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Great Performances at the Met: Carmen

Premieres Friday, June 14 at 9 p.m. on PBS ([check local listings](#))

Acclaimed English director **Carrie Cracknell** makes her Met debut, resetting the classic story to the modern day that moves the focus to issues that could not be more relevant today: gendered violence, abusive labor structures, and the desire to break through societal boundaries. Young mezzo-soprano **Aigul Akhmetshina** leads a quartet of stars in the complex and volatile title role, alongside tenor **Piotr Beczala** as Carmen's troubled lover Don José, soprano **Angel Blue** as the loyal Micaëla, and bass-baritone **Kyle Ketelsen** as the swaggering Escamillo. **Daniele Rustioni** conducts Bizet's score.

Later this summer, ***Great Performances at the Met: La Forza del Destino*** starring soprano Lise Davidsen as Leonora premieres [Sunday, July 7 at 2 p.m. on PBS \(\[check local listings\]\(#\)\)](#). These operas are part of season 18 of ***Great Performances at the Met*** premiering now through October.

***Carmen* Production Credits:**

Cast:

Benjamin Taylor – Moralès

Angel Blue – Micaëla

Piotr Beczala – Don José

Wei Wu – Zuniga

Aigul Akhmetshina – Carmen
Sydney Mancasola – Frasquita
Briana Hunter – Mercédès
Kyle Ketelsen – Escamillo
Michael Adams – Le Dancaïre
Frederick Ballentine – Le Remendado

Creative:

Gary Halvorson – Director for Television
Daniele Rustioni – Conductor
Carrie Cracknell – Production
Michael Levine – Set Designer
Tom Scutt – Costume Designer
Guy Hoare – Lighting Designer
Rocafilm/Roland Horvath – Projection Designer
Ann Yee – Choreographer
Tim Martyn – Music Producer
Matt Dobkin and Merrin Lazyan – Creative Content Producers
Matthew Polenzani – Host
Henri Meilhac and Ludovic Halévy – Libretto
Prosper Mérimée – Novella upon which opera is based

Great Performances at the Met is produced by the Metropolitan Opera in association with PBS and The WNET Group, bringing the best of the Metropolitan Opera into the homes of opera fans across the country. For the Met: Mia Bongiovanni is supervising producer and Louisa Briccetti and Victoria Warivonchik are Producers. Peter Gelb is Executive Producer. For **Great Performances**: Bill O'Donnell is Series Producer; David Horn is Executive Producer.

For **Great Performances**, funding is provided by The Joseph and Robert Cornell Memorial Foundation, the Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Foundation, The Philip and Janice Levin Foundation, Ellen and James S. Marcus, and Jody and John Arnhold.

Websites: <http://pbs.org/gperf>, [facebook.com/GreatPerformances](https://www.facebook.com/GreatPerformances), [@GPerfPBS](https://twitter.com/GPerfPBS),
<http://youtube.com/greatperformancespbs>, [giphy.com/great-performances](https://www.giphy.com/great-performances),
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Jersey's statewide public television network; Long Island's only NPR station WLIW-FM; [ALL ARTS](#), the arts and culture media provider; newsroom [NJ Spotlight News](#); and FAST channel PBS Nature. Through these channels and streaming platforms, The WNET Group brings arts, culture, education, news, documentary, entertainment and DIY programming to more than five million viewers each month. The WNET Group's award-winning productions include signature PBS series ***Nature***, ***Great Performances***, ***American Masters*** and ***Amanpour and Company*** and trusted local news programs like ***NJ Spotlight News with Briana Vannozzi***. Inspiring curiosity and nurturing dreams, The WNET Group's award-winning Kids' Media and Education team produces the PBS KIDS series ***Cyberchase***, interactive ***Mission US*** history games, and resources for families, teachers and caregivers. A leading nonprofit public media producer for more than 60 years, The WNET Group presents and distributes content that fosters lifelong learning, including initiatives addressing poverty, jobs, economic opportunity, social justice, understanding and the environment. Through Passport, station members can stream new and archival programming anytime, anywhere. The WNET Group represents the best in public media. Join us.

About the Met

Under the leadership of Peter Gelb, the Met's Maria Manetti Shrem General Manager, and Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Jeanette Lerman-Neubauer Music Director, the Metropolitan Opera is one of America's leading performing arts organizations and a vibrant home for the world's most creative and talented artists, including singers, conductors, composers, orchestra musicians, stage directors, designers, visual artists, choreographers, and dancers. The company presents approximately 200 performances each season of a wide variety of operas, ranging from early masterpieces to contemporary works. In recent years, the Met has launched many initiatives designed to make opera more accessible, most prominently the Live in HD series of cinema transmissions, which dramatically expands the Met audience by allowing select performances to be seen in more than 50 countries around the world.

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