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Project Manager 'Dzintara ceļš - Latvijas nākotne pasaulē' Inga Ļašenko, Latvian President Andris Bērziņš, 'Rīga 2014' project manager Diāna Čivle. Photo: Kaspars Garda, Rīga 2014

On Friday, 17th January 2014, the year of Cultural Capital of Europe was opened by staging the opera *Rienzi*, the *Last of the Tribunes* by Richard Wagner at the Latvia National Opera. During the opening, Andris Bērziņš, the State President and patron of the Cultural Capital of Europe addressed the audience. *Rienzi*, the *Last of the Tribunes* is a large-scale opera staged by an outstanding creative team. The last time the opera was staged in Riga was 136 years ago – in 1878, and now the Latvian audience enjoys the first staging of this musical story.

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