

The Oslo Opera House



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Norway has finally achieved its longstanding ambition to build a new opera house. See the oustandig white marble masterpiece in all it's glory.

Genre	Music / Ballet
Production year	2008
Material	DigiBeta, narration track
Director	Anne Elisabeth Andersen
Produced by	NRK
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In this programme we follow the protracted evolution of Oslo's new Opera House, with its many tortuous political, architectural, constructional and artistic complications, from the decision to build right through to the opening ceremony in April 2008. Many citizens of Oslo now take a Sunday stroll on the building's gently sloping marble roof or drop in to admire the resplendent foyer. Primarily, however, the building is the Norwegian Opera & Ballet's own personal cathedral. Norway is now the proud possessor of a large auditorium with first-rate acoustics, an all-purpose orchestra pit and state-of-the-art stage machinery. Construction work, which commenced in 2003, made heavy demands on all concerned, and teamwork was of the essence. We have visited the quarry in Carrara in Italy where the marble was quarried, attended auditions under the baton of Zubin Mehta in Munich and filmed the weaving of Pae White's stage curtains in Belgium. We have also been in western Norway to visit the boat builders responsible for the oak that embellishes the interior and the glassworks near Oslo where the glass for Norway's largest chandelier was cast. But first and foremost the programme centres on the imposing building itself, which was designed by the world-renowned Norwegian firm of architects Snøhetta. Snøhetta was also responsible for the prestigious new library in Alexandria, Egypt, Bibliotheca Alexandrina.

Prize winner at the 27th International Festival of Films on Art, Montreal 2009

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