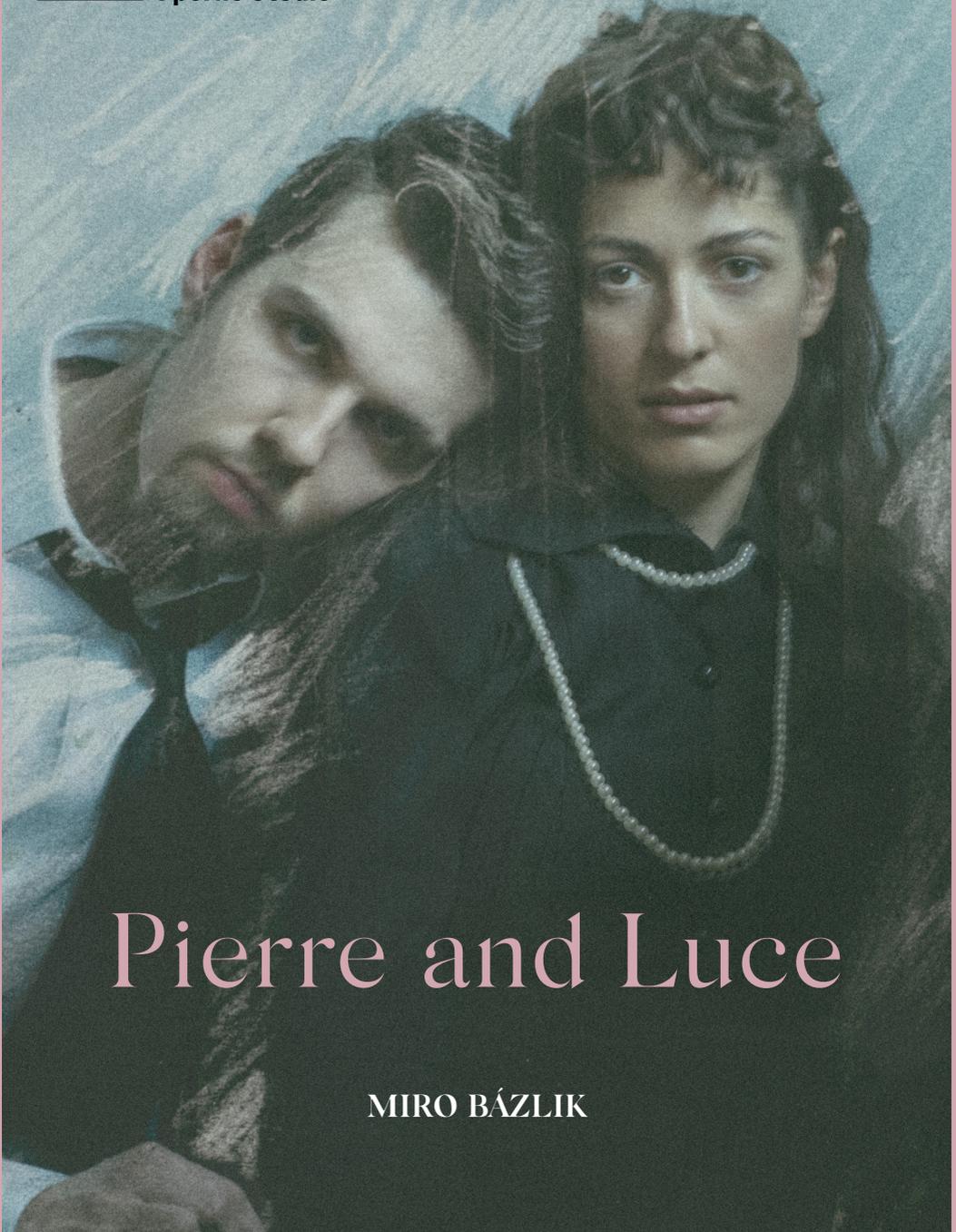




Slovenské
národné
divadlo
Operné štúdio



Pierre and Luce

MIRO BÁZLIK





**Slovenské
národné
divadlo
Operné štúdio**

Matej Drlička

General Manager, Slovak National Theatre

Lubor Cukr

Director, Opera of the Slovak National Theatre

102th theatre season

2021/2022

Pierre and Luce

Opera in seven acts

MIRO BÁZLIK

WORLD PREMIÈRE 29. APRIL 1967

Slovak national theatre

PREMIÈRE 1ST AND 3RD JULY 2022

Studio, SND new building

PRODUCTION TEAM

MUSICAL PREPARATION

Dušan Štefánek

CONDUCTOR

Dušan Štefánek

DIRECTED BY

Marek Mokoš

SET AND COSTUMES DESIGN

Marek Mokoš

DRAMATURGY

Marek Mokoš

VIDEOART

Marek Moučka, Samuel Spišák

CAST

PIERRE

Robin Červinek

LUCE

Veronika Bilová, Belinda Sandiová

PHILIPPE

Ivan Lyvch

SOLDIER

Jinxin Chen

FATHER

Pavol Mucha

MOTHER

Linda Mellenová

LOVER

Matúš Šimko

LUCIA'S MOTHER

Zoya Petrova

PIANO

Andrea Bálešová

VIBRAPHONE, XYLOPHONE

Kristián Janočko



MIRO BÁZLIK
PIERRE AND LUCE

Opera in seven acts
A libretto based on the novel
Pierre and Luce by Romain Rolland
written by Miro Horňák

ACT I

PIERRE

Forgive me, I had to, that view is not
for your soul!

LUCE

What soul?

PIERRE

Yours! You belong to another world,
I see you even when I close my eyes,
as a quiet port in this after-storm of
the world, I can see you as ... as ... as
... I'm afraid to say a single word.

LUCE

How? Well, say that word after all,
you pressed my hand hard yesterday,
you know, when they fired, we were
both terribly scared. It was beautiful,
but you didn't say a word to me.

PIERRE

Yesterday I believed that war could
bring something beautiful,
even though you haven't
looked at me once.

PIERRE

Finally, finally I can see them,
Your eyes!

LUCE

Those eyes are called Luce.
And yours?

PIERRE

They have an ordinary name,
