

# Promising Young Woman and Met Opera livestreams

 By [Daniel Derksen](#)

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Only one film enters the South African box office this week: arresting, blackly comedic quasi-thriller for the #MeToo age, *Promising Young Woman*. And if you're opting to stay home, this weekend, there are more livestreams from the Met Opera in New York.

## Promising Young Woman

From groundbreaking director Emerald Fennell (*Killing Eve*) comes *Promising Young Woman*, a delicious new take on revenge. Everyone said Cassie (Carey Mulligan) was a promising young woman - until a mysterious event abruptly derailed her future. But nothing in Cassie's life is what it appears to be: she's wickedly smart, tantalisingly cunning and she's living a secret double life by night. Now, an unexpected encounter is about to give Cassie a chance to right the wrongs of the past in this thrilling and wildly entertaining story.

This arresting, blackly comedic quasi-thriller for the #MeToo age marks Fennell's feature directorial debut. It subverts the hackneyed notion of the femme fatale.

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## Opera streamings from the Met Opera

Opera lovers have indulged in 43 weeks of free streamings from the Met Opera in New York, which features outstanding performances from the award-winning live in HD series.

This weekend you can explore some of the bitterest operatic rivalries, fraught love triangles, fearsome face-offs and deadly duels abound - often with thrilling musical results: A saga of star-crossed love and family drama set against the strife of the 17th century English Civil War, Bellini's bel-canto gem *I Puritani* (8 January) overflows with ravishing arias and ensembles.

Director David McVicar's brings opera's favourite double bill to new life on 9 January, setting the two operas in the same Sicilian setting, separated by two generations, in Mascagni's *Cavalleria Rusticana*, a lay-about villager leaves the girl he's impregnated for another man's wife. In *Pagliacci*, a tortured clown plots against his beautiful young wife, whom he suspects of carrying on with a younger man. Neither ending is happy; each is exquisite. Marcelo Álvarez takes on the rare feat of singing both leading tenor roles.

A prime example of the lyrical and virtuosic bel canto style of singing, the Donizetti's Tudor tragedy *Maria Stuarda* (10 January) tells of two queens - Mary, Queen of Scots and her jealous cousin Queen Elizabeth I - who are both vying for the English crown, featuring South African soprano Elza van den Heever as Queen Elizabeth.

Verdi's turbulent tragedy *Il Trovatore* (11 January) features four characters caught in a web of family ties, politics and love is a mainstay of the operatic repertory. David McVicar's dramatic production highlights the raw emotions that drive Verdi's turbulent tale of love and revenge.

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## ABOUT DANIEL DERCKSEN

Daniel Dercksen has been a contributor for Lifestyle since 2012. As the driving force behind the successful independent training initiative The Writing Studio and a published film and theatre journalist of 40 years, teaching workshops in creative writing, playwriting and screenwriting throughout South Africa and internationally the past 22 years. Visit [www.writingstudio.co.za](http://www.writingstudio.co.za)

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