

MEDIA RELEASE
22 December 2023

Opera Australia to open its 2024 season with ‘audaciously new’ production of *La Traviata*

January 2 – March 14, 2024 | Joan Sutherland Theatre, Sydney Opera House



Opera Australia opens its eagerly awaited 2024 season with the Sydney premiere of Sarah Giles’ acclaimed production of Verdi’s classic *La Traviata*, on 2 January at the Sydney Opera House.

Labelled as “*an absolute triumph*” (The AU Review) and “*audaciously new*” (InReview) this co-production by Opera Queensland, State Opera South Australia and West Australian Opera, delivers the traditional glamour of *La Traviata* whilst giving this world-famous opera a fresh, female perspective.

Under her direction, Giles brings the inner world of Violetta to the fore, highlighting the realities and heartache of her courtesan life.

The set by Charles Davis is designed to further examine Violetta’s public and private moments and his costumes capture the glittering world of parties and excess that one expects to step into with *La Traviata*.

For the first time award-winning conductor Jessica Cottis will lead the Opera Australia Orchestra and celebrated Opera Australia Chorus through Verdi’s moving score, which includes the famous ‘Brindisi’ and Violetta’s soaring ‘Sempre libera’.

Australian soprano Samantha Clarke will perform as Violetta, from 2 January to 10 February making her debut with Opera Australia and following a string of debuts throughout 2023, including Carnegie Hall, West Australian Opera and with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra.

Joining her is Australian-Chinese tenor Kang Wang reprising the role of Alfredo, and New Zealand baritone Phillip Rhodes who also makes his Opera Australia debut as Giorgio Germont.

Beyond those dates, rising Australian soprano Sophie Salvesani will perform the role of Violetta, one she debuted with Opera Australia in 2022 to great acclaim. Australian tenor Tomas Dalton will reprise his role as Alfredo and baritone Luke Gabbedy returns to Sydney to sing Giorgio Germont after performing in OA’s five-star production of the Ring Cycle in Brisbane.

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"Verdi's masterpiece feels audaciously new all over again in this vivid interpretation" – **InReview**

★★★★★ "an absolute triumph" – **The AU Review**

★★★★★ "very successful in bringing a fresh perspective to such a well-known work." – **Limelight**

★★★★★ "smart and sophisticated" – **ArtsHub**

Creatives

Conductor **Jessica Cottis** (Jan 2-Feb 3),
Paul Fitzsimon (Feb 10-Mar 14)

Director **Sarah Giles**

Set & Costume Designer **Charles Davis**

Lighting Designer **Paul Jackson**

Revival Choreographer **Allie Graham**

Intimacy Coordinator **Michelle Miall**

Cast

Violetta Valéry **Samantha Clarke** (Jan 2-Feb 10), **Sophie Salvesani** (Feb 22-Mar 14)

Alfredo Germont **Kang Wang** (Jan 2-Feb 10), **Tomas Dalton** (Feb 22-Mar 14)

Giorgio Germont **Phillip Rhodes** (Jan 2-Feb 10), **Luke Gabbedy** (Feb 22-Mar 14)

Flora Bervoix **Angela Hogan**

Gastone **Virgilio Marino**

Baron Douphol **Richard Anderson**

Marquis d'Obigny **Andrew Moran**

Doctor Grenvil **Shane Lawrencev**

Annina **Petah Cavallaro**

Giuseppe **Jin Tea Kim**

Messenger **Jonathan McCauley**

Servant **Malcolm Ede**

Opera Australia Chorus

Opera Australia Orchestra

Opera Australia Dancers

Media enquiries

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Performance information

Evenings at 7.30pm

January 2, 4, 6, 10, 13, 17, 27, 30

February 3, 22, 24, 28. March 2, 7, 14

Saturday Matinees at 12.30pm

January 20. February 10. March 9

Running time

Approximately 2 hours and 30 minutes including 1 interval

Performed in Italian with English surtitles

Please note this production contains adult content including sexual themes and implied violence.



**Opera Australia presents *La Traviata*:
A co-production by Opera Queensland, State
Opera South Australia and West Australian
Opera**

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**