a usual one. Pierre.

LUCE

Not ordinary. Brave name
and clear eyes.

PIERRE

That's because they're looking at
Luce. Yes, that hand! I remember
every fold and the warmth and
softness of your palm.

LUCE

You liar! And now the word!

PIERRE

That word should not be spoken, it should only be felt, believed in, and lived, only that word. How good you understand me. How calm everything looks today. How rich a person is on such a day...That's because it's tomorrow. How beautiful when we have tomorrow. And it will always be, it will be renewed every day, because it is a word, because it is a word that is like ...

LUCE

Like a smile, like a light ... like a life that has no boundaries, like a mysterious guest who has visited us and will never leave.

PIERRE

Like a smile, like a light, like a life that has no boundaries. But you are leaving! Why? Where? Will you be back? Will you come Luce, are you coming back? Luce ... dear Luce!

SOLDIER

Don't stand here, boy, don't stand in the way!

PIERRE

Those eyes are called Luce ...
those eyes are called Luce ...

ACT II

PHILLIP

And you should have seen the confusion and horror when toxic gases appeared at the front.

MOTHER

My son, my child, they used toxic gas on you as if you were harmful animals. This is how people treat people!

PHILLIP

And do you think a bullet is more humane?

MOTHER

Holy Virgin, you, who were a mother, do not let my child die in dangerous hardships, let us glorify your name for saving our children. Destroy the enemies of our peaceful life with your almighty hand. May your holy will be done!

PHILLIP

Stop it, stop it, Mom! A man has to die and it's sad, even though one has to die, but why the pain, why the unnecessary death, I say, I scream, unnecessary! Glory built on cemeteries! Why? For whom? Mom, do you need it? Father, can you live without it?

