

GROUNDDED

TRANSMITTED LIVE ON SAT, OCT 19, 2024

The Met
ropolitan
Opera **HD**
LIVE

CONDUCTOR

Yannick Nézet-Séguin

PRODUCTION

Michael Mayer

SET DESIGNER

Mimi Lien

COSTUME DESIGNER

Tom Broecker

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Kevin Adams

CO-PROJECTION DESIGNERS

Jason H. Thompson

Kaitlyn Pietras

SOUND DESIGNER

Palmer Hefferan

CHOREOGRAPHER

David Neumann

DRAMATURG

Paul Cremo

LIVE IN HD DIRECTOR

Gary Halvorson

LIVE IN HD HOST

Nadine Sierra

JESS

Emily D'Angelo

ALSO JESS

Ellie Dehn

ERIC

Ben Bliss

SENSOR

Kyle Miller

COMMANDER

Greer Grimsley

ACT I Jess is an ace F-16 fighter pilot. While on leave, she meets Eric, and the two make an unexpected connection. This results in an unplanned pregnancy. Jess stays home for five years to raise their daughter. When she returns to the Air Force, her commanding officer tells her that she has a new assignment: operating a drone at a base outside of Las Vegas. As she becomes acclimated to her new life, Jess discovers that she can still experience some of the excitement and satisfaction that she once felt when actually flying.

INTERMISSION

ACT II The long shifts are grueling for Jess. She begins to dissociate, her psyche splitting to reveal an alternate self who can hold the trauma. Jess is assigned to track a highly placed enemy target known as the Serpent. As Jess's fixation on eliminating the Serpent overtakes her, she becomes unable to focus on her home and family. She tracks the Serpent to his home, but when she focuses on his daughter, she can't take the shot. She pulls the drone off course and crashes it, only to discover that another drone has been shadowing her and launches missiles at the Serpent and his daughter. Jess is court-martialed, but her imprisonment has brought her a degree of clarity and release—and freedom.

Music by Jeanine Tesori

Libretto by George Brant, based on his play Groundded

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