

HANDEL

AGRIPPINA

TRANSMITTED LIVE ON SAT, FEB 29

The Met
ropolitan
Opera **HD**
LIVE

CONDUCTOR

Harry Bicket

PRODUCTION

Sir David McVicar

SET AND COSTUME DESIGNER

John Macfarlane

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Paule Constable

CHOREOGRAPHER

Andrew George

LIVE IN HD DIRECTOR

Gary Halvorson

LIVE IN HD HOST

Deborah Voigt

POPPEA

Brenda Rae

AGRIPPINA

Joyce DiDonato

NERONE

Kate Lindsey

OTTONE

Iestyn Davies

PALLANTE

Duncan Rock

CLAUDIO

Matthew Rose

ACT I Agrippina urges Nerone to win popular favor in order to succeed Claudio for the throne. When Agrippina breaks the news of Claudio's death, Pallante and Narciso hail Nerone as the new Caesar. Lesbo declares that the emperor is alive. Ottone announces that Claudio has named him as successor. Ottone tells Agrippina that he loves Poppea. Lesbo visits Poppea and tells her that Claudio plans to spend the night with her. Agrippina arrives and tells Poppea that Ottone has betrayed her. When she meets with Claudio, Poppea rejects his advances and tells him that Ottone is acting as defacto emperor. Claudio promises to punish Ottone.

ACT II Pallante and Narciso discover that Agrippina has been playing them both. When Claudio returns, he turns on Ottone, and the others walk away in disgust.

INTERMISSION

ACT II (CONTINUED) When Ottone visits Poppea, she pretends to be asleep. She seemingly walks in her sleep, revealing Agrippina's plot. Abandoning pretense, she tells Ottone to visit her later. Nerone arrives, and she lures him into an assignation later that night. Agrippina is full of fear that her plots will fail. She convinces Pallante and then Narciso to plot the murder of the other and of Ottone. She urges Claudio to nominate Nerone as his successor. Desperate to leave and go to Poppea, he agrees.

ACT III Poppea hides Ottone before Nerone arrives and then, she hides him as well. Claudio enters, and Poppea reveals Nerone, accusing him of being the emperor's rival. Pallante and Narciso reveal Agrippina's plots. Ottone refuses the throne to keep Poppea. Poppea declares her love for Ottone, and Claudio blesses the union of the lovers and cedes the throne to Nerone.

This production was originally created by the Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie / De Munt Brussels and adapted by the Metropolitan Opera

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