FATHER

You muddle, but it's hard to listen to
you. There must be some justice and
it must be fought for.

PHILLIP

He doesn't muddle, he's still dumb.
Just one day at the front and he will
start to muddle, in case he survives
that moment.

MOTHER

Don't say so, please be quiet! There
is still time, half a year, my child, until
then maybe everything will change.

PIERRE

Mom, I'm not a little boy anymore!

PHILLIP

You are not, but you have not become
a man yet. Listen to what you're
about to go to! Just a few months
and you'll go there. They give you
a shotgun, you lie down in the trench,
and you may think it's a grave.

MOTHER

Don't scare the poor thing, maybe
he'll never experience it!

PHILLIP

And so you lie and wait for death. And
then suddenly a man shows up and
you have to kill him.
And then appears ...

PIERRE

Luce... Those eyes are called Luce.

PHILLIP

...such a wave, a pure, white wave
that approaches you,
a gas, a toxic gas ...

PIERRE

It's like a smile, like a light,
like a life that has no boundaries,
like a mysterious guest
who doesn't leave.

PHILLIP

And you stand up and run for your
life, and you don't think about God or
your country. Just for your damn life.

PIERRE

It's like a life without borders,
it's like Luce. Love is Luce.
Luce is life.

PHILLIP

You're just thinking about how to save yourself. Nothing noble will come to mind, just ... but you don't listen to me, can you hear me, boy! Do you even know what I was talking about, or did you fall asleep?

PIERRE I heard you talking.
You talked about how beautiful it is to live.

ACT III

LUCE

Pierre, you're bad, you keep me waiting here.

PIERRE

Forgive me, it made me feel good to look at you. I didn't even know you were painting.

LUCE

This is not painting.
I'm just an amateur.

PIERRE

Do you paint just for fun?

LUCE

No, for the money.

PIERRE

But why do you do such things?

LUCE

Why? Well, so we can make a living. Life is difficult. There is always something to pay for. Mother won't make it herself. That's why I paint what they order because they don't have taste and don't understand painting.

PIERRE

Does my mother work too?

LUCE

Yes, in an ammunition factory.

PIERRE

In an ammunition factory? But it's terrible! Luce, what if someone offered you to make ammunition! And do you realize what is made there? Everything that causes pain, death, tears, burns, which tortures beings like you and me.

LUCE

I know, I know everything, but I don't want to think about it. We have to live. If you think, you do not live. And I want to live. If they make me do something wrong so I can live, I don't do the job of my own free will. There is nothing wrong with what I want, I really just want to live, live, live - and

find some happiness in life. Is that a lot I'm asking for? They tell me I'm selfish. I see a lot of misery and hardship around me ... but my heart demands, it calls: - I have a right, I have a right to a little happiness. Tell me, Pierre, say, honey, am I doing wrong, am I hurting someone?

PIERRE

Forgive me, you can do everything, I'm sorry, you can paint bad pictures, you can do whatever you want. If you went to make cannons ...

LUCE

What happened, dear, why didn't you answer? Did I hurt you? I understand. Cannons. Do you have to say that too? Let's not talk about it anymore! Just say when!

PIERRE

In half a year.

LUCE

Enough, let's not deal with that anymore! We are together, together, we. Everything else is dead. For half a year we will not be interested in anything but us. No, I don't want to, yet. I don't want to, yet.

PIERRE

Luce, you won't let me leave this life before ...

LUCE

Just thinking about it would be worse than ... death. You don't want me more than I want you. Let's stay like this for a while. It's so beautiful! At least this month!

SOLDIER

What a soldier he would be if he was afraid ... if he was afraid of an undertaker, when he smelled gunpowder.

PIERRE

A soldier and as if he were drunk! Come on, honey, let's get out of here! Today was our engagement.

LUCE

And you see, even with singing.

