

KEVIN PUTS / LIBRETTO BY GREG PIERCE

# THE HOURS

TRANSMITTED LIVE ON SAT, DEC 10, 2022

The Metropolitan  
Opera **HD**  
LIVE

CONDUCTOR

Yannick Nézet-Séguin

PRODUCTION

Phelim McDermott

SET AND COSTUME DESIGNER

Tom Pye

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Bruno Poet

PROJECTION DESIGNER

Finn Ross

CHOREOGRAPHER

Annie-B Parson

DRAMATURG

Paul Cremo

LIVE IN HD HOST

Christine Baranski

LIVE IN HD DIRECTOR

Gary Halvorson

CLARISSA VAUGHAN

Renée Fleming

LAURA BROWN

Kelli O'Hara

VIRGINIA WOOLF

Joyce DiDonato

LOUIS

William Burden

LEONARD WOOLF

Sean Panikkar

RICHARD

Kyle Ketelsen

DAN BROWN

Brandon Cedel

**ACT I** Virginia Woolf tinkers with the opening line of her novel *Mrs. Dalloway*. Clarissa is throwing a party for her friend Richard, who is dying of AIDS. Virginia watches Leonard edit proofs and reflects on the roles he plays in her life. Clarissa buys flowers for the party. Laura Brown is reading *Mrs. Dalloway* in bed. She dreads facing her wifely and motherly duties and struggles to bake a cake for Dan's birthday. Clarissa arrives at Richard's apartment and finds him frail and forgetful. Virginia gets lost in a suicidal vision. When Laura's neighbor Kitty stops by, Laura escapes into a romantic fantasy about her and ends up kissing her. The three women are united in their need to escape and their terror of what they might find.

INTERMISSION

**ACT II** Laura is in a hotel room with a bottle of pills and *Mrs. Dalloway*. She reads the novel, conjuring up Virginia, and contemplates suicide. Clarissa encounters Louis, Richard's ex-lover, who recalls the formative summer that the three of them spent in Wellfleet. Virginia finds Vanessa and her children holding a funeral service for a bird in the garden. Laura comes to her senses and is determined to stay alive and face her duties. Clarissa finds Richard standing on his window ledge. She tries to convince him to step down, but he ultimately falls to his death. All three women seem to be drowning. As the others recede, Clarissa, Laura, and Virginia find themselves in a space that transcends time and place, where they can finally perceive each other and their shared experiences.

*Based on the book by Michael Cunningham and the Paramount Pictures film*

*Commissioned by the Metropolitan Opera and The Philadelphia Orchestra*

*In collaboration with Improbable*

*The production of The Hours was made possible by a generous gift from Robert L. Turner in memory of his mother, Suzanne Wilbert Turner*

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