RISE AND FALL OF THE CITY OF MAHAGONNY
OPERA IN THREE ACTS

MUSIC KURT WEILL
LIBRETTO BERTOLT BRECHT
ENGLISH TRANSLATION JEREMY SAMS
BY ARRANGEMENT WITH EUROPEAN AMERICAN MUSIC CORPORATION
AND UNIVERSAL EDITION A.G., VIENNA

CONDUCTOR MARK WIGGLESWORTH
DIRECTOR JOHN FULLJAMES
SET DESIGNS ES DEVLIN
COSTUME DESIGNS CHRISTINA CUNNINGHAM
LIGHTING DESIGN BRUNO POET
VIDEO DESIGNS FINN ROSS
CHOREOGRAPHER ARTHUR PITA

ROYAL OPERA CHORUS
CHORUS DIRECTOR RENATO BALSADONNA

ORCHESTRA OF THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE
CO-CONCERT MASTER SERGEY LEVITIN

DIRECTED FOR THE SCREEN BY
RHODRI HUW

LIVE FROM THE
ROYAL OPERA HOUSE
WEDNESDAY 1 APRIL 2015
AT 7.15PM

APPROXIMATE TIMINGS
Live cinema relay begins at 7.15pm
Act I 65 minutes
Interval
Acts II and III 70 minutes
The live relay will end at approximately 10.15pm
Please note some scenes may be unsuitable for young children, and there will be strobe lighting in Act I and a gunshot towards the end of Act I. Some scenes may be unsuitable for young children.

Tweet your thoughts about tonight's performance before it starts, during the interval or afterwards with #ROHmahagonny

2014/15 LIVE CINEMA SEASON
LA FILLE MAL GARDÉE TUESDAY 5 MAY 2015
LA BOHÈME WEDNESDAY 10 JUNE 2015
GUILLAUME TELL SUNDAY 5 JULY 2015

RISE AND FALL OF THE CITY OF MAHAGONNY
DIGITAL PROGRAMME
Royal Opera House Digital Programmes bring together a range of specially selected films, articles, pictures and features to bring you closer to the production. Buy yours to explore the story, the music and the background to Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny, and for the most recent pictures and exclusives.
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For more information about the Royal Opera House and to explore our work further, visit www.roh.org.uk/cinema
THE STORY

Act I

Three criminals – Begbick, Fatty and Trinity Moses – are fleeing arrest. When their lorry breaks down and they can go no further, they decide to found a new city, Mahagonny, with the purpose of making money.

Prostitutes, including Jenny, arrive in Mahagonny.

Fatty and Moses persuade men to leave behind the drudgery of the old cities and move to the new dream town. Four friends who have made their fortunes in Alaska – Jimmy, Jack, Bill and Joe – travel to Mahagonny in search of gambling, women and cheap drink. Begbick offers her girls to the new arrivals at a discount and Jimmy buys Jenny, who asks for detailed instructions about how he would like her to be.

Mahagonny’s economy is collapsing as prices fall. Begbick, Fatty and Moses resolve that they must make more money from new arrivals.

Jimmy is not satisfied with the comforts on offer in Mahagonny. He is fed up with rules and regulations. Convinced there should be more to life, he tries to leave Mahagonny. His friends persuade him to stay and take him back to a piano bar. Spurred on by the memory of what he suffered in Alaska to earn his money, he flares up with rage against Mahagonny’s emptiness.

A hurricane is heading towards Mahagonny and the people cower in fear. Jimmy defies the storm, claiming that people are just as destructive as hurricanes and so there is no reason to be afraid. He challenges Begbick to rip up her rules and regulations; as the hurricane approaches he convinces everyone that the real route to happiness would be for nothing to be forbidden.

Interval

Act II

Miraculously spared from the hurricane, Mahagonny is now a city where everything is permitted. The people eat, make love, fight and drink to excess.

After Jack has eaten himself to death, Joe enters a prize fight against Trinity Moses. Jimmy, a loyal friend, bets on Joe winning. When Moses kills Joe, Jimmy loses all his money.

Jimmy buys drinks for everyone. When Begbick demands that he pay the bill, Jenny and Bill refuse to help him and Jimmy is arrested.

Casting is correct at time of printing. Details of live performance are subject to change. Purchase your digital programme to view the latest information.