

Media Release

16 July 2021

Sydney winter season unable to proceed due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions

Due to the extension of the NSW Government's stay-at-home restrictions and subsequent Health Orders, Opera Australia announced today it is unable to proceed with the remainder of its winter season at the Sydney Opera House.

The ongoing restrictions have prevented OA from adequately preparing and performing during this time.

Artistic Director Lyndon Terracini expressed the Company's disappointment.

"It's incredibly disappointing that we're not able to continue with our winter season, when so much hard work and preparation had been done by all our talented staff and performers, however we'd like to reassure everyone that all this hard work will not go to waste and we are endeavouring to reschedule all the productions into future seasons."

The Sydney winter season had included four productions, *Aida*, *Attila*, *Otello* and *The Tales of Hoffmann* plus a series of Great Opera Hits concerts, with 37 performances in total.

The season opening performance of *Aida* on June 22nd was the only show staged before the lockdown. All productions are expected to be postponed to future Sydney seasons.

In the meantime, OA is committed to ensuring all cast and crew, along with permanent and casual staff, will be paid during the current lockdown period to the end of the month through its paid pandemic leave program, and the assistance of the Federal and State Government's arts stimulus package.

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