

GIUSEPPE VERDI

FALSTAFF

TRANSMITTED LIVE ON SAT, APR 1, 2023

The Met
ropolitan
Opera **HD**
LIVE

CONDUCTOR

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PRODUCTION

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MEG PAGE

Jennifer Johnson Cano

FENTON

Bogdan Volkov

FALSTAFF

Michael Volle

FORD

Christopher Maltman

ACT I Falstaff informs Bardolfo and Pistola that he hopes to seduce Alice Ford and Meg Page. When they refuse to deliver letters to them, Falstaff throws them out. Alice, Meg, Nannetta, and Mistress Quickly laugh over the identical love letters from Falstaff. Ford arrives with Dr. Caius, whom Ford favors to be Nannetta's husband, and is outraged to learn of Falstaff's plans to seduce Alice. While Alice and Meg plot their revenge, Ford decides to pay a visit to Falstaff in disguise.

ACT II Feigning penitence, Bardolfo and Pistola rejoin Falstaff's service. Mistress Quickly tells Falstaff that Alice will meet him that afternoon while her husband is out. Ford, disguised as "Mister Fontana," offers Falstaff money if he will seduce Alice. Falstaff reveals that he already has a rendezvous with her. At Ford's house, Falstaff begins his seduction, but when Ford rushes in with a group of townsfolk, he hides in a laundry basket. The men ransack the house, and Alice instructs her servants to empty the basket into the River Thames—to everyone's great amusement.

INTERMISSION

ACT III Mistress Quickly tells Falstaff that Alice proposes a new rendezvous at midnight, but it is actually another trap: Everyone will disguise themselves as fairies to punish him. Falstaff arrives in Windsor Park that night, but as Alice declares her love for him, the "fairies" approach and terrify him. Eventually, as he realizes that he has been duped and Ford is tricked into blessing Nannetta and Fenton's engagement, all agree that the whole world is nothing but a jest.

A co-production of the Metropolitan Opera; Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London; Teatro alla Scala, Milan; the Canadian Opera Company, Toronto; and Dutch National Opera, Amsterdam

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