



Press Release

Monday 1 September 2025

The Royal Opera's Linbury Theatre Season opens with Joe Hill-Gibbins' new production of *Giustino*

- Joe Hill-Gibbins makes his Royal Opera debut
- First performances at the RBO from La Nuova Musica
- 7–18 October 2025, tickets from £18, available at rbo.org.uk

This October, **The Royal Opera** and **La Nuova Musica** present a brand-new production of **Handel's *Giustino*** in the Linbury Theatre - the first staging of the piece at the Royal Opera House since its premiere in 1737.

Acclaimed director **Joe Hill-Gibbins** makes his debut, following celebrated productions of *Greek* (Scottish Opera); *Powder Her Face*, *Duke Bluebeard's Castle* and *The Marriage of Figaro* (English National Opera). Hill-Gibbins has also directed productions across the West End, for the Young Vic, the Royal Court, the National Theatre, the Almeida Theatre, and Shakespeare's Globe, including the recent hit production *Ghosts*.

The latest in The Royal Opera's Handel series, *Giustino* is a co-production with specialist baroque ensemble **La Nuova Musica**, who perform Handel's score in a new arrangement created by Music Director **David Bates** alongside Hill-Gibbins. The ensemble make their Royal Opera debut following regular appearances at Wigmore Hall and the London Handel Festival. The creative team for *Giustino* includes Hill-Gibbins' long-term collaborators **Rosanna Vize** as designer and **Jenny Ogilvie** as Associate Director, and **James Farncombe** as lighting designer.

Giustino features a range of esteemed baroque artists alongside some of the most exciting young artists in the field, with debut performances from **Polly Leech** in the role of Giustino, **Mireille Asselin** as Arianna/La Fortuna, and **Esme Bronwen-Smith** as Leocasta. **Keri Fuge** will perform the role of Anastasio. **Jake Arditti** performs the role of Amanzio, returning to the Linbury Theatre after previously appearing in *SUM*, created by Max Richter and Wayne McGregor for The Royal

Opera. **Benjamin Hulett** performs as Vitaliano, following his cover performance as Francois in *A Quiet Place* last Season, and **Jonathan Lemalu** performs as Polidarte.

Joe Hill-Gibbins, director of *Giustino*, said:

“I'm over the moon to be making my first show with The Royal Opera with *Giustino*, which was made for this theatre in the 1700s and unseen there since.

Giustino is a simple story, about a young boy's journey into adulthood, but the richness of the music also offers us a complex take on those themes. It asks us questions about all the things we gain as we enter the adult world, but also about what we lose - where we're compromised or corrupted as we try to find meaning in personal and professional relationships, and make our mark in a complex and dangerous world.

I can't wait for audiences to see the show and I'm delighted to be working with the incredible La Nuova Musica and our outstanding cast to bring *Giustino* to life.”

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS

[Images can be downloaded here.](#)

PRESS CONTACT

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The Royal Opera

GIUSTINO

Linbury Theatre

7 – 18 October 2025

A co-production with **La Nuova Musica**

Tickets: £18 - £120

For more information, and to book, visit: [Giustino \(rbo.org.uk\)](https://www.rbo.org.uk)

Music **George Frideric Handel**

Conductor **David Bates**

Director **Joe Hill-Gibbins**

Designer **Rosanna Vize**

Associate Director **Jenny Ogilvie**
Lighting Designer **James Farncombe**

Giustino **Polly Leech**
Anastasio **Keri Fuge**
Leocasta **Esme Bronwen-Smith**
Amanzio **Jake Arditti**
Vitaliano **Benjamin Hulett**
Polidarte **Jonathan Lemalu**

La Nuova Musica

Sung in Italian with English surtitles

About The Royal Opera

Under the artistic direction of Music Director Designate Jakub Hrůša, Director of Opera, Oliver Mears and Associate Director, Netia Jones, The Royal Opera is one of the world's leading opera companies. Based at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, it brings together the greatest singers of our time alongside the most exciting voices of the future; the Royal Opera Chorus, a world-class orchestra and leading conductors (including Principal Guest Conductor Speranza Scappucci), directors and creative teams to share inspiring theatrical experiences with diverse audiences worldwide. Across the Main Stage and the Linbury Theatre, the Company is renowned for both its award-winning performances of repertory works and for commissioning new works by the world's leading opera composers, such as George Benjamin, Mark-Anthony Turnage, Thomas Adès and the late Kaija Saariaho.

About the Royal Ballet and Opera

The Royal Ballet and Opera is the home of world-class opera and ballet. We are a cultural powerhouse, bringing together two world-class performing companies in one of the UK's leading arts institutions, supported by a cast of more than 3,000 employees including technical staff, creatives, and freelancers. Based primarily at the Royal Opera House in the heart of London's Covent Garden, with production and logistics sites in Thurrock and Aberdare, our work is enjoyed by audiences in our two theatres and globally through our streaming platform, cinema Season and company tours. Our work in schools and communities up and down the country is driven by our curriculum linked programmes, specially designed to inspire creativity, widen access to the arts and diversify the future of opera and ballet. These sit alongside industry-leading talent development projects, regional partnerships, our Young RBO scheme, and a raft of daytime events, family activities, tours, exhibitions, and concerts in our Covent Garden home. We are committed to reducing our impact on the environment and aim to achieve net zero emissions by 2035.