

THE DAUGHTER OF THE REGIMENT – IN A NUTSHELL

OPERA BACKGROUND

- There are two versions of the opera – one in French and one in Italian.
- The most common version's libretto was written by Jules-Henri Vernoy de Saint-Georges and Jean-François Bayard
- The first performance of The Daughter of the Regiment was not well received. Evidently the tenor struggled with the challenging music.
- The Daughter of the Regiment was originally written with spoken dialogue interspersed throughout. Before it could be performed at La Scala (the famous opera house in Milan, Italy), however, the dialogue was transformed into sung sections. At that time, no dialogue was allowed.

CHARACTERS

- Marie, a feisty vivandière (canteen girl) adopted by the 21st Regiment
- Tonio, the heroic peasant boy that falls in love with Marie
- Sulpice, Sergeant of the 21st Regiment
- Marquise de Birkenfield, an aristocratic woman who abandoned Marie earlier in her life
- Ortensio, a man servant to the Marquise
- The 21st Regiment, the soldiers and adoptive “dads” to Marie

WHAT HAPPENS?

- LONG before the opera begins – Marie is adopted by the 21st Regiment.
- Just before the opera begins – Marie and Tonio meet and fall in love.
- During the opera – Tonio shares his love for Marie and joins the Regiment so he will be eligible to marry her. The Marquise de Birkenfield appears and proclaims that Marie is her niece . Marie goes with the Marquise and leaves the regiment.
- The Marquise begins training Marie to be a real “lady” and announces that she will marry a wealthy Duke.
- Marie is rescued by her “fathers,” the 21st Regiment.
- Marie and Tonio live happily ever after.

YOU’LL WANT TO SEE THIS SHOW IF...

- You like “happily ever after” stories
- You like French or 1800’s France
- You love to see groups of men in uniform
- You like to hear super human opera singers tackle amazing vocal feats!