

11 May 2020

ONLINE VERSION OF SCOTTISH OPERA'S PRIMARY SCHOOLS TOUR SHOW *FEVER!* AVAILABLE FOR THE FIRST TIME

From today (11 May), schools and families can access online teaching resources for Scottish Opera's popular primary schools production, *Fever!*

Created especially for children in primaries 5, 6 and 7, the show, which was first performed by Scottish Opera in 2011, features music by **Alan Penman** and lyrics by **Allan Dunn**. A staple of many Scottish schools' calendars, this is the very first time an online version of the tour has been made available, bringing the funny and fast moving story to living rooms up and down the country, culminating in a nationwide virtual performance at the end of June.

It follows a young boy who becomes ill with a mysterious disease, and his doctors desperately try to find a cure. Meanwhile, members of the press rush to the hospital, clamouring for a big story. With the possibility of a worldwide epidemic, all they care about is the scoop. As the doctors try to calm the situation, a possible cure is discovered and injected into the boy, and that's when the story really takes off.

Until 15 June, audio teaching tracks and videos, lyrics and activity materials, covering topics including creative writing, science experiments and tips on how to make props and costumes from home, will be posted on the Scottish Opera website. These feature seasoned Primary Schools Tour cast members **Lucy Hutcheson** and **Alan McKenzie**, who built on existing teaching materials by making new recordings from home during lockdown. Illustrations are by **Iain Piercy**. The resources can be used by teachers as part of

their weekly activities with classes, or by parents for their children at home, not as part of the school curriculum.

Fever! takes pupils on an exciting journey, learning the benefits that biomedical science offers humanity, looking at the basic mechanics of the human body, infections and viruses, and exploring the impact of press and media on today's society, including fake news. It designed to help teachers deliver core elements of the Curriculum of Excellence such as social studies, history, technologies, literacy and citizenship.

Scottish Opera's Director of Outreach and Education, Jane Davidson said: 'For people of all ages who think opera plot lines can't be relevant to the present day, there isn't a more powerful example of the benefits using music and the other expressive arts to support cross curricular education, than Scottish Opera's Primary Schools opera; *Fever!*

'In the context of the current pandemic, and updated and adapted for online participation, the subject matter is perfectly balanced between a fantastical and accessible musical story that youngsters (whether at home or still at school) can enjoy interacting with, underpinned by an age appropriate message explaining the principles of microbiology and virology.

'Added to which, is the opportunity to help our children and young people explore the increasingly worrying phenomenon known as 'fake news'. Equipping them with the skills to recognise and challenge fake news is widely acknowledged as a key coping mechanism for life in the 21st century, and it's all wrapped up in one funny and fact filled opera experience.'

To access *Fever!* resources from May 11, visit www.scottishopera.org.uk/fever

Creative team

Music	Alan Penman
Words	Alan Dunn
Illustrations	Iain Piercy

Performance team

Alan McKenzie
Lucy Hutcheson

-ENDS-

www.scottishopera.org.uk

You can follow Scottish Opera on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram **@ScottishOpera**

Notes to Editors

Scottish Opera is Scotland's national opera company and the largest performing arts organisation in Scotland. It was founded by Alexander Gibson in 1962 and was inaugurated with a production of *Madama Butterfly* at the King's Theatre in Glasgow. In 1974 Scottish Opera purchased the Theatre Royal Glasgow, which reopened in 1975 as Scotland's first national opera house. The Orchestra of Scottish Opera was founded in 1980.

Notable achievements include the world premiere of James MacMillan's *Inés de Castro* at the 1996 Edinburgh International Festival; complete *Ring* cycles at the 2003 Edinburgh International Festival, which won the 2004 South Bank Show Award for Best Opera Production; and the Achievement in Opera Award at the 2017 UK Theatre Awards for Sir David McVicar's production of Debussy's *Pelléas and Mélisande*; and a Herald Angel for the European premiere of Missy Mazzoli's *Breaking the Waves* at the 2019 Edinburgh International Festival.

Commissions include *Five:15 Operas Made in Scotland* (2008–10), *The Lady from the Sea*, *Clemency*, the double bill of *In the Locked Room* and *Ghost Patrol* (premiered at the 2012 Edinburgh International Festival), 2016's *The Devil Inside*, with which Scottish Opera made its North American debut in Toronto, and 2019's *Anthropocene*. *Ghost Patrol* won a South Bank Sky Arts Award, and *In the Locked Room* and *Ghost Patrol* were nominated for an Olivier Award. In 2018, the company made its US debut with *Bambino* at the Metropolitan Opera in New York, and returned to the city's Brooklyn Academy of Music with Mark-Anthony Turnage's *Greek* later that year.

Scottish Opera is committed to bringing the widest possible range of opera, performed to the highest possible standards, to the maximum audience throughout Scotland and the UK. Each year it performs in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Inverness and dozens of other theatres, village halls and community centres. It also operates an extensive programme of outreach and education work which involves over 9,000 primary school children every year, as well as many other activities including adult learning and *Unwrapped* taster sessions. Scottish Opera receives core funding from the Scottish Government, as well as income from box office, and private and commercial support.



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