

Metropolitan Opera Company  
Simulcast of Franco Zeffereilli's production  
LA BOHEME

Hello. I'm Edgar Loessin with Loessin at Large

Well over a million people in movie theatres all over the world and on ships at sea have seen all or some of the Met simulcasts by satellite. I have been slow on the up take and saw my first one on April 5. The production was Franco Zeffereilli's La Boheme. It was magnificently sung Angela Georghiu as Mimi and Ramon Vargas as Rudolpho under the baton of Nicola Luisotti. This was the 349th presentation of this production.

I don't know how many people this multiplex theatre seats. I would guess six or seven hundred. At any rate, it was sold out and people were turned away. Fortunately I arrived early and had a choice seat. Friends arrived late and had to sit on the second row!.The audience arrived with pop corn and sodas and such as they usually do for a film. That made me a little nervous. I'm pleased to report that they ate and drank very quietly and no one spoke a word during the broadcast. They applauded with the live audience in New York

The sound at the beginning was lacking in brilliance. You could hear but the quality was without color. I don't if this was a problem with the transmission or the theatre's equipment. Act III sounded better. There were also floating chromatic lines on the screen at times that I found mildly distracting.

All in all, though, I found the experience most rewarding and I can see the demand for tickets increasing tremendously as audiences discover the up close reality of the experience. During intermissions there are shots of back stage, interviews and 20 minutes when nothing happens. It's your personal time so to speak..

I think most people will find they enjoy the opera more by seeing it as well as hearing it, I look forward to seeing others. Even though many of them have not been universally well received, I would like to see some of those really over the top Zeffereilli creations.

This is Edgar Loessin with Loessin at Large and I'll see you at the next opening.