

MEDIA RELEASE
30 June 2022

Opera Australia to take a razor sharp new production of *The Barber of Seville* on National Tour



Opera Australia will embark on its 26th annual National Tour with a new production by director Priscilla Jackman of Gioachino Rossini's *The Barber of Seville*, opening 15 July at the Drum Theatre, Dandenong.

The opening marks the beginning of a three-month tour that will visit 22 metropolitan and regional theatres throughout Victoria, New South Wales, Tasmania and in Canberra.

In a contemporary Australian reimaging of Rossini's *The Barber of Seville*, award-winning director Jackman brings a hipster aesthetic to the famous barber Figaro and presents leading lady Rosina as more than just a pretty face. The story has been set in the real-life Victorian town of Seville, nestled amongst the renowned Yarra Valley wine region.

Opera Australia began its National Tour in 1996 and over the years it has presented many of the country's finest singers and musicians to more than 30,000 people across 117 metropolitan and regional locations.

Opera Australia's Artistic Director Lyndon Terracini has impressed the ongoing value the National Tour has in increasing audience access to world-class performances.

"The National Tour remains a key opportunity and a great pleasure for Opera Australia to bring exceptional talent to a broad range of audiences, particularly those living in regional areas. Many of this cast are coming directly from acclaimed seasons at the Sydney Opera House and Arts Centre Melbourne to perform in a premiere production for audiences right in their hometowns."

"We are particularly thrilled to be working with a director of Priscilla Jackman's calibre, who has created this wonderful production that brings forth the fun and frivolity of Rossini's music," he said.

In a role debut for both, sopranos Esther Song and Cathy-Di Zhang will share the role of Rosina. Two of Australia's finest young tenors, Nicholas Jones and John Longmuir, will share the role of Count Almaviva and baritones Haotian Qi and Andrew Williams will share the role of Figaro.

The Regional Children's Chorus program continues as a mainstay of the National Tour where, under the direction of Children's Chorus Master Kate Stuart, children are selected by their local choir leaders to join the professional cast in rehearsal and performance. This year over 400 children will experience the excitement of performing onstage alongside the outstanding cast, to an audience of family, friends and their broader communities.

NATIONAL TOUR PARTNERS

LEADING PARTNER



PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY



PATRON-IN-CHIEF
DR HARUHISA HANDA



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OPERA CONFERENCE



Creatives

Conductor **Luke Spicer**
 Director **Priscilla Jackman**
 Set Designer **Michael Scott-Mitchell**
 Costume Designer **Sabina Myers**
 Lighting Designer **Morgan Moroney**
 Orchestration **Simon Bruckard**

Cast

Rosina **Esther Song, Cathy-Di Zhang**
 Count Almaviva **Nicholas Jones, John Longmuir**
 Figaro **Haotian Qi, Andrew Williams**
 Dr Bartolo **Andrew Moran, Michael Lampard**
 Don Basilio/ Fiorello **Shane Lawrencev, David King**
 Berta **Jennifer Black, Dominica Matthews**

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>

Running time

Approximately 2 hours and 20 minutes including 1 interval.

Performed in Italian with English surtitles.

This production is supported by

The Opera Conference, Australia's national partnership of professional opera companies, the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body, by the NSW Government through Create NSW, and by the Victorian Government through Creative Victoria.

The National Tour Regional Children's Chorus Program is supported by

The William Rubensohn Foundation

Bookings

Adult tickets from \$79 (fees may apply)

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

Performance Locations and Times

Dandenong, VIC 15 & 16 July, [Drum Theatre](#)
Warrnambool, VIC 21 July, [Lighthouse Theatre](#)
Bendigo, VIC 23 July, [Ulumbarra Theatre](#)
Mildura, VIC 26 July, [Mildura Arts Centre](#)
Mooroopna, VIC 30 August, [Westside Performing Arts Centre](#)
Narre Warren, VIC 1 September, [Bunjil Place](#)
Frankston, VIC 3 September, [Frankston Arts Centre](#)
Sale, VIC 13 September, [The Wedge](#)
Wagga Wagga, NSW 28 July, [Wagga Wagga Civic Theatre](#)
Griffith, NSW 30 July, [Griffith Regional Theatre](#)
Bathurst, NSW 2 August, [Bathurst Memorial Entertainment Centre](#)
Orange, NSW 3 August, [Orange Civic Theatre](#)
Dubbo, NSW 5 August, [Dubbo Regional Theatre](#)
Tamworth, NSW 8 August, [Tamworth Capitol Theatre](#)
Port Macquarie, NSW 13 August, [Glasshouse](#)
Murwillumbah, NSW 16 August, [Murwillumbah Civic and Cultural Centre](#)
Wollongong, NSW 19 & 20 August, [Illawarra Performing Arts Centre](#)
Newcastle, NSW 25 August, [Newcastle Civic Theatre](#)
Wyong, NSW 27 August, [The Art House](#)
Hobart, TAS 7 & 8 September, [Theatre Royal](#)
Launceston, TAS 10 September, [Princess Theatre](#)
Canberra, ACT 15–17 September, [Canberra Theatre Centre](#)

Media enquiries

Janet Glover | Communications Manager | + 61 412 601 816 janet.glover@opera.org.au
 Caitlin Eames | Publicist | + 61 433 746 644 | caitlin.eames@opera.org.au

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