

Session 5

Opera Synopsis:

Gerald, a British soldier, trespasses in a forbidden Hindu Garden, discovering Lakme, daughter of the priest Nilakantha. They are immediately drawn to each other. She begs him to leave before her father finds him, but he delays too long. Nilakantha vows death to the desecrator of holy ground. To discover the trespasser's identity, he forces the disguised Lakme to sing in the public square, where Gerald rushes to her. Nilakantha stabs the young man, leaving him for dead, but Lakme nurses him back to health. Their idyll ends when Gerald, hearing martial music in the distance and heeding the advice of his comrade Frederic, feels the call to duty. Divining his intentions, Lakme eats a poisonous flower and dies, proclaiming her love. Her father, who has returned to kill Gerald, sets him free.

YouTube Videos:

Leo Delibes- Lakme (complete subtítulos en español)

Note: This production by Opera Australia was filmed at the Sydney Opera House in 1976.

We will be viewing highlights of this performance with English subtitles that appear not to be available on YouTube.

Leo Delibes, LAKME, Chaslin, Devos, Lhote, Tabot, Opera Royal de Wallonie

Note: This is a smaller scale production from Belgium and filmed in 2022 has a strong, young cast but unfortunately no English subtitles.

Terminology:

Operette bouffe

Opera comique

Orientalism

Coloratura Soprano

Basso Cantante

Obbligato