



presents

# ORLANDO IN LOVE

Adaptation of M.M. Boiardo's "Orlando Innamorato"

by Jo Ann Cavallo

directed by Vittorio Capotorto



**NEW YORK - CENTRAL PARK**  
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## **ORLANDO INNAMORATO**

### **A Renaissance poem for an international community**

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The Orlando Innamorato offers a vision of a world without borders. Writing for a fifteenth century Italian court society hooked on Arthurian romance but also attuned to current world events, Boiardo charts a complex imaginary course in which characters from diverse cultures encounter one another in ways that range from armed conflict to friendship and love. Although knights and damsels from around the globe are gripped by a number of passions, such as erotic desire, ambition, compassion, and the desire for glory or revenge, their actions are never based on religious or ethnic differences.

Boiardo turns the Carolingian epic on its head by creating his own version of the Roland/Orlando story, an unauthorized biography showing how the supposedly chaste paladin had actually abandoned Charlemagne's court to chase a beautiful princess from Cathay across the expanse of Eurasia. Orlando shares the stage with a host of knights, damsels, wizards, fairies, and monsters, in alternating episodes of love, magic, adventure, and warfare, sometimes told through the creative rewriting of classical texts such as Homer's *Odyssey* and Ovid's *Metamorphoses*.

Boiardo's romance epic has retained its popularity and freshness for 500 years in Italian popular culture. Americans traveling to Italy today, in fact, can still find Orlando and Rinaldo fighting over the dazzling princess Angelica in Sicily's puppet theaters. Boiardo's characters, further developed in Ariosto's continuation *Orlando Furioso*, have also relived their adventures in opera, melodrama, epic *maggi* (folk operas), as well as in recitations by story-tellers and singers.

It was at the suggestion of the theater director Vittorio Capotorto that I first adapted some episodes of Boiardo's poem into a comedy. In transforming a 35,440 verse chivalric poem into a two-act play, my aim was to capture the fast-paced richness and playful flavor of the original. The scenes therefore retain Boiardo's technique of "entrelacement," weaving together various narrative threads in an alternating manner, juxtaposing episodes with strong thematic resonances. It is my hope that this taste of Boiardo's poem will arouse in the spectator the desire to read the complete romance epic.

Jo Ann Cavallo  
Associate Professor of Italian,  
Columbia University



*"Neither strong arm nor spirit bold, coat of mail nor shield nor  
sharpened sword, nor any other power from above, can prevent  
one from being overwhelmed by the force of Love"*

*Matteo Maria Boiardo*

# ORLANDO IN LOVE

Episodes from the romance epic poem

Orlando Innamorato

by

the Magnificent Count Matteo Maria Boiardo

Adapted into a comedy and translated by **Jo Ann Cavallo**

Directed by **Vittorio Capotorto**

Technical supervisor ..... Ronald L. McIntyre  
Assistant director ..... Francesca Tarengi  
Music composer ..... Grant Herreid  
Music Director guitar, mandolin ..... John La Barbera  
Musicians ..... Marianne Osiel-oboe, flute, recorder  
..... Jessie Reagen-cello  
..... Vincent Scialla-percussion  
Choreographer ..... Quincy A. Junor  
Costume designer ..... Raymond Pizarro  
Scenic designer ..... Scott Aronow  
Lighting designer ..... Evan Purcell  
Sound designer ..... Ryon Burnett  
Assistant ..... Alessandro Bellantuono

Cover illustration by **Franco Mannarini**, Mola di Bari, Italy



## SUMMARY

The play begins in Paris, at the Court of Charlemagne. As the emperor arranges for an international tournament and the Frankish knights bicker among them, Angelica suddenly appears on the scene and offers herself as a prize to anyone who can defeat her brother Uberto in a joust. The wizard Malagise discovers that Angelica's contest is rigged, but soon he too succumbs to the spell her beauty and is (quite literally) captured by her and sent to Cathay. The Englishman Astolfo is defeated by Uberto's magic lance and willingly becomes Angelica's prisoner, but the fierce Spaniard Ferraguto, when unhorsed by Uberto, refuses to abide by the terms of the joust and in the end Angelica and her brother flee to the Arden Wood. The cousins Orlando and Rinaldo, both infatuated, follow close on Angelica's heels.

Angelica herself is in for a surprise, however, when she tastes the enchanted waters of the Stream of Love and begins to desire Rinaldo. Unfortunately for her, the paladin had previously sipped from the Fountain of Merlin which transformed his love for her into hate. After pursuing him in vain, an exhausted Angelica lies down on the grass lamenting her sorry state. Orlando and subsequently Ferraguto arrive and commence a battle for the possession of the sleeping maiden. When Angelica subsequently awakens and flees, they postpone their battle in order to follow her.

