponding buffer or protective zone. So, what a diva artificially builds up around herself is not necessarily reprehensible."

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Dr. Martin Shalita

Radames – Cast Memphis

Martin Shalita was born in Miami but lived in Germany for many years. He takes on the role of Radames. Martin has appeared in countless productions, including "Lady MacBeth", "Don Carlos" and "Fidelio", for example, and his repertoire also includes "Madame Butterfly", "Don Giovanni" and "The Magic Flute". He is also a successful concert singer and earned the title Doctor of Musical Arts at the University of Miami. Martin, imagine you were a superhero. What special superpower would you have? "Definitely, I would love to be able to fly! I've dreamt about it many times since I was a child!"

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Marvin Scott

Radames – Cast Theben

Marvin is a native of Brooklyn, but lives in Germany. His engaging personality and powerful voice make him a tenor you won't forget. For this reason alone, he is perfect for the role of Radames, whose nature is torn between his loyalty to his fatherland, for which he goes to war against the Ethiopians, and his love for the Ethiopian king's daughter Aida. What do you think Marvin, which prejudice about opera singers is wrong/which is true? "Opera is an all-inclusive adventure. Yes, we have elitist elements in this art form, and we have welcoming and emotional elements. That speaks to all people regardless beyond language and cultural connection. It is the reason Nessun Dorma can bring a stadium of opera lovers and haters to tears."



VaShawn Savoy McIlwain

Amonasro

VaShawn Savoy McIlwain will sing the role of Amonasro, King of the Ethiopians. VaShawn comes from Washington and was also trained there to become the unique bass-baritone singer he is today. And even back then he stood out, especially because of his outstanding stage presence! After his initial training, he completed an additional bachelor's degree in performance and a Master degree in Opera at the University of Maryland. VaShawn, is there anything that you have always wanted to say? Thank you, God, Mom, Dad, family, friends and world, for this Grammy!

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Andrew Nolan

Ramfis

Andrew lives in Berlin but comes from the USA. His voice has been described by Opera News as "commanding bass" and the Rheinische Post once described Andrew Nolan as "simply breathtaking!". As an internationally sought-after singer and interpreter with a broad repertoire in opera and concert, he is the ideal cast for the role of Ramfis in our AIDA. Andrew, tell us, which prejudice about opera singers is wrong/which is true? "We really are terrified of catching a cold, that is true! And that singers never drink or smoke... Is not true. :)"

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