



## **Press Release**

### **L'ITALIANA IN ALGERI: FREE AND REBELLIOUS Isabella as a drag queen: wit, irony and disguise**

The second new production of the Rossini Opera Festival 2025 will be *L'Italiana in Algeri*, presented in a dazzling, colourful version conceived by Rosetta Cucchi, opening on 12 August at 8 pm at the Teatro Rossini. In the vision of the Pesaro-born director, Rossini's quintessential opera buffa becomes a space for disguise, role reversal and freedom from imposed conventions.

The Orchestra del Teatro Comunale di Bologna and the Coro del Teatro Ventidio Basso will be conducted by Dmitry Korchak. Cucchi is joined by her regular creative team: sets by Tiziano Santi, costumes by Claudia Pernigotti, video design by Nicolás Boni and lighting by Daniele Naldi. The cast includes Daniela Barcellona as Isabella, Josh Lovell as Lindoro, Giorgi Manoshvili as Mustafà, alongside Misha Kiria (Taddeo), Gurgen Baveyan (Haly), Vittoriana De Amicis (Elvira) and Andrea Niño (Zulma). Further performances follow on 14, 18 and 21 August. The premiere will be broadcast live on Rai Radio3.

*L'Italiana in Algeri* was first performed on 22 May 1813 at the Teatro San Benedetto in Venice, composed in under a month to a libretto by Angelo Anelli. The text had already been set by Luigi Mosca for the Teatro alla Scala (16 August 1808) and was later adapted to fit the musical structure of Rossini's opera.

On the morning of the premiere, 12 August at midday, the Sala della Repubblica at the Teatro Rossini will host the third ROF Talk: *Educare all'opera*, focusing on how opera can be introduced to young audiences. Speakers include Barbara Minghetti (Teatro Sociale di Como), Vania Cauzillo (Reseo), Elisabetta Garilli of the Garilli Atelier, and the Festival's General Director Cristian Della Chiara. Following this, conductor Dmitry Korchak and director Rosetta Cucchi will then join Rai Radio3 journalist Susanna Franchi to discuss the evening's performance.

Pesaro, 9 August 2025.

**Rossini Opera Festival**

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