

Otello

Giuseppe Verdi
Opera in four acts.

Libretto by Arrigo Boito, after Shakespeare's play *Othello*.
Premiered on February 5, 1887 at the Teatro alla Scala in Milan.



© Klara Beck

Concept

In committing the perfect crime, manipulation makes a powerful weapon: simply persuade the victim to slowly drink the poison and they will be totally oblivious to their downfall. In *Otello*, the poison dripped into the victim's ear is jealousy. One of theatre's most Machiavellian and treacherous villains, Iago need only sow the slightest seed of doubt in Othello's mind to rouse his deep insecurities. An innocent meeting between his wife Desdemona and his young lieutenant Cassio stirs up suspicion and jealousy in Othello who, falling for Iago's lies, won't stop until he has proof of her adultery that we know only to be in his mind—proof that Iago fabricates to satisfy his insatiable thirst for power and vengeance.

After the resounding success of Aida in 1871, Giuseppe Verdi retreated into retirement to devote his later years to composing religious music and revising his operas. If it weren't for the perseverance of his publisher, the enthusiasm of the librettist (and composer) Arrigo Boito, and his own personal ambition to once again tackle the work of William Shakespeare, Verdi may never have been persuaded to return to the spotlight. Sixteen years after bidding farewell to composing, Verdi made a triumphant return with Otello, fully embracing opera's new modern structure in a work that is intensely dramatic and underpinned by his skillful use of orchestral color to create tension and foreboding. Speranza Scappucci conducts this atmospheric masterpiece staged by Ted Huffman, whose stripped-down approach heightens the psychological depth of this timeless classic.

Creative team

Stage director & Set Designer

Ted Huffman

Costume designer

Astrid Klein

Lightning designer

Bertrand Killy

Cast

Number of principals

Female 2

Male 6

Chorus

Female 18 + 9 chorus of Nancy

Male 19 + 10 chorus of Nancy

Dancers 6

(2 women + 4 men)

Other 2

(2 musicians in costume)

Instrumentation

71 musicians

3.2.3.4 / 4.4.3.1/Timp+4 / 2

harps / strings

Banda

Running time: 2h43 (including 1 interval)

Volume of the production

Set, Props: 2 trailers

Costumes : 20m3 x 1

Performances

Strasbourg

Mulhouse (La Filature)

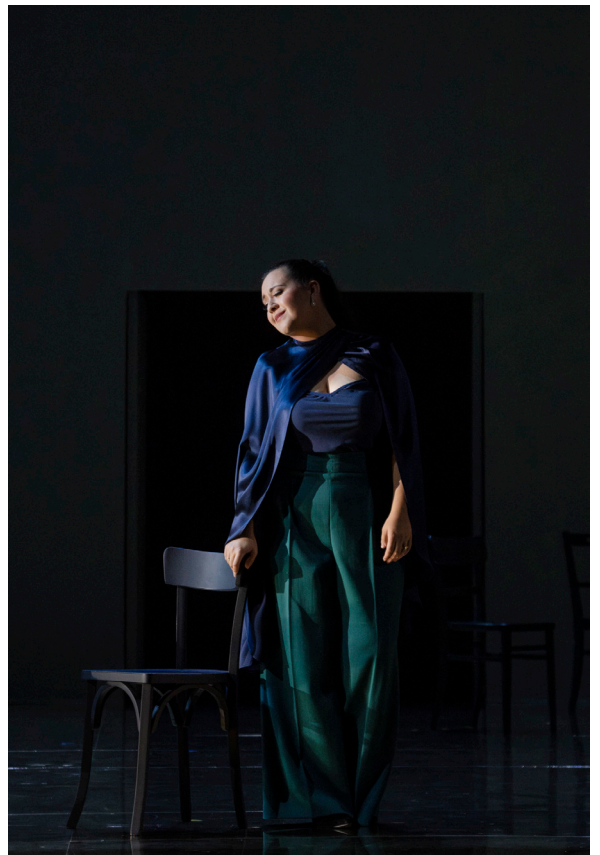
October/November 2025

November 2025

Coproduced with Opéra National de Nancy-Lorraine and Théâtre de la Ville de Luxembourg and will return in autumn 2026.

The detailed technical file is available at the Technical Department.

Otello



Otello



Otello



Contact

Director of Artistic Production

Mme Emilie Symphorien

Tél : + 33 (0)3 68 98 75 48

E-mail : esymphorien@onr.fr