

The Show Must Go On | Synopsis

ACT I

Radamès, an Egyptian warrior, loves Aida, the Ethiopian slave of the Egyptian princess Amneris. He doesn't know that Aida, who returns his affections, is the daughter of the Ethiopian king. Amneris also loves Radamès. When the high priest Ramfis warns Radamès of an impending new Ethiopian assault on Egypt, Radamès hopes to be made commander of the army: a victory would enable him to set his beloved free. Amneris realizes that Radamès is in love with her slave. When the King does select Radamès to lead the army, Aida finds herself torn between two loves: for Radamès and for her Ethiopian homeland. Ramfis oversees the solemn ceremony in which Radamès is installed as the new commander. All in the temple then join in an impassioned prayer for Egypt's victory.

- Which three characters are involved in the love triangle at the opening of Act I?
- What does Radamès hope to gain upon winning victory for his country?
- Who is Ramfis, and what is his role?

ACT II

News has arrived of Egypt's victory over Ethiopia, and Amneris is preparing for Radamès's return. To confirm her suspicions about him and Aida, Amneris lets on that the commander has been killed. After observing her slave's grief, Amneris tells the truth—Radamès is alive. Now, detecting Aida's joyous relief, the princess knows her concern to be justified. She leaves for the victory celebration. Aida prays to her own gods. The victorious army enters in a grand parade before the King, its Ethiopian captives trailing behind. Radamès is honored above all. Aida recognizes her father, Amonasro, among the prisoners, but he signals her not to reveal his identity. Amonasro pleads mercy for the captives. Radamès, in turn, asks the Egyptian king to overturn a priestly decree that the Ethiopians be killed. To honor his commander, the King not only agrees, but offers Radamès his daughter, Amneris, as bride.

- Who is honored at the victory celebration?
- How do you think Aida feels upon seeing her father?
- Who is offered to Radamès as a bride?

The Show Must Go On | Cast and Costume

Use found items to costume your assigned character! A found item is anything in your classroom you have permission to use from the item's owner (e.g., a sweatshirt, a pencil, sticky notes, etc.). Get creative! And make sure to ask before using a found item that does not belong to you.

Aida

Imprisoned in Egypt as Amneris's slave, Aida is caught between her love for Radamès, the Egyptian warrior, and her loyalty to her father, the captured Ethiopian king Amonasro.

Amneris

Cold and scheming, Amneris is determined to wed Radamès. When she senses his love for Aida, she wields her power to her own benefit.

Radamès

When Radamès is chosen to lead Egypt's war against Ethiopia, he hopes he will be able to free Aida. His reward for victory in battle, however, is to wed Amneris.

Amonasro

Though captured following Ethiopia's defeat, Amonasro is able to convince his daughter Aida to gain critical information about an impending attack before making his escape.

Ramfis

A spiritual and political advisor to Amneris and the King, Ramfis helps oversee the war effort and administers punishment to those found guilty of crimes.

The King

Amneris's father, the King of Egypt names Radamès to lead their army and honors Amonasro's plea for mercy.