

Related Events

Opera: Passion, Power and Politics

In collaboration with the Royal Opera House

Sponsored by Societe Generale

The Sainsbury Gallery | 30 September 2017 – 25 February 2018

vam.ac.uk/opera | [#Operapassion](https://twitter.com/Operapassion)

This autumn the V&A will bring live opera to the Museum with a series of free performances, concerts and events in celebration of the power of opera. The V&A will collaborate with leading companies and operatic stars from Susan Bullock and The National Opera Studio to Opera North, Garsington and ENO. The series of events centres on an **Opera Weekender** in November, and coincides with major exhibition *Opera: Passion, Power and Politics*. It will give those new to opera an opportunity to experience the art-form.

On most Thursday's:

- **The National Opera Studio** will host a lunchtime concert series, with young artists and alumni performing a specially curated programme. The first concert on 28 September will feature **Susan Bullock CBE**.

In October:

- **Opera North** will present *Whistle Stop Opera* on 11 October, a variety of operas packed into 30 minutes of comedy, deceit, love and tragedy.
- The Museum will host ***Hospital Passion Play*** on 14 October. Seventy performers, including a choir of twenty stroke survivors, will perform in conjunction with films of intimate performances from hospitals across London and Buckinghamshire. Composed by Orlando Gough, *Hospital Passion Play* weaves stories of rehabilitation from those who have had a brain or spinal injury into an opera.
- **Metta Theatre** will be the V&A's Opera Residents and will use their time at the Museum to develop a new opera 'Roles', exploring canonical female characters emancipated from the historically male gaze.

In November, the **Opera Weekender** will see opera takeover the Museum, from Friday 10 to Sunday 12 November. Highlights include:

- Pop-up performances from the **Royal College of Music** across the Museum.
- Renaissance and Baroque group **Tetra** will present a mixture of English song, French ballet and Italian arias in the Medieval and Renaissance galleries.
- Sarah Hardie's opera *before sleep at the end of love* will be performed in the V&A's Sackler Courtyard: through spoken-word, song, and movement, the piece explores themes of the voice, self, contemporary lovers and friendship.
- **Music Theatre Wales** will present *The Homecoming*, featuring an aria sung by central character The Little One as his discarded body floats home to China.
- In a lecture/performance **Matteo Augello** will tell the history of the prima donna by embodying four outstanding performers, investigating why we are fascinated by operatic divas.
- **Streetwise Opera** will run a singing and acting workshop, with participants playing games, singing opera choruses, and transforming themselves into different characters to learn more about opera. There will be a range of screenings, including productions of *Le Nozze di Figaro* and *Semele* from **Garsington Opera**.
- *Cunning Little Vixen*, an animated film of Janacek's opera suitable for children, will also be on show with an introduction from animator Geoff Dunbar and producer Rodney Wilson.
- A talk by **Grange Opera** will cover building an Opera House in a year.

Later in the autumn:

- **English National Opera** will show a piece created in conjunction with community groups, inspired by their autumn production of Verdi's *Aida*. Taking place on 26 November, there will also be open rehearsals for the performance throughout the day.
- On 1 December *Spotlight Noir - Other Opera Chronicles* will explore how those of African descent have shaped classical music over five centuries.

There are also a range of ticketed performances on offer. These include:

- A one-night London premiere of a new opera *Kepler's Trial* by Tim Watts on 9 November. Based on Ulinka Rublack's book *The Astronomer & the Witch*, with film elements by Aura Satz, it tells the story of the astronomer Johannes Kepler, who saved his mother Katharina from being burnt for witchcraft, on the eve of the Thirty Years' War. Dame Marina Warner and Prof Simon Schaffer participate in a pre-performance talk.
- **Pop-up Opera** will present their take on Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel* in two performances of the magical and operatic fairy tale on 18 and 19 November.

- **The Monteverdi Choir** will be performing a selection of their repertoire at site specific locations around the Museum on 15 December - the last performance on their world tour.

– ENDS –

Notes to Editors

For more information, visit vam.ac.uk/whatson

For further PRESS information please contact the V&A press office on +44 (0) 20 7942 2502 or email press.office@vam.ac.uk (not for publication).

- *Opera: Passion, Power and Politics*, in collaboration with the Royal Opera House, runs from 30 September 2017 – 25 February 2018 in The Sainsbury Gallery
- The exhibition is sponsored by Societe Generale. The exhibition sound partner is Bowers & Wilkins. It is generously supported by The Blavatnik Family Foundation and The Taylor Family Foundation, with further support from GRoW @ Annenberg™, Bertelsmann and Cockayne Grants for the Arts.
- Admission £19. A wide range of concessions are available. Members go free.