

Director's words

Great music is as indispensable, as the human craving for it is unstoppable. But if we continue to neglect our culture heritage, we may one day find ourselves performing in rather unexpected places, in who knows which conditions. May this new production of Tosca at the DJO, set among the debris of an abandoned hangar, using old and shabby costumes of a supposed-to-have-been "glorious past", be our humble contribution to a reflection about this concern. "The show must go on", we say, and we keep on proving this year after year under the most taxing of circumstances, a pandemic included... as in the aftermath of the Second World War, when shows took place among the remains of what once were some of our most emblematic buildings, then destroyed by bombs. We hope to never see such architectural devastation again, but the slow undermining of some of our cultural principles that rules nowadays, could well end up being much more difficult to rebuild than the actual brick and mortar walls holding up our music temples, and far more dangerous for our integrity than a theatre roof falling on our heads during an air raid.

The argument of Tosca blinds us at a first glance with the usual love story between "the pretty girl and the charming boy", stalked by the usual "bad guy". To make things more operatic, everyone dies... But there is a lot more to Tosca than this. Tosca by Sardou is one of the first theatrical plays that narrates some of the human implications of the huge changes caused by the French revolution. That the French have beheaded a king to create a state of social justice is a historical fact. But that they themselves few years after crowned an emperor is also a historical fact... As Andrea Chenier puts it, after having been one of the intellectual figures of reference for the Revolution: "The crowd bends the head to the new god..." Life is cyclic, and human beings pathetically predictable: after hundreds of years, the vicious ping-pong between right and left - which was born with the French revolution - still rules the world, despite having been proved absolutely ineffective. In fact, societies administrated under these extremes of the same rope, sooner or later end like the guys in Tosca: dead.

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