

# Smash-hit musical *West Side Story* lights up Sydney Harbour



RED CARPET ARRIVAL PHOTOS [linked here](#)

PRODUCTION PHOTOS, VIDEO B-ROLL and AUDIO [linked here](#)

NINA KORBE OPENING NIGHT PHOTO [linked here](#)

Opera Australia's smash-hit musical *West Side Story* on Sydney Harbour opened to a full house when it returned to the open-air stage at Mrs Macquaries Point, tonight Friday 22 March.

There was a buzz in the air as the glamorous, star-studded audience descended on the stunning waterfront setting for the keenly anticipated return of the most popular production ever staged at Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour.

The exceptional cast received rapturous applause, with stand-out performances by newcomer First Nations soprano **Nina Korbe** playing Maria and Canberra-born **Billy Bouchier** in his lead-role debut as Tony.

They were joined by Newcastle-born **Patrick Whitbread** as Riff, Gold Coast's **Kimberley Hodgson** as Anita, and Broadway performer **Manuel Stark Santos** in his Australian debut as Bernardo.

Jerome Robbins' celebrated choreography, that includes famous dance scenes like 'Dance at the Gym' and 'America', was elevated to larger-than-life status by a brilliantly talented and energetic ensemble of 33 dancers from all around Australia.

This legendary Broadway musical returns to Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour for a limited four-week season, directed by **Francesca Zambello** with Associate Director **Eric Sean Fogel**, Revival Choreographer **Kiira Schmidt Carper** and Musical Director **Guy Simpson**, who will conduct each performance.

Known as one of Sydney's most spectacular night's out, an evening at Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour includes a dazzling fireworks display, a range of pop-up bars and eateries across the site and unmatched views of Sydney's city skyline, including the Sydney Opera House and Harbour Bridge.

Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour is supported by the NSW Government, via its tourism and major events agency Destination NSW, and through the International Foundation for Arts and Culture as Naming Rights Partner, Dr Haruhisa Handa OA's Patron in Chief, and OA's Principal Partner HSBC.

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PATRON-IN-CHIEF

DR HARUHISA HANDA

PRINCIPAL PARTNER



## Creatives

Director **Francesca Zambello**  
 Musical Director **Guy Simpson**  
 Associate Director **Eric Sean Fogel**  
 Revival Choreographer **Kiira Schmidt Carper**  
 Set Design **Brian Thomson**  
 Costume Design **Jennifer Irwin**  
 Lighting Design **John Rayment**  
 Sound Design **Des O'Neill**

## Cast

**Maria** Nina Korbe  
**Tony** Billy Bouchier  
**Anita** Kimberley Hodgson  
**Riff** Patrick Whitbread  
**Bernardo** Manuel Stark Santos  
**Doc** Wayne Scott Kermond  
**Schrank** Scott Irwin  
**Officer Krupke** Joe Clements  
**Gladhand** Doron Chester  
**Standby Tony & Gladhand** Joel Granger  
**Standby Maria** Clarissa Spata  
**Male Swing** Noah Missell  
**Female Swing** Tayla-Grace Azzopardi

## The Jets

[John Rex Berry](#), [Molly Bugeja](#), [Ella Fitzpatrick](#), [Ewan Herdman](#), [Luke Jarvis](#), [Chloë Marshall](#), [Lexie May](#), [Brittany Page](#), [Bronson Pfeiler](#), [Dimitri Raptis](#), [Jamie Reisin](#), [Lewis Shilvock](#), [Ryan Smith](#), [Bree Stephens](#), [Daniel Wijngaarden](#) and [P. Tucker Worley](#).

## The Sharks

[Eli Clarke](#), [Steve Costi](#), [Tiana Costanzo](#), [Emma Feliciano](#), [Diego Garcia](#), [Stefan Lagoulis](#), [Josephine Lopes](#), [Jayme Jo Massoud](#), [Avigalle Mendoza](#), [Matthew Nguyễn](#), [Rebecca Ordiz](#), [Temujin Tera](#), [William Tukia-Edwards](#), [Christopher Theodore Tsattalios](#) and [Massimo Zuccara](#).

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## Performance information

### Evenings at 7.30pm

March 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 30, 31

April 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21

### Running time

Approximately 2 hours and 45 minutes including one interval

## Bookings

Adult tickets from \$79 (fees may apply)

Opera Australia Box Office  
 (02) 9318 8200  
[www.opera.org.au](http://www.opera.org.au)

**Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour  
 Fleet Steps, Mrs Macquaries Point**