SOLDIER

Our famous batteries fought a glorious battle, half in the ground rotting, the other kicking tallow.

SOLDIER and PHILLIP

What kind of soldier would he be if he ...

PHILLIP

...wait, stop!

PHILLIP

Well, after all - there are still people!

ACT IV

MOTHER

Holy Virgin, protect my child, don't let him die in this evil world, don't let our hearts sink in tears of sorrow and blood, don't let ...

PHILLIP

Mom, there is a war today, and even the most sincere prayer will not help. Evil must perish with its own weapon. The lamentations of the innocent are useless.

MOTHER

Phillip, my child, I don't want anything else, and I don't pray for anything else, just that innocent people don't cry, that there are no enemies against us, that there are no enemies against us.

PHILLIP

We too are enemies, all of us, all without distinction, without our own will. Such is war.

FATHER

You're talking thoughtlessly, Phillip, just to comfort your mother. You know very well that the homeland needs to be protected. If I were younger, I would go too, because it's always worth the truth to die.

PHILLIP

Homeland, the truth!
I do not believe...

FATHER

You young people, you do not believe, but we know where our roots are, where the land in which we grew up is. We know...

MOTHER

Fall silent, fall silent, at least for this last minute, last minute! Why the last one, but no, because Phillip will definitely return. The war will end, and we will all live as before. Pierre will go back to school again, becomes a professor and I and his father will watch you from the corner as you walk bravely into life. You are still children, in my eyes you are still children. And that's how it's good.

PHILLIP

It's time for me to go away. I don't want them to win the war without me.

FATHER

I'm glad you're still happy you don't hang your head.

PHILLIP

Sadness and rebellion have the same effect: none. Dear parents, forgive me if I hurt you!

MOTHER

Phillip, what are you talking about?
How should we not see each other!

FATHER

You'll be back, Phillip, I'm sure you'll
be back. There is nothing to forgive.

I would go myself just to
save your youth.

PHILLIP

Thank you, Father! You know very well
that life is such that one cannot have
a substitute. Everyone must live their
lives alone. I'm leaving, Pierre!

PIERRE

How come you're going, where you're
going? You just came!

PHILLIP

Not now, I've been home for a long
time, but you haven't counted the
days. Time is not important to you,
you have a world in which there is no
war and that is good.

PIERRE

Why are you smiling?

PHILLIP

Just like that, I'm looking at you and
I'm glad. Are you happy, Pierre? Tell
me, are you happy? You're right, boy,
that's beautiful, happiness! My life is
sacrificed. All right. If only I knew that
would save your happiness,
your two lives.

PIERRE

Two lives? What two lives!
Maybe mine and ...

PHILLIP

Yes, two lives.
Two lives of millions
like you and her!

PIERRE

Are you happy, Pierre? Tell me, are
you happy? What more can you ask
for in life? Nothing, because there
is nothing more, just happiness, and
that is Luce. Happiness is Luce. She
contains everything. In her tender
body and smile and in the paintings,
which are beautiful only because they
came out of her hands. Phillip! War!
Maybe Phillip has his happiness, too.
Maybe everyone has their own Lucia.
No, they don't, they certainly don't,
there is only one Luce. Why am I not
always with her? Why are there cruel
moments of loneliness when we
are one soul?

LUCE

Where are you, where? I am looking
for you, I am waiting for you, I keep
finding you and I then
losing you again.

PIERRE

Happiness, it is Luce.

LUCE

Where are you? How I want to be with
you on this awful night. No, I'm not
afraid, but I want to be with you. How
beautiful it would be to experience
this horror in your arms! We would
not be afraid, no one will hurt us. We
will live forever, and I want to feel you,
touch you, love you forever.

PIERRE

I don't want to spend a moment
without you! They are very long and
painful, I want to be with you all the
time, forever! All the evil of the world
cannot match the moment
of separation.

ACT VI

LUCE'S MOTHER

How did I deserve such behaviour
towards me? Don't you want
me anymore?