Even once back in Cathay, Angelica cannot forget Rinaldo, and commands Malagise to fetch him. Rinaldo, however, refuses to comply and Malagise thereby whisks him to the Pleasure Palace, where damsels at the service of Angelica are very hospitable. When Rinaldo learns that the host is none other than the princess from Cathay, he flees again.

In the meantime, Orlando hears that Angelica is now besieged by the Tartar King Agricane, whose marriage proposal she has spurned, and he heads to Albracà to defend her. On the way, however, Orlando accepts the fairy Dragontina's chalice of forgetfulness and becomes trapped in her palace garden, oblivious of his identity. Astolfo, who had been seeking Orlando, encounters the faithful lovers Brandimarte and Fiordelisa, and together they attempt to free Orlando from the spell. When Dragontina commands Orlando to attack the invaders, Astolfo barely escapes with his life while Brandimarte remains trapped, leaving a desperate Fiordelisa to seek a champion to free him.

Trying to make his way back to Paris, Rinaldo unwittingly arrives at a castle where, because of a cruel custom, he must battle a monster or lose his life. Angelica hears of his plight and sets out to rescue him. Although he spurns her offer of aid, she leaves objects that ensure his victory over the monster before departing. After leaving Castle Cruel, Rinaldo encounters Fiordelisa and promises to free Orlando and Brandimarte. On the way, they come upon a cave in which the tragic story of Albarosa is written in the damsel's own blood. Rinaldo vows to punish the evildoer, the Babylonian king Truffaldino.

Unfortunately, Truffaldino himself has made his way to Albracà, ostensibly offering his aid to Angelica, but seizing control of the fortress as soon as Angelica leaves to seek reinforcements. Angelica succeeds in freeing Orlando and Brandimarte from Dragontina's spell through her stronger magic, but once back at Albracà Orlando must swear to defend the treacherous



Truffaldino unconditionally before the latter will allow them to enter the fortress.

Fiordelisa and Rinaldo arrive at Dragontina's palace, only to find that it is deserted. A passing soldier tells them that both Truffaldino and Orlando are at Albracà. Rinaldo arrives at the fortress just as Angelica is bathing Orlando after a day's fighting. Although Rinaldo makes it clear that he seeks to battle Truffaldino only, Orlando treats him as a rival in love and wants to murder him. The two cousins battle with words and swords. As Orlando is about to deliver a fatal blow to Rinaldo, Angelica calls him to her in order to save the knight she loves. Rinaldo is thereby able to recover and fight his way to Truffaldino, whom he kills in battle. Orlando returns to challenge Rinaldo, and Angelica tries to break up the fight. Fiordelisa notices Brandimarte and they joyously begin to "make love" as Rinaldo and Orlando furiously "make war." The Page puts a stop to both the embracing and the swordplay as he announces to the audience that the story will be continued another day.



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# SCENES

## ACT I

### **Scene 1 - Charlemagne's Court**

Knights from around the world have gathered in Paris for a tournament. As the Frankish knights bicker among them, the dazzling Angelica suddenly appears in the grand hall, offering herself as a prize to whoever can defeat her brother Uberto in a joust. The awestruck knights anticipate their victory.

### **Scene 2 - Merlin's Rock**

Having discovered that the proposed contest is part of a political plot to destroy France, the wizard Malagise secretly intervenes but proves no match for Angelica. In the ensuing joust, Astolfo is defeated by Uberto's magic lance and willingly becomes Angelica's first prisoner, but when Ferraguto is unhorsed, he refuses to abide by the rules and continues to fight.

### **Scene 3 - The Arden Wood**

While fleeing from the indomitable Ferraguto, Angelica stops to rest and unknowingly drinks from the Stream of Love. She thereby falls hopelessly in love with the nearby Rinaldo, who in the meantime has tasted the magical waters of Merlin's Fountain which transformed his desire for her into hate. After pursuing him in vain, Angelica lies down on the grass and falls asleep. Orlando and Ferraguto arrive on the scene and fight over her until she awakens and flees. Fiordesquina appears and urges Ferraguto to defend the Spanish King Marsilio from an attack by King Gradasso of Sericana.

### **Scene 4 - The kingdom of Cathay**

The lovesick Angelica commands Malagise to bring Rinaldo to her.

### **Scene 5 - Charlemagne's Court**

Charlemagne plans to send troops to Spain under Rinaldo's command to aid Marsilio. Astolfo is sent east to seek Orlando. Rinaldo refuses to comply with Malagise's request.

### **Scene 6 - Angelica's Pleasure Palace**

Malagise resorts to trickery to lead Rinaldo to a palace where damsels treat him very hospitably. Rinaldo flees when he learns that his host is Angelica.

### **Scene 7 - Dragontina's Garden**

Orlando learns that the Tartar King Agricane is besieging Angelica at her fortress in Albracà after she spurned his marriage proposal, and he sets out to defend her. On the way, however, he unwittingly accepts the fairy Dragontina's chalice of forgetfulness and loses his identity.

