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Great Performances at the Met: Ariadne auf Naxos

Premieres Sunday, July 3 on PBS ([check local listings](#))

New York metro area premiere Sunday, July 10 at 12 p.m. on THIRTEEN

Synopsis:

Soprano Lise Davidsen brings one of her signature roles to the Met for the first time as the mythological Greek heroine of Strauss' masterpiece conducted by Marek Janowski. The cast also features mezzo-soprano Isabel Leonard as the composer of the opera-within-an-opera around which the plot revolves, with soprano Brenda Rae as the spirited Zerbinetta, tenor Brandon Jovanovich as Ariadne's lover, the god Bacchus, and Wolfgang Brendel as the Major-Domo. ***Great Performances at the Met: Ariadne auf Naxos*** premieres beginning Sunday, July 3 on PBS ([check local listings](#)) as part of #PBSForTheArts. The New York metro area premiere is Sunday, July 10 at 12 p.m. on THIRTEEN. Tenor Matthew Polenzani hosts. The broadcast is part of season 16 of ***Great Performances at the Met*** that includes 10 new operas premiering monthly through November on PBS ([check local listings](#)).

#PBSForTheArts is a multiplatform campaign that celebrates the arts in America. For more than 50 years, PBS has been the media destination for the arts, presenting dance, theater, opera, visual arts and concerts to Americans in every corner of the country. Previous ***Great Performances*** programs include *Romeo & Juliet* from the National Theatre, *The Arts Interrupted*, *Reopening: The Broadway Revival*, *The Conductor*, *Anything Goes* and *Merry Wives*. The collection of #PBSForTheArts programs is available at pbs.org/arts and the [PBS Video app](#). Curated conversation and digital shorts are also available on PBS social media platforms using #PBSForTheArts.

Cast:

- Lise Davidsen – Ariadne
- Isabel Leonard – Composer
- Brenda Rae – Zerbinetta
- Brandon Jovanovich – Bacchus
- Wolfgang Brendel – Major-Domo
- Johannes Martin Kränzle – Music Master
- Sean Michael Plumb – Harlekin

Creative:

- Matthew Polenzani – Host
- Marek Janowski – Conductor
- Richard Strauss – Composer
- Elijah Moshinsky – Production
- Michael Yeargan – Set and Costume Designer
- Gil Wechsler – Lighting Designer
- Stephen Pickover – Revival Stage Director

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. **Ariadne auf Naxos** is directed for the screen by Gary Halvorson. For the Met: Mia Bongiovanni is Supervising Producer and Louisa Briccetti and Victoria Warivonchik are Producers. David Frost is Music Producer and Peter Gelb is Executive Producer. For **Great Performances**: Bill O'Donnell is Series Producer; David Horn is Executive Producer.

Corporate support for **Great Performances at the Met** is provided by Toll Brothers. For **Great Performances**, funding is provided by the Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Arts Fund and The Philip and Janice Levin Foundation.

Websites: <http://pbs.org/gperf>, <http://facebook.com/GreatPerformances>, [@GPerfPBS](https://twitter.com/GPerfPBS), <http://youtube.com/greatperformancespbs>, giphy.com/great-performances #GreatPerformancesPBS #PBSForTheArts

About The WNET Group

[The WNET Group](http://www.wnet.org) creates inspiring media content and meaningful experiences for diverse audiences nationwide. It is the community-supported home of New York's **THIRTEEN** – America's flagship PBS station – [WLIW21](http://www.wliw21.com), THIRTEEN PBSKids, WLIW World and Create; [NJ PBS](http://www.njpbs.com), New Jersey's statewide public television network; Long Island's only NPR station WLIW-FM; [ALL ARTS](http://www.allarts.org), the arts and culture media provider; and newsroom [NJ Spotlight News](http://www.njspotlightnews.com). 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**, **PBS NewsHour Weekend** and **Amanpour and Company** and trusted local news programs **MetroFocus** and **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 nearly 60 years, The WNET Group presents and distributes content that fosters lifelong learning, including multiplatform 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 General Manager Peter Gelb and Music Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin, 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 more than 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 2,200 theaters in more than 70 countries around the world.

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