



Ressort: Kunst, Kultur und Musik

## The Phantom of the Opera

Raimund Theater , 11.05.2024 [ENA]

The Cameron Mackintosh's spectacular revival of Andrew Lloyd Webber's "The Phantom of the Opera" is a real masterclass in theatrical excellence. In the illustrious world of musical theater, certain productions transcend time and place, weaving an enchanting tapestry of passion, melody, and spectacle. Cameron Mackintosh's eagerly awaited revival of Andrew Lloyd Webber's "The Phantom of the Opera" at Vienna's Raimund Theater is precisely such an experience—a resplendent ode to the enduring magic of musical storytelling.

From the moment the curtain rises, Mackintosh's visionary production unfolds like a cherished dream, replete with breathtaking special effects that transport the audience into the heart of this beloved tale. Central to the allure is the iconic chandelier, a marvel of theatrical engineering that descends with a grandeur befitting the drama that unfolds beneath it. This revival is not merely a recreation; it's a bold reimagination, elevating every element to new heights of splendor and emotion.

At its core, "The Phantom of the Opera" is a testament to the power of love and obsession, themes that reverberate through Andrew Lloyd Webber's hauntingly beautiful score. The music, performed with impeccable fervor by the VBW Orchestra, weaves a mesmerizing spell, capturing the essence of each character's longing and turmoil. Familiar melodies like "The Music of the Night," "Think of Me," and "The Phantom of the Opera" resonate with renewed vigor in this production, their significance amplified by a stellar cast and expert orchestration.

Anchoring this revival are the talents of Anton Zetterholm as the enigmatic Phantom and Lisanne Clémence Veeneman as the luminous Christine Daaé. Zetterholm's portrayal of the Phantom is nothing short of captivating—his voice, a rich tapestry of darkness and vulnerability, embodies the character's complex psyche with haunting clarity. Veeneman's Christine is a revelation, her crystalline soprano infusing each note with poignant grace and emotional depth. Together, they forge a riveting chemistry that propels the narrative forward with irresistible magnetism.

Anton Zetterholm's journey from "Ich Tarzan, Du Jane!" to commanding the stage as the Phantom exemplifies the heights of his theatrical prowess. His nuanced performance brings a new dimension to this iconic role, balancing menace and tenderness with a rare finesse. Likewise, Lisanne Clémence Veeneman's portrayal of Christine Daaé is a tour de force, blending vocal prowess with a compelling portrayal of the

### Redaktioneller Programmdienst: European News Agency

Annette-Kolb-Str. 16  
D-85055 Ingolstadt  
Telefon: +49 (0) 841-951. 99.660  
Telefax: +49 (0) 841-951. 99.661  
Email: [contact@european-news-agency.com](mailto:contact@european-news-agency.com)  
Internet: [european-news-agency.com](http://european-news-agency.com)

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character's transformation from ingénue to woman of strength and conviction.

The synergy between cast and creative team is palpable, elevating every scene into a masterclass of theatrical excellence. Mackintosh's direction, coupled with stunning set design and sumptuous costumes, creates a visual feast that is both opulent and evocative. The Raimund Theater itself becomes a character in this grand narrative, its stage alive with the echoes of history and the promise of theatrical innovation.

What sets this revival apart is its unwavering commitment to honoring the legacy of "The Phantom of the Opera" while infusing it with contemporary flair. The result is a production that feels simultaneously timeless and exhilaratingly fresh, resonating with seasoned theatergoers and newcomers alike. Mackintosh's meticulous attention to detail ensures that every note, every gesture, and every visual flourish contributes to an immersive experience that lingers in the memory long after the final curtain call.

Beyond its technical prowess and narrative depth, this revival serves as a celebration of the enduring impact of musical theater. It reminds us of the transformative power of art, its ability to transport us to realms of passion and fantasy that resonate with the complexities of the human spirit. In conclusion, Cameron Mackintosh's revival of "The Phantom of the Opera" at the Raimund Theater is a triumph—a testament to the enduring allure of Andrew Lloyd Webber's masterpiece and a showcase of theatrical craftsmanship at its zenith. This is not merely a musical; it's a journey—an odyssey of love, longing, and redemption that unfolds with spellbinding grace. F

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V.i.S.d.P. und gem. § 6 MDStV: Dr. Nadejda Komendantova

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Annette-Kolb-Str. 16  
D-85055 Ingolstadt  
Telefon: +49 (0) 841-951. 99.660  
Telefax: +49 (0) 841-951. 99.661  
Email: [contact@european-news-agency.com](mailto:contact@european-news-agency.com)  
Internet: [european-news-agency.com](http://european-news-agency.com)

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