### **Scene 8 - Castle Cruel**

Trying to make his way back to France, Rinaldo arrives at a site where all travelers are fed to a horrendous monster. The widow in charge of



the castle's evil custom explains its origin before sending Rinaldo to his death.

## **ACT II**

### **Scene 1 - *Fortress of Albracà***

Angelica hears of Rinaldo's plight and sets out to rescue him.

### **Scene 2 - *Castle Cruel***

Although Rinaldo spurns Angelica's offer of aid, she leaves weapons that help him defeat the monster.

### **Scene 3 - *Crossroad near Dragontina's garden***

Astolfo, who had been seeking Orlando, encounters the faithful lovers Brandimarte and Fiordelisa, and together they attempt to free Orlando from the spell. Their mission fails, however, with Astolfo barely escaping with his life and Brandimarte remaining trapped within.

### **Scene 4 - *Albarosa's Cave***

Rinaldo encounters Fiordelisa and promises to liberate Orlando and Brandimarte. On the way, they come upon a cave in which the tragic story of Albarosa is written in the damsel's own blood. Rinaldo vows to punish the evildoer, the Babylonian king Truffaldino.

### **Scene 5 - *Albracà***

In the meantime Truffaldino himself has made his way to Albracà, ostensibly offering his aid to Angelica, but seizing control of the fortress as soon as she leaves to seek reinforcements.

### **Scene 6 - *Dragontina's garden***

Angelica succeeds in freeing Orlando and Brandimarte from Dragontina's spell with her magic ring.

### **Scene 7 - *Fortress of Albracà***

Once back at Albracà Orlando must swear to defend the treacherous Truffaldino before the latter will allow them to enter the fortress.

### **Scene 8 - *Around Dragontina's garden***

Fiordelisa and Rinaldo arrive at Dragontina's palace only to find that it is deserted. A passing soldier tells them that Orlando and Brandimarte are defending Truffaldino at Albracà.

### **Scene 9 - *Fortress of Albracà***

Rinaldo arrives at the fortress just as Angelica is bathing Orlando after a day's fighting. Although Rinaldo seeks to fight only Truffaldino, Orlando treats his cousin as a rival in love and wants to murder him. As Orlando is about to deliver a fatal blow to Rinaldo, Angelica calls him to her in order to save the knight she loves. Rinaldo is thereby able to confront Truffaldino directly. Orlando returns to challenge Rinaldo when he sees Angelica embrace the hero. In the final melee, the reunited Fiordelisa and Brandimarte joyously "make love" as Rinaldo and Orlando furiously "make war." Charlemagne arrives on the scene and "rescues" Angelica.



## **EAT LIKE AN ITALIAN**

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## CAST

(In order of appearance)

**The Page** (medieval court jester).....PAGE JACKSON  
**Page's wife** ..... ANASTASIA KONKINA  
**Rinaldo** (Frankish knight, paladin from Provence) ..... STAS MAY  
**Orlando** (Italianized version of the French Roland) ..... JOHN KAISNER  
**Astolfo** (son of King of England) ..... JACOB WHITE  
**Ferraguto** (nephew of Saracen King of Spain), **Old Man** ..... ROY AIALON  
**Charlemagne** (King of the Franks) ..... DAVID POTASHNIK  
**Angelica** (princess from Cathay) .....CASEY SIMONS  
**Malagise** (wizard, Rinaldo's cousin) ..... DAVID FRIDMAN  
**Grifone** (lord of castle in modern Turkestan), **Demon** .....KEVIN GALL  
**Uberto** (brother of Angelica, from Cathay) .....MICHEAL LETTA  
**Fiordespina** (Spanish maiden), **Stella** (Grifone's wife).MANUELA OESCHGER  
**Dragontina** (enchantress from Media, now Iran) ..... JENNY DECKNER  
**The Widow** (wife of Marchino) ..... JACQUELINE KOPPELL  
**Marchino**, **Soldier** (from Albracà)..... LUCIO POLOSA  
**Brandimarte** (Fiordelisa's beloved) .....ALEXANDER KRUUSE METTIN  
**Fiordelisa** (noblewoman, beloved of Brandimarte) .....LAUREN KELSTON  
**Truffaldino** (King of Baghdad and Babylonia) .....ROB ROSENBERGER  
**Polindo** (noble knight, beloved of Albarosa) ..... BRANDON MARTIN  
**Albarosa** (damsel from Babylon, beloved of Polindo).....PAIGE FRANCIS  
**Ladies of Charlemagne's Court**, **Monster**, **Damsels at Angelica's**  
**Pleasure Palace** ..... THERESA TIRONE, JAMILA WILLIAMS,  
 PAIGE FRANCIS, ASHLYNNE HOLDER-MOSLEY,  
 BRYCE-LOREN WALKER