

MEDIA RELEASE

8 June 2022

Beautiful and daring *Madama Butterfly* takes wing at the Sydney Opera House

June 29 – July 30, 2022 | Joan Sutherland Theatre, Sydney Opera House



After receiving four and a half stars from The Sydney Morning Herald for its premiere season that stunned both critics and audiences in 2019, Graeme Murphy’s innovative *Madama Butterfly* will return to the Sydney Opera House this June.

Murphy’s vision of *Butterfly* reimagines Puccini’s classic as a futuristic dystopia. Drawing on his roots in choreography and embracing an ultra-modern aesthetic, Murphy and his team have created a visually stunning *Butterfly* that awakens the senses and propels the audience into the future.

Surprisingly stark but beautiful, the creative dream team of director/choreographers Graeme Murphy and Janet Vernon, designer Michael Scott-Mitchell, costume designer Jennifer Irwin and video designer Sean Nieuwenhuis crafted a *Butterfly* unlike any other production seen in Australia.

Using Opera Australia’s ground-breaking digital technologies, 10 seven metre tall LED screens form a captivating, dynamic, symbolic backdrop and towering robotic servants with which the singers interact. Striking costume designs draw on a range of eras, from burlesque to cartoons and sci fi.

A “dramatic experiment of production fitting for uncertain times” - The Sydney Morning Herald.

“Thoughtful direction created a production of probing insight, compelling drama and intense emotional power...Murphy’s interpretation is dark and confronting. It is an appropriate response to this grim tale of exploitation and betrayal” – The Australian.

South Korean dramatic soprano Sae-Kyung Rim will make her Opera Australia debut in her signature role, having sung *Cio-Cio-San* in more than 100 performances around the world.

Several Opera Australia favourites will reprise their roles, including tenor Diego Torre as the maligned Pinkerton, whilst Michael Honeyman and Luke Gabbedy will share the role of his powerless voice of reason, Sharpless, along with Sian Sharp as Suzuki, Virgilio Marino as Goro, Jane Ede as Kate Pinkerton whilst David Parkin steps into the role of Bonze.

Internationally renowned conductor Italian Carlo Montanaro will lead Opera Australia’s Chorus and Orchestra through Puccini’s sublime score.

The same story as hit musical *Miss Saigon* which originated from the 1886 French novel *Madame Chrysanthème*, will cause audiences to weep for Puccini’s alluring heroine as she navigates rapturous love and the cruellest heartbreak.

Creatives

Conductor **Carlo Montanaro**
 Director **Graeme Murphy AO**
 Creative Associate **Janet Vernon AM**
 Revival Director **Shane Placentino**
 Production Designer **Michael Scott-Mitchell**
 Costume Designer **Jennifer Irwin**
 Lighting Designer **Damien Cooper**
 Digital Content **Sean Nieuwenhuis**

Cast

Cio-Cio-San **Sae-Kyung Rim**
 Suzuki **Sian Sharp**
 Pinkerton **Diego Torre**
 Sharpless **Michael Honeyman** (until Jul 13)
Luke Gabbedy (from Jul 16)
 Goro **Virgilio Marino**
 Bonze **David Parkin**
 Yamadori **Kiran Rajasingam**
 Kate Pinkerton **Jane Ede**
 Commissioner **Alexander Hargreaves**
 Registrar **Gregory Brown**

Opera Australia Chorus
Opera Australia Orchestra

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

Media enquiries

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Performance information

Evenings at 7:30pm
 June 29
 July 1, 7, 9, 11, 13, 16, 20, 22, 26
Saturday Matinee at 12.30pm
 July 30

Running time

Approximately 2 hours and 45 minutes including one interval

Performed in Italian with English surtitles

Production Partner



Bookings

Adult tickets from \$79 (+\$9.80 booking fee)

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

**Joan Sutherland Theatre,
 Sydney Opera House**