
Siegfried

Seen opening night: July 30, 2026



Overheard in foyer during the interval:
“So what do you think of the
production?” “What production?”

And so it goes: the conductor, orchestra,
and singers continue to deliver on the
highest level. The AI generated imagery
offers neither less nor more in the area
of content that informs, provokes a
response, or triggers an insight. There
were a couple of graphic reductions that
I recognized as from Castorf’s Ring.

More hallucinogenic human figures of unknown identity, relevance, or purpose, with grotesquely morphing faces and limbs. They generally end up finally transforming into a rock, a column, or just a geometric shape. A few head scratchers, like the photos of an astronaut on the moon that were prompted in the Wotan-Erda scene in Act III. But it all has stayed pretty much more of the same, and the audience seems to have given up entirely on even trying to make anything out of it. Just enjoy the pretty pictures and focus on the music. So much for providing “a reflective surface for 150 years of interpretive discourse” drawn from the history of this work and this house.

On the performers end, Christa Mayer was vocally resplendent as Erda. And special note must be made of Klaus Florian Vogt and Camila Nyland in the final scene. Such powerful music, but textually probably the weakest point in the librettos. Too often it comes off as intellectually arguing oneself into the idea of being in love, rather than the actual discovery and experience of love. Vogt and Nyland brought it life: all the excitement, fear, uncertainty, anticipation, self discovery, and at such a high level of singing.

The production team generally does not take a bow until after the final night of the cycle. There is an added sense of drama for Saturday’s finale, wondering what kind of audience response they will get.

Temperatures in the mid to upper 90s at first curtain, yet it was not oppressive or unduly uncomfortable in the auditorium. Somehow, they do keep the air moving in the house. It was actually being evicted from the theatre and into the heat of the courtyard for the hour-long intervals that were a trial.