

X: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF MALCOLM X

TRANSMITTED LIVE ON SAT, NOV 18, 2023

The Metropolitan Opera **HD LIVE**

CONDUCTOR

Kazem Abdullah

PRODUCTION

Robert O'Hara

SET DESIGNER

Clint Ramos

COSTUME DESIGNER

Dede Ayite

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Alex Jainchill

PROJECTION DESIGNER

Yee Eun Nam

CHOREOGRAPHER

Rickey Tripp

LIVE IN HD DIRECTOR

Gary Halvorson

LIVE IN HD HOST

Angela Bassett

LOUISE / BETTY

Leah Hawkins

ELLA / QUEEN MOTHER

Rachann Bryce-Davis

ELIJAH / STREET

Victor Ryan Robertson

MALCOLM

Will Liverman

REGINALD

Michael Samuel

CONTENT ADVISORY:

X: The Life and Times of Malcolm X contains strong language.

ACT I Rev. Little is late to a meeting at his home. His wife, Louise, is haunted by past white-supremacist attacks. A policeman says that Rev. Little was killed in a streetcar accident, but the neighbors ponder what may have really happened. Malcolm tries to reach his mother. His older half-sister takes him to Boston, where he is introduced to the local after-hours life. He gets involved with a group who rob a home and is arrested. Malcolm reveals his anger over the troubles that have plagued people like him.

INTERMISSION

ACT II Reginald tells Malcolm about Elijah Muhammad, leader of the Nation of Islam. Malcolm studies the Nation's teachings. Malcolm X is born. Elijah embraces Malcolm like a son. Malcolm begins his ministry and defines his own political position. He is asked about John F. Kennedy's death and makes a remark lacking in sensitivity. Elijah is enraged. Malcolm and Betty express the hope that their children will be free to dream without fear.

INTERMISSION

ACT III Elijah is disturbed that the Nation's spokesman has put the organization in jeopardy and that he has become too powerful. He silences Malcolm for three months. Betty tells Malcolm to go to Mecca, where he tries to learn the orthodox rituals. He has a larger vision of people across the world united in faith. He returns to Harlem a changed man. He delivers a speech before his own newly formed group, the Organization of Afro-American Unity, and disregards threats of assassination. Arriving at the Audubon Ballroom to speak, he is gunned down.

Music by Anthony Davis, libretto by Thulani Davis, story by Christopher Davis

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