

Synopsis Continued...

The opera now takes a lighter turn as in a brief comic interlude, we meet The Sailor. He is another young performer trying to make it big in Hollywood! He briefly seizes the attention of the paparazzi with his antics, but they quickly tire of his nonsense and go back to their true pursuit, Dido.

In the interest of saving his business and livelihood, Aeneas, who had previously pledged his undying support for Dido, is now seen meeting with the Sorceress. She can finally taste the victory she has so long awaited and delights in the success of her plan with the Witches.

Aeneas is dissatisfied with the Sorceress and makes an effort to mend the relationship between Dido and Carthage Studios, but is rejected by her. The wrathful, broken hearted Dido throws him out of her house and back into the waiting arms of the Sorceress. Dido, now desperate and delusional, overdoses in an effort to quiet her thoughts and numb her pain. The deterioration of her mind and loss of hope is laid bare in the stunning aria "When I am laid in earth." Dido collapses, and passes away as the Sorceress enters to sing the last line and step into her role as Hollywood's newest star. Dido's death is noted, and mourned but also quickly forgotten by the paparazzi as they immediately move on to pursuing the Sorceress.

SUNY NEW PALTZ DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC PRESENTS

DIDO AND AENEAS

SATURDAY, APRIL 18TH
7:30 PM
STUDLEY THEATRE, SUNY NEW PALTZ

HOLLYWOOD

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC VOICE STUDENTS PERFORM A STAGED VERSION OF HENRY PERCELL'S 'DIDO AND AENEAS' REIMAGINED IN 1940S HOLLYWOOD

Tickets & Information

If you have accessibility questions or require accommodations to fully participate in this event, please contact the Box Office at boxoffice@newpaltz.edu at least 2 weeks prior to the event. All events subject to change. Visit newpaltz.edu/music for the most updated information.

F&PA
SCHOOL OF FINE & PERFORMING ARTS

New Paltz
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Cast:

Dido	Emmeline Wilson
Belinda	Leah Lacey
Two Women	Ashe Matteson
	Susanna Gilgert
Aeneas	Milly (Lee) Camara
Sorceress	Margaret Caserta
First Witches	Elle Woska
	Natalie Waters
Second Witches	Julia Kotliar
	Ashlynn Clanton
Spirit	Emma DeSanctis
Sailor	Zane Sanon
Paparazzi	Elizabeth Armston
	Madison Caines
	Andrew Bein
	Aidyn Sotelo
	Indiana Ingberman

Synopsis:

In the beginning, we are introduced to Dido as a glamorous actress working for Carthage Studios in Hollywood in the 1940s. She is shown fleeing the paparazzi in direct contrast with The Sorceress who actively seeks out their attention and adulation. Despite her best efforts, she is passed over in favor of Dido.

While able to feign a gracious demeanor, inside Dido is in turmoil. She harbors a secret love for Aeneas, the head of Carthage Studios; but with the paparazzi always stalking and hounding her, she fears expressing her long held secret and the damage it could do to both her and the studio's reputations. Despite her assistant Belinda's best efforts, Dido veers further along the path of self-destruction, indulging in alcohol and pills to calm the raging storms within her like so many stars have before.

The Sorceress, being severely jealous of what Dido has already achieved, is not only trying to reach the pinnacle of success and fame in Hollywood, but also to destroy the current "queen" of Carthage. She is assisted by her accomplices: The Witches who have already infiltrated the paparazzi, and corrupted members of Dido's personal team. Upon their arrival, they report back to the Sorceress with all they have learned. Seeing an opportunity to take what is rightfully hers, the Sorceress orders them to spread vicious rumors about Dido and sabotage her success. They all take great pleasure in planning her ruin, furthering

Heartbreaking and Sublime Opera:

The SUNY New Paltz Voice Department reimagines Henry Purcell's "Dido and Aeneas" by staging the opera through the lens of 1940s Hollywood. Purcell's career may have only spanned two decades, but he was a prolific composer producing a huge body of work in that time. His first all-sung dramatic work, "Dido and Aeneas" stands apart not only as one of the earliest English operas known to date, but also as a great example of the compositional bridge from dramatic theatre sung and spoken, to genuine opera.

There has been a great deal of recent debate about the relevance of opera, and its survival in the modern world. The stories we tell through opera contain emotions, themes and experiences that will always be relevant to audiences. A story as simple as "Dido and Aeneas" can be completely reimagined and made accessible to current audiences in a number of ways while still maintaining the intent behind the original theme. The premise of this production is dedicated towards unearthing the relationship not only between Dido and Aeneas, but also between Dido and the wicked Sorceress. Our interpretation of this work gives this unnamed antagonist the spotlight and in effect reframes how audiences perceive this opera.



Production Staff:

Stage Director	Kent Smith
Conductor	John Wilson
Costume Designers	Samantha Spivey Chloe Kaas Elliana Castellucci
Stage Manager	Kaitlyn Barnes
Technical Director	Lily Moskwa
Production Assistant	Ashe Matteson
Program Designer & Photographer	Elle Woska
Cover Designer	Grace Hoey

Special Thanks To:

Adam Fontana - Chair, Department of Music
Alex Peh - Associate Chair, Department of Music
Josh Stark - Manager of Studley Theatre
Marilyn Heuer - Administrative Assistant, Department of Music
Andrea Varga - Associate Professor, Department of Theatre Art
Kaitlyn Kociela Taylor - Costume Director, Theatre Arts
Joel Sherry, Dan Daly - The Theatre Arts Department

Orchestra:

Violin 1	Carole Cowan Lucy Byron
Violin 2	Marka Young Sophia Jimdar
Viola	Christiana Fortune-Reader Llewana D'Silva
Cello	Susan Seligman
Bass	Evan Runyon
Harpichord	Susan Brown
Rehearsal Pianists	Susan Brown Ruthanne Schempf
Orchestra Contractor	Christiana Fortune-Reader

Music By Henry Purcell 1659-1695
Libretto By Nahum Tate 1652-1715