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Opera Australia & GWB Entertainment
by special arrangement with The Really Useful Group

SUNSET BOULEVARD

Music by ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER
Book & Lyrics by DON BLACK & CHRISTOPHER HAMPTON
Based on the BILLY WILDER film

LAVISH NEW PRODUCTION OF MUSICAL MASTERPIECE
SUNSET BOULEVARD

PREMIERES IN MELBOURNE IN JUST 4 WEEKS!

FIRST LOOK INTO REHEARSALS WITH SARAH BRIGHTMAN,
TIM DRAXL AND THE AUSTRALIAN CAST

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PRINCESS THEATRE MELBOURNE MAY 21 2024
SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE AUGUST 28 2024

The lavish new production of **Andrew Lloyd Webber's** Tony Award winning musical masterpiece, **SUNSET BOULEVARD**, starring musical theatre and international superstar **Sarah Brightman**, premieres in Melbourne in just 4 weeks! The production commences on May 21 at the **Princess Theatre** followed by a season at the **Sydney Opera House** from August 28.

Tickets on sale now [sunsetmusical.com.au](https://www.sunsetmusical.com.au)

Rehearsals for this much anticipated Australian production of **SUNSET BOULEVARD** are now underway with the entire company preparing for what will be a most dazzling newly imagined revival.

Marking her return to the theatre after more than three decades, **Sarah Brightman** stars as *Norma Desmond*, the iconic role that catapulted Glenn Close to Broadway stardom and just last week earned Nicole Scherzinger an Olivier Award for Best Actress in a Musical in the West End. Alongside her will be critically acclaimed Australian actor and performer **Tim Draxl** in the role of *Joe Gillis*, a role last played on stage in Australia by Hugh Jackman in 1996.

"I am thrilled to be here in Melbourne and finally in the rehearsal room for this lavish production of **SUNSET BOULEVARD**. It is wonderful to be working with this incredible Australian cast.

I am enjoying this part of the journey and am excited to be bringing *Norma* to life each and every day. It's amazing to see this incredible score and iconic story all coming together, and we are all very much looking forward to the moment we are on that stage.", said **Sarah Brightman**.

Tim Draxl said, "Playing the role of *Joe Gillis* is a definite career highlight for me and having the opportunity to create a new interpretation of the character in this brand new production is something I do with immense pride and a great sense of responsibility. It's a character that has long been at the top of my list of dream roles and to date one of the most challenging I have ever taken on. Not only for the sheer workload but also for its complexities and the nuanced storytelling that the masterpiece which is **SUNSET BOULEVARD** demands both musically and dramatically.

This company and creative team are second to none and I pinch myself every day that I get to embark on this journey with them, especially sharing the stage with the incomparable **Sarah Brightman**. Getting to know her during this process and watching her bring such sensitivity and flair to the role of *Norma* has been nothing short of awe inspiring and an experience I will never forget. With only four weeks until our first audience the rehearsal room is brimming with excitement and anticipation, and we truly cannot wait to share this incredible show with everyone. We are all well and truly ready for our close ups!"

Joining **Sarah** and **Tim** on stage in the role of *Max Von Mayerling* will be stage and screen veteran **Robert Grubb**, with the role of *Betty Schaefer* played by emerging leading lady **Ashleigh Rubenach**. Musical theatre performer **Jarrold Draper** will play the role of *Artie Green*, whilst the roles of *Cecil B. DeMille* and *Sheldrake* will be played by established theatre actors **Paul Hanlon** and **Troy Sussman**. The role of *Norma Desmond*, at select performances, will be played by the remarkable **Silvie Paladino**.

The extremely talented ensemble cast including **Regan Barber**, **Amy Berrisford**, **Billy Bouchier**, **Campbell Braithwaite**, **Benjamin Colley**, **Grace Driscoll**, **Madison Green**, **Peter Ho**, **Leah Lim**, **Mary McCorry**, **Charlotte Page**, **Morgan Palmer**, **Caity Plummer**, **Taylor Scanlan**, **Tom Sharah**, **Lisa Sontag**, **Riley Sutton** and **Dean Vince**.

Based on the Billy Wilder film, the musical version of **SUNSET BOULEVARD** had its world premiere at London's Adelphi Theatre on July 12th 1993. The show received its American premiere in December 1993 at the Shubert Theatre in Los Angeles starring Glenn Close as Norma Desmond. The show subsequently opened on Broadway at the Minskoff Theatre in November 1994 with the highest advance ticket sales in Broadway history at the time. The original Broadway production won six Tony Awards of the eleven Tony Awards for which it was nominated including *Best Musical*, *Best Original Score* and *Best Book*.

This spectacular new staging features stunning sets and costumes, evoking the glamorous Golden Age of Hollywood. The thrillingly atmospheric score features the hits 'With One Look', 'The Perfect Year', and the anthemic 'As If We Never Said Goodbye'.

SUNSET BOULEVARD is presented by **Opera Australia** and **GWB Entertainment** by arrangement with **The Really Useful Group**. This newly imagined revival will mark **SUNSET BOULEVARD'S** first return to Australia in almost thirty years, where it played to sold out audiences.

SUNSET BOULEVARD has Music by **Andrew Lloyd Webber**, Book and Lyrics by **Don Black** and **Christopher Hampton**, and is based on the **Billy Wilder** film. This new production will be Directed by **Paul Warwick Griffin** with Set and Costume Design by **Morgan Large**. Choreography by **Ashley Wallen** with Musical Supervision by **Kristen Blodgett**.

SUNSET BOULEVARD weaves a magnificent tale of faded glory and unfulfilled ambition. Having been discarded by Hollywood with the advent of "talkies", legendary silent movie star, Norma Desmond, is tortured by her longing for a return to the big screen. When she meets struggling Hollywood screenwriter Joe Gillis in a dramatic chance encounter, their subsequent passionate and volatile relationship leads to an unforeseen and tragic conclusion.

SUNSET BOULEVARD is the theatrical event of the year.

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

MELBOURNE PRINCESS THEATRE FROM MAY 21 2024

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