

Opera Theatre Company

in association with BT Ireland

HAYDN

Life on The Moon



Supported by the
Arts Council

BT

Life on The Moon

A new version of *Il mondo della luna*
dramma giocoso by Joseph Haydn
based on the play by Carlo Goldoni

Text by James Conway

Music by arrangement with Faber Music London



Earth Rise. Armagh Planetarium

First performance on 3 August 1777, at Esterháza
(to celebrate the wedding of Count Nicolaus Esterháza
and Countess Maria Weissenwolf)

First Irish performance given on 25 October 1978 at the Theatre Royal, Wexford
OTC premiere on 8 February 1997 at the Theatre Royal, Wexford
(to celebrate more generally)

A co-production with Opera Northern Ireland
There will be an interval of 15 minutes after Act I.



Cast

Ecclitico <i>a fake astronomer</i>	Harry Nicoll
Cecco <i>his apprentice</i>	James Nelson
Buonafede <i>a wealthy miser</i>	Christopher Purves
Clarice <i>his daughter</i>	Majella Cullagh
Lisetta <i>his servant</i>	Colette McGahon

Orchestra

Violins	Ruxandra Petcu (<i>leader</i>), Carol Quigley
Viola	Hilda Leader
Cello	John O'Kane
Bass	Liam Wylie
Oboes	Tom Burke, Geraldine Malone
Flute	Ann Macken
Bassoon	Rachel Whibley
Horn	Cormac O hAodáin
Continuo	Andrew Synnott



Conductor	Andrew Synnott
Director	Hilary Westlake
Designer	Denis Looby
Lighting Designer	Simon Corder
Production Manager	Paul Tucker
Stage Manager	Paula Tierney
Assistant Stage Manager	Miriam Harpur
Master Carpenter	David Butler
Production Electrician	Mark Waldron
Staging & Lighting Technician	Kevin Treacy
Set Construction	David Butler
Scenic Artist	Liz Barker
Wardrobe Supervisor	Monica Ennis
Costume Construction	Des Leech, Anne O'Halloran, Carol Smith, Anne O'Mahoney
Props	Liz Barker, John Hanna & Sons, Maeve Butler
Hair	Frances Kelly
Marketing Officer	Marie Breen
Production Photographer	Tom Lawlor
Publicity Design	Malcolm Kindness

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Simon Corder joined a circus as a ring boy after leaving school and for the next 3 years he worked as a technician in touring opera and theatre. He then joined Lumiere & Son, for which experimental theatre company he was technical director and lighting designer for 20 productions in theatres, parks, tents, a castle and a swimming pool. Since 1987 he has been a freelance lighting designer for theatre, opera and dance companies including Scottish Opera and Welsh National Opera, Opera North and Tanz Forum Köln. For OTC he lit *Falstaff*, *Tamberlane* (1992), *High Fidelity*, *Flavio*, *I Pagliacci/Frankie's*, *From the Diary of Virginia Woolf* and *Twelve Poems of Emily Dickinson*, *Tamberlane* (1995), *Orfeo* and *Amadigi*. Recent lighting designs include *A Streetcar Named Desire* (West End), *I Licked a Slag's Deodorant*, (Royal Court), *Les Enfants du Paradis*, (Royal Shakespeare Company) and *King Stag* (Opera Circus).



Majella Cullagh studied at the Cork School of Music with Maeve Coughlan and the National Opera Studio (London). She currently studies with Gerald Martin Moore. For OTC she recently sang *Melissa*, *Amadigi* (Irish Tour, BOC Covent Garden & Buxton Festivals). Other roles include *Musetta*, *La Bohème* (Opera Ireland, English Touring Opera), *Elsie Maynard*, *Yeoman of the Guard* (Welsh National Opera), title roles in *Maritana* (BBC, RTE Proms & Naxos recording) and *Gavin Bryar's Medea* (BBC Scotland), *Vanessa* in the world premiere of James Wilson's *A Passionate Man* (Dublin), *Dorella*, *Das Liebesverbot* (Wexford Festival Opera), *Adina*, *L'elisir d'amore* (Opera Ireland). Forthcoming engagements include *Melissa*, *Amadigi* (OTC - New York and Portugal), *Countess Adele*, *Le Comte Ory* (Glyndebourne Touring Opera).



Denis Looby was born in Dungarvan Co Waterford He studied architecture at DIT Bolton St and is a partner in the Dublin firm of Sheehan & Barry Architects. Recently completed projects include the restoration of Newman House, St Stephen's Green, Dublin, Stackallen House, Navan Co Meath and the reconstructed Cottage Orné at Kilfane Glen Co Kilkenny. This is his first design for theatre.



