

NORMA

SAT, OCT 28

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ACT I *Gaul, 50 B.C. E.* Oroveso leads the druids and warriors in a prayer for revenge against the conquering Romans. Pollione no longer loves the high priestess Norma, with whom he has two children. He now loves the novice priestess Adalgisa. Norma prays for peace. Pollione finds Adalgisa crying and urges her to flee with him to Rome. Adalgisa confesses to Norma that she has a lover, and when she discovers that Adalgisa is her rival, Norma's kindness turns to fury. Adalgisa declares that she would rather die than steal Pollione from Norma.

INTERMISSION

ACT II Norma contemplates murdering her children but instead begs Adalgisa to take them to Rome with Pollione. Adalgisa hopes to persuade Pollione to return to Norma. The warriors learn a new commander will replace Pollione. Hearing that Pollione will not return to her, Norma urges her people to attack the conquerors. Oroveso demands a sacrificial victim, and Pollione is brought in. Norma promises him his freedom if he will give up Adalgisa. When he refuses, Norma threatens to kill both their children and Adalgisa to punish him. But when she tells the druids that a guilty priestess must die, she confesses that she is referring to herself. Pollione now asks to share her fate, and the pair throw themselves onto the pyre.

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