LOVER

I told you, it's useless to complain
today because ...

LUCE'S MOTHER

Be silent - the child is listening! Luce,
can you hear me, Luce...
Leave us alone, go for a walk!

LUCE

I have to, I'm waiting...
because today...

LOVER

You do not understand?
Leave us alone for a moment,
you see you bother us!

LUCE'S MOTHER

Don't do it, please! Don't hurt me
unnecessarily! A few days ago ...

LOVER

Yes, but it's been a long time. I have
to leave because I want to, and you
won't stop me!

LUCE'S MOTHER

I lived only for you. Why are you
hurting me? Why do you only think
of yourself?

LOVER

We each have a large part of
our lives behind us.

LUCE'S MOTHER

I also saw the one in front of us.

LOVER

We don't need to play with emotions.
We lived together for a while, and we
split up again. How to live differently
today? How to find happiness,
ideals? We no longer know how to live,
today it is difficult, very difficult, so
I am leaving. Don't stop me! It's hard
for me too, but I have to. I can't act
otherwise, I can't.

LUCE'S MOTHER

Don't do it, please, I want you to stay.
You must! I'm expecting a baby,
your baby!

LUCE'S MOTHER

Leave me alone, Luce! Leave me,
I have to be alone ...
now I have to be alone ...

PIERRE

Luce, I'm here, let's start painting!
Luce, what's wrong with you?
Is that for me?

LUCE

No, no, it's not for you.

PIERRE

Has something happened?

LUCE

Oh, I don't know, I'm ashamed.
I'm terribly ashamed ...

PIERRE

You're ashamed, why?
Has something happened?
Tell me, Luce!

LUCE

I've seen sad things, sometimes
one has to be ashamed to be
human. I don't know what's going on.
Everything has changed: people, love
... I don't understand it all, I just feel
... No, leave me alone, please, I feel
like something in me has died.

PIERRE

Don't be sad, Luce! I came again. We
are together and that is enough to
dispel all grief. We two were born for
joy. Look, this is for you ...

LUCE

Pierre, Pierre, don't be angry at
me, forgive me! I have something
for you, too. I drew a picture of you
yesterday. Take a look, look! Why are
you laughing? I can see you're more
beautiful, you are silly, but I can't
paint. I just wanted to make you
happy. Forgive me!

PIERRE

No, you forgive me, my dear.
Everything is beautiful. Everything
you do is beautiful. Just don't be sad.
There are two of us, we won't let them
rob us of our happiness.

LUCE

We do not. We are satisfied. We
believe in beautiful things. Others
have a fever. War. Constant rush.
Factories, work, life, war, factories ...

PIERRE

The moment to live is short.

LUCE

Work, live. War, factories ...

PIERRE

The moment to live is short.

LUCE

I'm already holding it. But is it
enough for me to call for love, for
a little happiness...?

PIERRE

There are two of us, Luce, who are
calling. Nothing can be taken from
us, stolen, destroyed, because we are
living our moment. Because we are
living our moment, we two are one.

LUCE

We will belong to each other,
completely and forever.

PIERRE

Tell me, my beautiful, when will we
reach the peak of our happiness?
I want to know; I want to look forward
to it and wait in advance.

LUCE

Let's wait until Easter! Let's wait
until Easter, until the resurrection!

PIERRE

Oh, there is death before the
resurrection!

LUCE

Be silent, be silent! Be silent now, be
silent, we don't know death! Our life is
long. For our resurrection is preceded
by love!

PIERRE

There is death before the
resurrection! Be silent, be silent now,
we don't know death, our life is long
because there is love!

ACT VII

PHILLIP

...Your son is a hero! I'd rather be in the infirmary until I'm thrown out.

SOLDIER

We have already been thrown out; others are coming to live...

PIERRE

Why do we love each other so much. Do you know that?

LUCE

Oh, Pierre, you don't love me that much when you ask so.