Dundalk born **Colette McGahon** studied with Dr Veronica Dunne (DIT College of Music), Guildhall School of Music and Drama and the National Opera Studio, London. Colette made her OTC debut by creating three roles in *New Opera '91* (Irish tour and Covent Garden Festival) and sang *Kostelnicka* in OTC's 1993 *Jenufa*. She has also sung with Glyndebourne Festival Opera, Opera Northern Ireland and Wexford Festival Opera. Operatic roles include *Ottavia*, *L'Incoronazione di Poppea*, *Carmen*, *Maddalena*, *Rigoletto* and *Mrs Grose*, *The Turn of the Screw*. She recently

created the role of Molly Bloom in Theatre Cryptic's Edinburgh Fringe First award winning production of *Parallel Lines* at the Edinburgh Festival. Future plans include Papagena (OTC/ESB *The Magic Flute*) and Song Circle's Autumn recital series *Unadulterated Brahms*.



A native of Sligo, **James Nelson** is a UCD music graduate. A student of David Harpur (London), James has also studied with Edith Forrest (Dublin) and Britta Sundberg (Sweden). Operatic roles include Tichon, *Katya Kabanova*, Joseph, *That Dublin Mood* and 3 Tenor Roles, 4 *Dublin Operas* (OTC), Ajax, *Belle Hélène* for Scottish Opera, 4 roles, *Sweeney Todd* (New Israeli Opera), Goro, *Madama Butterfly* (RTE Proms); Gadshill, *Der Vampyr*, Alcade, Paisiello's *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* and Operatic Scenes (Wexford Festival Opera). In addition to broadcasts for RTE and the BBC

he has performed as a soloist in Ireland, UK, Israel, Spain and Switzerland. Future work includes *The Marriage of Figaro* for Opera Ireland.



Scottish born **Harry Nicoll** studies with Edward Brooks. Roles include Scaramuccio, *Ariadne*, Second Shepherd, *Orfeo* (English National Opera) Almaviva, *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, Bardolph, *Falstaff*, Earl Tololler, *Iolanthe*, world premiere of Judith Weir's *The Vanishing Bridegroom* (Scottish Opera), Valetto, *L'Incoronazione di Poppea*, Vasek, *The Bartered Bride* (Cologne), Dancing Master/Brighella *Ariadne* and Idiot, *Wozzeck* (Welsh National Opera), Damon, *Acis and Galatea* and Orpheus, *Orpheus in the Underworld* (Opera North), Pedrillo, *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*

(Glyndebourne Touring Opera, Opéra de Nantes and Antwerp), Flute, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Covent Garden Festival), Peter Quint, *The Turn of the Screw* (Harrogate and Batignano Festivals), Rodrigo, *Otello* (Frankfurt), Remendado, *Carmen* (Jacques Delacôte/Berlin and Munich), Simpleton, *Boris Godunov* (New Israeli Opera).



Christopher Purves was a choral scholar at King's College, Cambridge where he read English. He now studies with Janice Chapman and Diane Forlano. His roles include Masetto, *Don Giovanni* (English National Opera), Count Horn, *Un Ballo in Maschera*, Dandini, *La Cenerentola* and Sacristan, *Tosca* (Welsh National Opera), Leporello, *Don Giovanni* and Forester, *Cunning Little Vixen* (Opera Northern Ireland), Melibeo, *La Fedelta Premiata* (Garsington Festival), Garibaldo, *Rodelinda* (Jonathan Miller and Virgin Records), Executioner, *Ines de Castro* world premiere

(Scottish Opera) and Agamemnon, *Iphigénie en Aulis* (Opera North). Future plans include Ned Keene, *Peter Grimes* (Scottish Opera), Lieutenant Ratcliffe (Hallé Orchestra recording), Osmin, *Zaïde* (Academy of Ancient Music and recording). This is his first role for OTC.



Andrew Synnott is a TCD music graduate and a former organ scholar of the Pro-Cathedral and Christchurch Cathedral. He is now an active composer, conductor and répétiteur. As a composer he has been commissioned by several Irish groups. Recent work includes the music for Pigsback's production of Gavin Kostick's play *The Flesh Addict*. He has worked as répétiteur with Opera Northern Ireland and Opera Ireland and works regularly as a keyboard player with the NSOI and RTECO. He first worked for OTC as music director for the New Opera

Forum 1993, and in 1995 he was co-music director and conductor with the composer Michael Alcorn for OTC's production of *Orfeo*. Future plans include Musical Director for the OTC/ESB *The Magic Flute* (April/May & November/December).



Hilary Westlake formed Lumiere & Son Theatre Company in 1973 with writer David Gale. Since then the company has created over fifty original theatre and site specific events. For OTC she directed *Falstaff*. Her work also includes the creation of new work as well as directing existing texts, music theatre productions and opera with other companies, and collaboration with artists from other disciplines. Hilary has taught and led workshops in Britain, Europe, SE Asia and Australia and is currently collaborating with a video artist and a composer on a large scale site

specific show for the Great Yarmouth Borough Council to be performed in the harbour and the sea front at Gorleston-on-Sea in May 1997. Recent work includes *Blood Wedding*, *A River in Time* (Indoor Stadium, Singapore), *Abduction* (ICA London), *War Dance* (Nottingham Castle), *Fragile Forest* (Singapore Festival), *Deadwood* (Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew).



Owned & operated by Daniel & Brigid Hoey