



**Press Release**  
**ZELMIRA TO INAUGURATE ROF 2025**  
**An opera where the audience surrounds the stage in a**  
**360-degree experience**

Zelmira, returning to the ROF stage for the first time since 2009, will inaugurate the 46th edition of the Rossini Opera Festival on 10 August at 7 pm at the Auditorium Scavolini.

This production, which gives each audience member an unprecedented 360-degree perspective through a revolutionary use of theatrical space, will be conducted by Giacomo Sagripanti and staged by Calixto Bieito (making his Pesaro debut) who also co-designed the sets with Barbora Horáková. Costumes are by Ingo Krügler and lighting by Michael Bauer. Giacomo Sagripanti will conduct the Orchestra del Teatro Comunale di Bologna, returning to the ROF after serving as its principal ensemble for over thirty years, alongside the Coro del Teatro Ventidio Basso. The cast includes Anastasia Bartoli in the title role, Lawrence Brownlee (Ilo), Enea Scala (Antenore), Marina Viotti (Emma), Marko Mimica (Polidoro), Gianluca Margheri (Leucippo), Paolo Nevi (Eacide), and Shi Zong (Gran Sacerdote). The three additional performances will take place on 13, 16 and 19 August.

The premiere will be broadcast live by Rai Radio3. Listeners tuning in from home will be able to follow real-time subtitles on their smartphones by downloading the free Lyri live app.

Zelmira was first performed at the Teatro San Carlo in Naples on 16 February 1822 with a formidable cast led by Isabella Colbran, the composer's future wife. That same cast accompanied him to Vienna later that year for the tour that established Rossini as Europe's most important composer. Zelmira was subsequently staged, with some adaptations, in London (1824) and Paris (1826). The libretto by Andrea Leone Tottola was inspired by the drama Zelmire by Dormont de Belloy (1762). The edition performed at this year's Festival is the Vienna 1822 version.

The first ROF Talk will take place on the morning of 10 August at 11:30 am, in the Sala della Repubblica at Teatro Rossini. On the morning of 10 August, at 11.30 am, the first of the ROF Talks will be held in the Sala della Repubblica of Teatro Rossini. Hosted by Susanna Franchi of Rai Radio3, these events offer in-depth discussions on the operas featured in the programme, as well as on current cultural topics. In the first session, Giacomo Sagripanti and Calixto Bieito will introduce Zelmira. At the end of the conversation, the 44th Premio Abbiati ceremony will take place. This prestigious award, often described as the Oscar of Italian classical music, is presented by the Associazione Nazionale

**Rossini Opera Festival**

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Critici Musicali. The ROF will receive the award for Best Production of 2024 for Ermione, conducted by Michele Mariotti and staged by Johannes Erath, with Anastasia Bartoli, Enea Scala and Juan Diego Flórez in the leading roles.

Pesaro, 7 August 2025

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