

# *The Renaissance*

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**The Metropolitan Opera's  
1987 production of**

## **Carmen**

**on the Big Screen at the  
Renaissance Theatre**

**April 13, 2010  
7:00 PM**

**The Metropolitan Opera** is a vibrant home for the most creative and talented artists, including singers, conductors, composers, orchestra musicians, stage directors, designers, visual artists, choreographers, and dancers from around the world. Known as the venue for the world's greatest voices, the Met has been under the musical direction of James Levine since 1976. Levine is credited with having created one of opera's finest orchestras and choruses.

Each season the Metropolitan stages more than two hundred opera performances in New York. More than 800,000 people attend the performances in the

opera house during the season, and millions more experience the Met through advanced new media distribution initiatives and state-of-the-art technology.

The Metropolitan Opera is America's largest classical music organization, and annually presents some 220 opera performances. The home of the company, the Metropolitan Opera House, is considered by many to be one of the premier opera stages in the world, and is among the largest in the world. The Met, as it is commonly called, is one of the twelve resident organizations at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts.

The Met's artistic standards are considered to be among the highest in the world. The company's stage facilities and technical staff offer leading directors and designers a state of the art environment in which to create any kind of production. The Met's production designs range from elegant and traditional to highly innovative and avant-garde.

Beyond performing in the opera house in New York, the Met has gradually expanded its audience as new technologies have become available. It has broadcast live weekly on radio since 1931 and has regularly presented performances on television since 1977. In 2006, the Met further introduced the innovations of live satellite radio broadcasts four times a week and live high-definition video transmissions presented to audiences in cinemas throughout the world.



**Carmen** is a French "opéra comique" by Georges Bizet. The libretto is by Henri Meilhac and Ludovic Halévy, based on the novella of the same title by Prosper Mérimée, first published in 1845, itself influenced by the narrative poem "The Gypsies" by Alexander Pushkin.

**Agnes Baltsa** (Αγνή Μπάλτσα) (born 19 November 1944 in Lefkada) is a leading Greek mezzo-soprano.

She began playing piano at the age of six, before moving to Athens in 1958 to concentrate on singing. She graduated from the Greek National Conservatoire in 1965 and then travelled to Munich to continue studying under a Maria Callas scholarship.

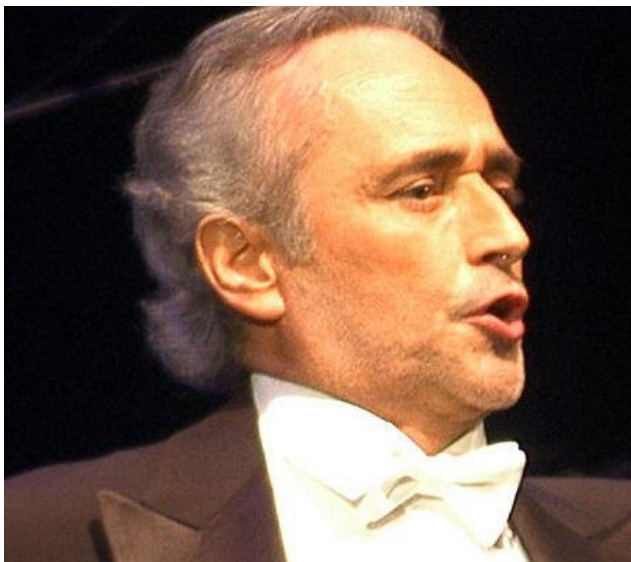
Baltsa made her first appearance in an opera in 1968 as Cherubino in *The Marriage of Figaro* at Frankfurt Opera, before going on to appear as Octavian in *Der Rosenkavalier* at the Vienna State Opera in 1970. Under the guidance of Herbert von Karajan, she soon became a regular at the prestigious Salzburg Festival. She became *Kammersängerin* of the Vienna State Opera in 1980.

Her most well known performance is that of Carmen by Georges Bizet, which she has sung a number of times with José Carreras. She has also sung works by Mozart (notably *Così fan tutte*), Rossini (*Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, *La Cenerentola*, *L'italiana in Algeri*), Mascagni (*Cavalleria Rusticana*), Verdi (*Aida*, *La forza del destino*, *Il trovatore*, *Don Carlos*), Bellini (*I Capuleti e i Montecchi*) and Donizetti (*Il Campanello*, *Maria Stuarda*).

She also starred in the German film *Duett* in 1992, playing an opera singer.



**Agnes Baltsa**



**José Carreras**

**Josep Maria Carreras i Coll** (born 5 December 1946, Barcelona), better known as **José Carreras**, is a Spanish Catalan tenor particularly known for his performances in the operas of Verdi and Puccini. He made his debut on the opera stage at the age of 11 as Trujamán in Manuel de Falla's *El retablo de Maese Pedro* and went on to a career that encompassed over 60 roles on the stages of the world's leading opera houses and in the recording studio. He gained fame with a wider audience as one of The Three Tenors along with Plácido Domingo and Luciano Pavarotti in a series of mass concerts that began in 1990 and continued until 2003. Carreras is also known for his humanitarian work as the president of the José Carreras International Leukemia Foundation (*La Fundació Internacional Josep Carreras per a la Lluita contra la Leucèmia*), which he established following his own recovery from the disease in 1988.