

06-01-La Rosa Musical Opereta

La Rosa is a romantic musical set against the world of 19th century Italian Opera.

When true love with Giovanni strikes Rosa like a thunderbolt, will her dreams survive or will the past and a web of secrets and misunderstandings destroy her.

It's 1840 in the American South, Giovannina, a young widow, is waiting to marry Antonio. Giovannina has painted a portrait of her fiancé, Antonio and herself. It is to be a gift for him on their Wedding Day. She is raped by her brother -in-law, Clayton. She murders Clayton to defend herself. Giovannina flees to Milan leaving Antonio behind with out a word of explanation.

The house slaves Samuel and Jesse are witness to the rape and the murder. Jesse escapes to Milan with Giovannina. When they part Jesse tells Samuel she is pregnant with his child. They arrange to meet soon after Antonio releases Samuel from bondage.

We move ahead to 1865 in Milan. We meet the 24-year-old son of Giovannina, Giovanni. He has the portrait of his mother and Antonio in his apartment. The Contessa Vincenza is trying to force him into a loveless marriage.

In 1865 in Virginia, it is the end of the American Civil War. We discover that Samuel has been on the Plantation for 25 years. Antonio never granted him release.

Rosa is the daughter of Antonio. Her mother Clara is dead. The Plantation is in ruins. Antonio demands Rosa marry a wealthy man she doesn't love. Rosa's dream is to go to Milan to sing Opera. They argue. Rosa runs away from her father, Antonio's Plantation and the dreaded arranged marriage. She goes to her Uncle Lavigna in Milan. She will follow her dream to study in hopes of one day singing at La Scala Opera House.

The old family retainer, Samuel, goes to Milan as Rosa's chaperon. Samuel hopes against hope to find Jesse and his child. Even though, Slavery and Antonio kept him from joining them a lifetime ago.

Samuel and Jesse still hold the secret to the reason Giovannina fled the South. Rape.

Jesse raised both her child Natalia and Giovanni as Gypsies in Milan. Giovanni was raised by his Uncles as well. Giovanni's wealth means nothing to him. He is Blind. He lives for his Art.

Rosa meets Giovanni in The Bellaggio Trattoria. Giovanni is a bit of a dissolute playboy. He flirts with her but instead falls in Love.

Samuel meets his daughter Natalia that day in Mario's Bellaggio Trattoria. Jesse is on her way to enjoy her Birthday party. She walks in and she is reunited with Samuel. Their reunion is bitter sweet. Samuel is dying.

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Later, Rosa is formally introduced to Giovanni at a Society Ball. They sing together and are greeted with acclaim. The Contessa Vincenza is embarrassed by Giovanni's public rejection of her. She and her society friends despise Rosa and predict her social fall to the temperamental Giovanni.

After a whirlwind romance the unsophisticated Rosa falls deeply in love with Giovanni. He loves Rosa.

They are married at a Gypsy wedding.

Giovanni and Rosa plan their Church wedding but before the event, disaster strikes their love. The Contessa Vincenza discovers that the painting Giovanni has of his mother and whom he thought had been his dead father is actually Antonio, Rosa's Father. Because they don't know about the rape, everyone believes that Rosa is the half sister of Giovanni. Their love is forbidden.

Giovanni tells Rosa that the Contessa is pregnant with his child. He says he refuses to bring another bastard into the world. He must marry her. He chooses the Contessa Vincenza and the non-existent child, over Rosa, it breaks Rosa's heart.

Rosa runs away to Venice unable to bear the sadness. She decides to kill herself. She is interrupted by a family friend's visit. He informs her she is pregnant. Rosa has a new will to live. She will have this baby. She is helped by the family friend and sings in the opera house in Venice.

Antonio arrives in Milan and Giovanni confronts him as his father. He blames Antonio for the abandonment his mother causing her heartbreak and death. Samuel and Jesse must be consulted for the truth.

On his deathbed Samuel tells about the rape of Giovanni's mother and her murder of the man who did the deed. They confirm that because of the rape by Clayton, Antonio is not his father. Rosa is not the half sister of Giovanni.

The truth of the rape and murder comes out in hopes of ending the curse that has given bad luck to Giovanni all his life.

Later, as Rosa sits alone in her garden in Venice as she waits her time to give birth. She sings "Mirror of Love". Natalia listens beyond the garden gate with Antonio and Giovanni. They reconcile.

Months later at Carnival, Giovanni and Rosa sing for the crowd at the Piazza San Marco. They warn lovers to only settle for love. The crowd joins them and everyone sings "Only Live for Love".

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