

Production Specifications

The show's design grants a great deal of versatility in several areas of concern. Although the piece is not best suited for settings so intimate as Dinner Theatre or Cabaret, the general intimacy of the show adjusts well to smaller theatres, or may easily fill a grander, large-scale design. No particular stage type is required. Similarly, while expensive period costuming might add a particular sense of authenticity, simpler and far plainer renditions designed merely to help define and identify the characters are an equally available option. Further, the design of the set itself is only loosely defined in the libretto, as using minimal props, and simple multi-height platforms. However, there is nothing inherent in the script, or in its performance, which predisposes any of these categories to confining boundaries.

General Specifications

Seven Principal Roles: Five (5) female, one mature; Two (2) male (refer to the score for vocal ranges).

Special Requirements: Four (4) brief, teenaged girl roles; Chorus sings in Italian in Prologue; Women's choir (Nuns) sings in Latin, off-stage.

Size of the Supporting Ensemble: may vary from approximately 20, to 30 or more. Doublings aside, there are in the score, 28 male character soloists, with a maximum of 13 appearing in a single section (Prologue), and 16 female character soloists (3 of which are spoken roles), with a maximum of 6 appearing in a single section (Prologue), and 4 teenaged girl soloists.

Size of the Orchestra: large. Assuming conventional live acoustic instruments, may vary from approximately 25-35 or more, depending mostly on the size of the string section (refer to the score for instrumentation specifications). The inclusion of doubling and synthesis is an option (for example, the harpsichord, organ, and celesta could be reduced to a single synthesizer). There is also a piano reduction with the vocal score.

The Continuous Run of the program is approximately 3¼ hours.

Set requirements

This show does involve a number of different settings, which prevent a single stage set. It is necessary to have sets, or set pieces, which can be moved or shifted, to allow stage space to be used for multiple purposes. The set design itself is pliable, but locations, furnishings and items specifically mentioned in the libretto include backdrops and/or set pieces indicating:

I. The Foyer of the Comedie Italienne

Double Doors (at least one set)

II. The Volanges Château

Front Walk & Doorway

Salon

Window to Front Walkway

Table & Two (2) Chairs (for card playing)

Standing Floor Screen

Harpichord & Harp with Harp Cover

Divan

Cécile's Boudoir & Door to Hallway Outside

Bed

Chair & Writing Desk with Lock

Volanges' Writing Desk (neutral location)

III. The Rosemonde Château (Interior)

Dining Room

Table & Six (6) Chairs

Doorway Connecting to:

Salon

Divan & Chair

Table & four (4) Chairs (for coffee)

Front (Main) Door

French Door (to back terrace and gardens)

Cécile's Boudoir with Locking Door

Window

Bed

Tourvel's Boudoir

Window

Chair & Writing Desk with Drawers

Bed

IV. The Rosemonde Château (Rear Exterior)

Château exterior & Terrace

Gardens with Stone Bench

Grounds Nearby (for gathering hunters)

V. The Merteuil Château (Interior)

Salon

Divan & Chair

Table (for tea)

Chair & Writing Desk

Easel & Drawing Pad with Drawings

Sitting Room

Seat & Vanity with Empty Mirror Frame

Small Stool

Boudoir

Bed

VI. The Merteuil Château (Front Exterior)

VII. Peasant Village (Hut)

VIII. A Bridge at the River Seine

IX. A Gala Ball with Grand Staircase

X. Social Hall (Teen Dance)

XI. Church (Confessionals)

XII. The Tourvel Château

Tourvel's Boudoir

Window with Curtains

Chair & Side Table

Bed

XIII. A Paris Apartment (Salon)

XIV. Convent (Sleeping Quarters)

Bed with Side Table

Chair

XV. A Paris Street

Props

Although many props are not "required," in addition to the set pieces listed above, props specifically mentioned in the libretto include:

At least Six (6) Ladies Fans, at least Three (3) Quills with Inkpots, A Pair of Shoes with Removable Heel, A Tea Set, Five (5) Hunting Muskets, Hound(s), Various Impounded Peasant Belongings, Two (2) Coin Purses with Coins, Playing Cards, Cut Garden Flowers, A Bible, at least Three (3) Shawls, A Crushed Bouquet of Blossoms, A Frame of Needlework, A Bottle of Oil & A Feather, at least Two (2) Candles, A Rosary, A Skeleton Key, Communion Goblet & Wine Bottle, Antique Wheelchair, A Water Basin with Cloth, Two (2) Dueling Swords with Cases, Small Portable Chest, Two (2) Pair of Dueling Gloves, A Carafe and Plenty of Wine Glasses & Drinking Glasses, and Plenty of Writing Paper, Sealed Letters, and Open Letters.

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