



SAN FRANCISCO  
OPERA



## **MEFISTOFELE**

### **LIVE FROM THE SAN FRANCISCO OPERA HOUSE**

### **OCTOBER 3<sup>RD</sup> IN CINEMAS ACROSS EUROPE**

THIS SPECTACULAR AMERICAN PRODUCTION OPENS  
THE RISING ALTERNATIVE LIVE OPERA SEASON IN CINEMAS

The San Francisco Opera cinema season kicks off October 3<sup>RD</sup> with Arrigo Boito's resplendent retelling of Goethe's Faust, a monumental work of "choral grandeur and melodic richness" (The New York Times) , in one of the most impressive productions ever seen at the War Memorial Opera House.

This unique, grand, spectacular production of Mefistofele by the San Francisco Opera is being brought to European audiences LIVE (with just the delay needed for time zones) thanks to the transatlantic digital broadcast by Rising Alternative . Opera fans can now "virtually travel" 10.000 Kms to experience the best that Opera world can offer, by just going to their favorite local cinema.

The cast includes Ramon Vargas, a tenor "in ravishing voice" (Financial Times), as the philosopher who sells his soul to the Devil; the "luminous, compelling" Patricia Racette (Washington Post) as the woman he desires; and, in the vividly menacing title role, the "seductively malevolent" bass-baritone Ildar Abdrazakov, a "fullbodied bass-baritone" renowned for his "wonderfully evil portrayals" (The New York Times). And the Italian maestro Nicola Luisotti, will be on the conductor podium, showing once again why "the WMOH (San Francisco Opera) is so blessed to have him in San Francisco" (San Francisco Classical Voice).

Mefistofele is the first of 13 new LIVE broadcasts that Rising Alternative will bring to cinemas for the 2013-2014 season. The opera continues the program of big screen presentations of magnificent productions from the world's great performing arts venues, giving operas lovers in all countries the chance to experience the international cultural shows at their local cinema.

MEFISTOFELE will be the first of two operas that Rising Alternative will bring from San Francisco. The second one, LUCREZIA BORGIA, will come in early 2014 with the superb Renée Fleming in a starring role.

**MEFISTOFELE, LIVE October 3rd 2013 - 19h30 (CEST) , 18h30 BST**

From the San Francisco Opera  
Music and libretto by Arrigo Boito  
Opera 4 acts with prologue and epilogue

Sung in Italian

**CAST**

Mefistofele	Ildar Abdrazakov
Margherita	Patricia Racette
Faust	Ramon Vargas

**CREATIVE TEAM**

Conductor	Nicola Luisotti
Production	Robert Carsen
Director	Laurie Feldman Santoliquido
Production Designer	Michael Levine
Lighting Designer	Duane Schuler
Chorus Director	Ian Robertson
Choreographer	Alphonse Poulin

**ABOUT THE SAN FRANCISCO OPERA HOUSE**

A global leader in opera for nine decades, San Francisco Opera is recognized as one of the top opera companies in the world and heralded for its pioneering productions and roster of international opera stars. Originally presented over two weeks, San Francisco Opera's season now contains approximately 75 performances of ten operas between September and July. The Company inaugurated its current home, the venerable beaux arts War Memorial Opera House, with a performance of Tosca on October 15, 1932.

David Gockley, San Francisco Opera's sixth general director, is committed to broadening and diversifying audiences by bringing opera into the community and beyond through a number of media initiatives like television and radio broadcasts, simulcasts, cinemacasts, and more through the Koret-Taube Media Suite: the first permanent high-definition broadcast-standard video production facility installed in any American opera house. Since its inception, San Francisco Opera has embodied a spirit of innovation by presenting thirteen world premieres, three of them in 2013.

Celebrated Italian conductor Nicola Luisotti has been music director of San Francisco Opera since 2009; distinguished American conductor Patrick Summers serves as the Company's principal guest conductor.

**RISING ALTERNATIVE**, is one of the world's leading alternative content distributors and offers the world's best opera and ballet to cinemas, cultural centers and other public venues worldwide. The San Francisco Opera, the Teatro alla Scala, the Opera National de Paris, The Salzburg Festival and the Wiener Staatsoper are among the many opera venues featured in its catalogue.

The company, with offices in New York, Berlin and Milan is ideally positioned to support its partners in exhibition and provide cinemas and audiences with a slate of 24 programs a year, 13 of which will be broadcast LIVE in HD during the in2013-2014 season. Its exhibition partner network includes more than 800 screens in 40 countries. Rising Alternative management has been involved in the distribution content internationally since 2006.

[www.risingalternative.com](http://www.risingalternative.com)

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