

LES ECLAIRS

Commissioned by Opéra Comique

Composer: Philippe Hersant

Libretto: Jean Echenoz

adapted from his novel *Des Eclairs* (2010)

Stage director: Clément Hervieu-Léger*

*member of the Comédie-Française

Category: Joyful drama in four acts

Language: French

Running times: 2h (without interval)

Premiered: November 2nd 2021, Opéra Comique

Set designer: Aurélie Maestre

Costume designer: Caroline de Vivaïse

Lighting designer: Bertrand Couderc

Artistic collaborator: Frédérique Plain

Sound designer: Jean-Luc Ristord

Cast

Number of Principals: 6 + 7 members of the choir

Chorus / parts (S/A/T/B) : 32 (6/6/6/6)

Extras : 2

Instrumentation

39

2 [1.2/Pic].2 [1.2/CA].2.2 [1.2/CBn] -3.2.2.1 -0.2.0.1 [Synt] -6.5.4.3.2

Volume of the production

Set and props 3 containers

Other info

Last performed : November 2021, Opéra Comique

Coproduction : Greek National Opera

Revival in 2023 at Greek National Opera

CONTACT

Director of Artistic Coordination, Production and Development :

Chrysoline Dupont

chrysoline.dupont@opera-comique.com / +33 1 70 23 00 92

In a few words

A journey into the New York of the industrial revolution, with the extraordinary destiny of Nikola Tesla, driven by his revolutionary visions of electricity. The writer Jean Echenoz adapts his novel for the stage and Philippe Hersant signs his third opera, for this world premiere commissioned by the Opéra Comique.

Concept

“Thinking of the representations of 20th century America, I imagined a show in black and white, like old postcards or the first cinematographic films. This choice, which may seem more radical than it is, allows me to present electricity in a concrete way. It is electrical progress that allows colour to appear: a costume, an element of scenery, an object... The change in perception becomes a tangible sensation for the spectator.”

Clément Hervieu-Léger, director

“What appealed to me in this booklet was the great variety of characters and situations. There is a lot going on and everything happens very quickly. [...] I wanted to avoid pathos and keep Gregor's energy and creative joy in mind.”

Philippe Hersant, composer

Press review

"*Les Eclairs* releases a stream of poetry at the Opéra Comique. From the liner of hope to the sad disillusionment of a hotel landing, from the birds of the sea to the birds of the cities, the "joyful drama" *Les Eclairs* has, by its poetry and its unbearable lightness, a - deliciously - bittersweet taste... In three words (which would please Gregor), a superb achievement!"

ConSpirito, 6 novembre 2021, Jany Campello

“A magnificent evening in which one has throughout a feeling of dramatic and above all musical evidence, while questioning our society and its relationship with science.”

Musique classique & Co, 5 novembre 2021, Thierry Vagne

“Announced by the lapping of the ocean that the Central European immigrant crossed on his way to the United States, Clément Hervieu-Léger's wise show, a member of the Comédie-Française, is anchored in the America of the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries, which was the America of the scientist, of his rise and his fall: Everything shows it, from Caroline de Vivaise's costumes to Aurélie Maestre's sets (machines, skyscrapers) poetically lit by Bertrand Couderc, in finely chained scenes.”

Diapason, 05 November 2021, Benoît Fauchet







