

MEDIA RELEASE

20 May 2021

Verdi | Directed by Davide Livermore | Conducted by Lorenzo Passerini and Tahu Matheson**Digital spectacular *Aida* returns to Sydney****22 June – 13 August 2021 | Joan Sutherland Theatre, Sydney Opera House****Starring | Leah Crocetto | Stefano La Colla | Elena Gabouri**

“As magnificent, jaw-dropping, gasp-inducing and lavish a staging as you can imagine.” – AU Review

“A captivating cinematic experience that fuses live performance and video.” – Time Out

The first of Opera Australia’s critically acclaimed digital productions, *Aida*, by celebrated Italian director and choreographer Davide Livermore, will return to Sydney next month, kicking off OA’s 2021 winter season at the Sydney Opera House.

Using OA’s integrated digital technologies, Livermore’s interpretation of Verdi’s world of Egypt conveys the scale, depth and magnificence demanded by this monumental opera, transporting the audience experience to a whole new level.

OA’s Artistic Director Lyndon Terracini is pleased to bring back such an epic production.

“This digital production of *Aida* demonstrates the leaps forward OA is making in theatrical staging. It is grand opera at its best; with a huge cast, amazing music, incredible costumes and a modern set using digital screens, all combining to create jaw-dropping impact,” he said.

Ten towering LED screens create an immersive theatrical experience, as ever-changing floor-to-ceiling set pieces present video design that ranges from rich symbolism to vivid landscapes. Coupled with Gianluca Falaschi’s magnificent costume designs, this production proves to be a feast for the senses.

Completing the picture, OA has assembled a cast featuring some of the world’s best singers. International sopranos Leah Crocetto and Elena Guseva will share the titular role of Aida next to tenors Stefano La Colla and Najmiddin Mavlyanov as Radamès to lead an outstanding cast of more than one hundred musicians, singers, dancers and actors in this extravagant production.

Reprising her 2018 portrayal of Amneris is the stunning French-Russian mezzo-soprano Elena Gabouri who will share the role with Agnieszka Rehlis, while basses Daniel Sumegi and David Parkin will share the role of Ramfis. Baritone Michael Honeyman returns as Amonasro, sharing it with Warwick Fyfe.

From its moving opening with delicate strings in the orchestral prelude, to its famous Triumphant March, this is a score that demands rapt attention. Sharing command of the cast, Opera Australia Chorus and Orchestra will be Italian Lorenzo Passerini and OA’s head of music, conductor Tahu Matheson.

Premiering in 1871 when Giuseppe Verdi was well established as the leading composer of his day, *Aida* was a spectacle from the start.

Egypt needs a hero to lead their army against Ethiopia and the chosen Radamès hopes to win not just the battle but also the hand of beautiful slave girl Aida. However she is secretly an Ethiopian princess and is torn between her love for the Egyptian hero and her homeland.

Creatives

Conductor **Lorenzo Passerini**
 (June 22, 26, 28, 30; July 2, 13, 15, 17)
Tahu Matheson
 (July 22, 24, 31; August 3, 5, 11, 13)
 Director & Choreographer **Davide Livermore**
 Revival Director **Shane Placentino**
 Set Designer **Giò Forma**
 Costume Designer **Gianluca Falaschi**
 Digital Content Designer **D-Wok**
 Lighting Designer **John Rayment**
 Assistant Director **Shaun Rennie**

Cast

Aida **Leah Crocetto**
 (June 22, 26, 28, 30; July 2, 13, 15, 17)
Elena Guseva
 (July 22, 24, 31; August 3, 5, 11, 13)
 Amneris **Elena Gabouri**
 (June 22, 26, 28, 30; July 2, 13, 15, 17)
Agnieszka Rehlis
 (July 22, 24, 31; August 3, 5, 11, 13)
 Radamès **Stefano La Colla**
 (June 22, 26, 28, 30; July 2, 13, 15, 17)
Najmiddin Mavlyanov
 (July 22, 24, 31; August 3, 5, 11, 13)
 Amonasro **Warwick Fyfe**
 (June 22, 26, 28, 30; July 2, 13, 15, 17)
Michael Honeyman
 (July 22, 24, 31; August 3, 5, 11, 13)
 Ramfis **Daniel Sumegi**
 (June 22, 26, 28, 30; July 2, 13, 15, 17)
David Parkin
 (July 22, 24, 31; August 3, 5, 11, 13)
 The King **Gennadi Dubinsky**
 High Priestess **Jane Ede**
 Messenger **Dean Bassett**

Opera Australia Chorus
Opera Australia Orchestra

Media enquiries

Janet Glover | Communications Manager | 0412 601 816 | janet.glover@opera.org.au
 Christy Seddon | Publicist | 0413 890 819 | christy.seddon@opera.org.au

Performance information

Evenings at 7.30pm
 June 22, 26, 28, 30
 July 2 (CC performance), 13, 15, 17, 22, 31
 August 3, 5, 11, 13
Saturday Matinee at 12.30pm
 July 24 (audio described performance)

Running time
 Approximately 2 hours and 50 minutes
 including one interval

Performed in Italian with English surtitles
 This production contains partial nudity

Bookings

Adult tickets from \$79 (fees may apply)

Opera Australia Box Office
 (02) 9318 8200
www.opera.org.au/

**Joan Sutherland Theatre,
 Sydney Opera House**

Production Partner



Opera Australia is committed to COVID Safe practices.
 Please refer to the website for the Company's COVID Safe
 procedures:
<https://opera.org.au/covid-safety>