

MEDIA RELEASE

1 February 2024

Irreverent Reuben Kaye returns to the Opera House with *Opera Up Late* - for one night only!

Photo: Cathy-Di Zhang, Reuben Kaye, Ben Rasheed. Photo by Daniel Boud

The irrepressible Reuben Kaye is returning to the Sydney Opera House this summer with his irreverent take on all things operatic in Opera Australia's late-night comedic take on the genre that had audiences in stitches when it premiered at last year's WorldPride festival.

For one night only on Friday 1 March, Reuben and his sassy co-stars will inhabit the sacred ground of the Joan Sutherland Theatre stage in a camp collision of opera and cabaret, with award-winning director Shaun Rennie returning to recreate this high-octane gala concert.

Audiences will be treated to a wildly entertaining night of queer romance, clever comedy, drag, high camp musical homage and the world's most famous arias.

The late-night soiree beneath the city's famous sails starts at 10:45pm and will feature operatic tenor Benjamin Rasheed, mezzo-soprano Ruth Strutt, soprano Cathy-Di Zhang and celebrated musical theatre star Georgina Hopson, with music direction by Opera Australia's Chorus Master Paul Fitzsimon.

Never one to shy away from controversy, the brutally funny, multi-award winning entertainer, Kaye has cemented himself as one of the biggest names in comedy and cabaret, both locally and overseas, with a massive following on Tiktok, Youtube and Instagram.

His subversive comedy and quick wit are matched only by his impressive vocal range and his love of opera.

"Ever since I first forced my parents to watch me re-enact the final scenes of *Carmen* in full costume at 8 years old in the living room I have dreamed of this moment. And I plan to approach it with just as much subtlety, dignity and restraint." said Kaye.

Award-winning, internationally successful theatre and cabaret composer Shanon Whitelock returns as Kaye's music director and pianist.

Friday 1 March 2024 at 10:45pm | Joan Sutherland Theatre, Sydney Opera House

Running time: Approximately 1 hour with no interval

Bookings: Adult tickets from \$69 (fees may apply) - OA Box Office (02) 9318 8200 www.opera.org.au

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