

John Adams

DOCTOR ATOMIC

Saturday, November 8

Conductor
Alan Gilbert
Production
Penny Woolcock
Set Designer
Julian Crouch
Costume Designer
Catherine Zuber
Lighting Designer
Brian MacDevitt
Choreographer
Andrew Dawson
Video Design
**Leo Warner & Mark
Grimmer for Fifty Nine
Productions, Ltd.**
Sound Designer
Mark Grey

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In order of vocal appearance
EDWARD TELLER **Richard Paul Fink**
J. ROBERT OPPENHEIMER **Gerald Finley**
ROBERT WILSON **Thomas Glenn**
KITTY OPPENHEIMER **Sasha Cooke**
GENERAL LESLIE GROVES **Eric Owens**
FRANK HUBBARD **Earle Patriarco**
CAPTAIN JAMES NOLAN **Roger Honeywell**
PASQUALITA **Meredith Arwady**

The Production of Doctor Atomic was made possible by a generous gift from **Agnes Varis and Karl Leichtman**.

The commission of *Doctor Atomic* and the original San Francisco Opera production were made possible by a generous gift from Roberta Bialek.

Doctor Atomic is performed by arrangement with Hendon Music, Inc., a Boosey & Hawkes company, publisher and copyright owner.

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Doctor Atomic is a co-production with English National Opera.

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	Dec 20	<i>Thaïs</i>
	Jan 10	<i>La Rondine</i>
	Jan 24	<i>Orfeo ed Euridice</i>
	Feb 7	<i>Lucia di Lammermoor</i>
	Mar 7	<i>Madama Butterfly</i>
	Mar 21	<i>La Sonnambula</i>
	May 9	<i>La Cenerentola</i>

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This daring contemporary opera examines the events leading up to the testing of the first atomic bomb in the New Mexico desert in 1945. The title is a reference to J. Robert Oppenheimer, the brilliant physicist and director of the Manhattan Project.

Act I. Los Alamos, June–July 1945. Work on the atomic bomb, led by physicist J. Robert Oppenheimer and Army Commander General Leslie Groves, approaches its culminating point. Since the surrender of Germany, some scientists have begun to have misgivings about using the bomb, but Oppenheimer informs them that the decision has been made to bomb civilian Japanese targets. He answers the concerned questions of his wife Kitty with a poem by Baudelaire. Kitty reflects on the contradictions of peace, war, and love.

The night of the test of the bomb, an electrical storm is lashing the site. The Chief Meteorologist warns Groves that attempting the test in these conditions is extremely dangerous. Alone, Oppenheimer briefly gives in to his own fear.

INTERMISSION

Act II. The Oppenheimers' Indian maid, Pasqualita, sings a lullaby to their seven-month-old daughter. At the test site, the scientists discuss the possible outcome of the test. Groves orders the shot for 5:30 AM. Everyone waits, each absorbed in his own thoughts. Suddenly, the night sky is filled with a terrifying vision of Vishnu as described in the *Bhagavad Gita*. The countdown begins. Warning rockets are fired. At zero minus 45 seconds, an engineer flips the switch for the automatic timer. The triggering circuits begin to fire. "Zero minus one." There is an eerie silence.