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## Traviata A Contemporary Dance Performance By Italian Company Artemis Danza

La Traviata is based on Alexandre Dumas the younger's play La Dame aux Camelias.

The Dumas play, in turn, is based on the scandalous real life of French courtesan Alphonsine "Marie" Duplessis, whom he had known and adored. One of the most frequently performed of all operas for the immediacy of its story and beautiful melodies, La Traviata is also noted for having characterized perhaps the riches



Traviata ("The Woman Gone Astray") is the doomed story of upper class prostitute Violetta, who sacrificed herself for love, set in 1840s Paris. Violetta, the mistress of a wealthy baron, hosts a lavish party to celebrate her improved health after a bout with Tuberculosis. There she meets socially respectable Alfredo and becomes smitten with him. Violetta leaves the baron to move into a secluded country villa with Alfredo, where they live happily for a while. But unknown to Alfredo, his father convinces Violetta that the shame of the two lovers' relationship will prevent Alfredo's sister from making a good marriage. With great sadness, Violetta selflessly leaves Alfredo. Misunderstanding her motives, Alfredo goes into a jealous rage that leads to tragic consequences. Her golden heart broken, Violetta succumbs to illness.

Casadei's choreography presents the story from the perspective of Violetta, who appears in white (symbolizing pureness) as well as red (a bleeding heart, perhaps better off if it never beat). In the dance, she is multiplied into many female characters, into many cross sections of the heart. Evil waits in the wake of the waltz. Behind the sparkling celebrations and polite manners lies a rotten, empty society. Pitted against everyone, Violetta is surrounded by a chauvinistic society represented by a chorus in black. Despised and ill, she still yearns for something pure as she faces the end.

Recorded music from Verdi's original opera, arranged and modified by composer Luca Vianini with musical dramaturgy by Alessandro Taverna, will accompany the TRK performance of Traviata.