PIERRE

I'm asking you, so you have to tell me what I know as well as you do.

LUCE

If you know why I love you, well, I don't know. Because I don't know any why, for what, where ...

PIERRE

Luce, not everyone can do that.

LUCE

My love simply is. And nothing else interests me.

PIERRE

You don't know the value of the gift you gave me.

LUCE

Giving your heart to love, your lips to a loved one, means as much as giving your eyes to the light. That means giving. That means taking.

SOLDIER

You became blind, Phillip. And maybe it's good. You will not see all the emptiness and misery like me. I will limp on the crooked paths of life and guide you. I'll tell you everything I see, I'll just hide the evil, because we've suffered enough evil.

PHILLIP

Sad consolation, to enjoy deception. Take me to the chapel, there will be talking today about life, about eternal life. Maybe this delusion will also help us.

SOLDIER

Do you want to exchange military trumpets for hallelujahs of the resurrection?

PHILLIP

No, just my own pain for peace and reconciliation of the music. It doesn't hurt and it's cold in the chapel.

LUCE

Pierre, why are there only two of us
in the world?

PIERRE

Because for half a year we have been
living a life that you have
filled with love.

LUCE

And you protect it from all evil.
Remember, in the subway? You took
my hand and I've never been scared
since. You were with me.

PIERRE

You were with me.

LUCE

You hear Pierre, today is the day of
his resurrection

PIERRE

Resurrections of life. And life is love.

LUCE

He loved too ...

PIERRE

Luce, why did you once tell me you
couldn't paint me?

LUCE

I don't even need to know. I still see
you. You live in my sight, through you
I see trees, bread, my hands, flowers,
and everything I can't paint.

„And now you again! “

How good that our lives begin with
spring. Together with the trees, we
too will gain strength, bloom,
give birth ... We will be like
a warm spring evening ...

PIERRE

...like a warm spring evening for
love...

LUCE

We will be a damp shade of linden
trees... the fragrant dew of the grass,
we will be all that will be pleasant to
see, that will be good to have, to kiss,
to eat, to touch, to breathe, we will be
all that we will desire, love, want...

PIERRE

...the sun between the branches ...
a peach in an orchard, we will be all
that will be pleasant to see, that will
be good to have, to kiss, to eat, to
touch, to breathe, we will be all that
we will desire, love, want...



PRODUCTION TEAM

Project Manager

Katarína Kandriková

Répétiteurs

Andrea Báležová, Klaudia Kosmel'ová

Stage Managers

František Šenigla

Head of Technical Operations

Patrik Pačes, Viliam Švarda

Head of Construction

Martin Brecner

Lighting

Michal Preis

Sound

Ľuboš Holík, Ján Janko

Wardrobe

Daša Krištofovičová, Dana Bučíková

Make Up / Maske

Monika Olanová, Dana Pavlák Táborská

Props

Monika Česneková, Tatiana Hajnušová

Subtitles

Marek Mokoš, Anna Antalová

Stage Decorations

SND Stage Decorations

Director Peter Klauďný

Costume production

SND Costume Studios

Director Katarína Čanecká

Stage construction

Ingrid Vargová

The administration of the Slovak National Theatre kindly requests that, due to copyright reasons, no photography or sound recording are made, without exemption, throughout, before and after the performance. We also kindly ask you to switch off your mobile phones. Thank you.

Programme booklet published by the Slovak National Theatre, 2022.

EDITED BY **Marek Mokoš**
SLOVAK LANGUAGE EDITOR **Katarína Vilhanová**
COVER DESIGN **Barbora Šajgalíková**
COVER PHOTO **Jakub Gulyás**
PHOTOGRAPHY **Archív SND, Marek Moučka**
GRAPHIC DESIGN **Linda Pavelková**
PRODUCTION **Zuzana Barysz**
PRINTED BY **Róbert Jurových – NIKARA**

WWW.SND.SK

