

BIZET

CARMEN

ORIGINALLY TRANSMITTED JAN 16, 2010

CONDUCTOR

YANNICK NÉZET-SÉGUIN

PRODUCTION

RICHARD EYRE

SET & COSTUME

DESIGNER

ROB HOWELL

LIGHTING DESIGNER

PETER MUMFORD

CHOREOGRAPHER

CHRISTOPHER
WHEELDON

MICAËLA

BARBARA FRITTOLI

CARMEN

ELĪNA GARANČA

DON JOSÉ

ROBERTO ALAGNA

ESCAMILLO

TEDDY TAHU RHODES

ACT I Seville. The soldier Don José is in love with Micaëla, a young girl from his village. The beautiful gypsy Carmen tries to flirt with him, but he pays no attention to her. When Carmen is arrested for starting a fight with another girl, José is ordered to take her to prison. She entices him with suggestions of a rendezvous, and he finally gives in and lets her escape, before being arrested himself.

ACT II Just released from prison, José meets Carmen in a tavern. He declares his love but says he must return to the barracks. Mocking his sense of duty, she replies that if he really loved her he would desert the army. When another officer appears looking for Carmen, José, in a fit of jealousy, attacks him. Carmen's smuggler friends disarm the officer, leaving José no choice but to join them.

INTERMISSION

ACT III Carmen and José quarrel in the smugglers' mountain hideaway, and Carmen admits that her love is fading. She now loves the toreador Escamillo. Suddenly Micaëla appears, looking for José to tell him that his mother is dying. José leaves with her, warning Carmen that they will meet again.

ACT IV Back in Seville, José confronts Carmen and tries to win her back. When she refuses and tells him their affair is over, he stabs her.

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