

**MEDIA RELEASE**

25 June 2024

**Brett Dean's internationally celebrated *Hamlet* to finally premiere at the Sydney Opera House**

20 July – 9 August 2024 | Joan Sutherland Theatre, Sydney Opera House



Rod Gilfry as Claudius in Glyndebourne's production of *Hamlet* in 2017 Photo credit: Richard Hubert Smith

*“traditional and innovative, elegant and passionate – a hit”* (The New York Times)

One of the most successful operas ever composed by an Australian, Brett Dean's internationally acclaimed *Hamlet* will finally make its long-awaited Sydney Opera House debut with Opera Australia next month.

Directed by Australian theatre royalty, Neil Armfield and based on Shakespeare's infamous play, *Hamlet* premiered in 2017 at the Glyndebourne Festival UK and has since been staged at the Adelaide Festival, New York's Metropolitan Opera and most recently at the Munich Opera Festival.

With Dean's evocative music and thrilling libretto by Canadian Matthew Jocelyn offering audiences additional insights into the inner world of thought and emotion of the crazed son trying to avenge his father's death, *Hamlet* is an invigoratingly modern interpretation of Shakespeare's revenge thriller.

Armfield has created a “viscerally physical” (*Sydney Morning Herald*) production, collaborating with Australian designers Ralph Myers, Alice Babidge to produce a slick royal court with darkness at its heart.

Contemporary opera specialist, Anglo-German conductor Tim Anderson will make his Australian debut to guide the Opera Australia Orchestra through Dean's immensely complex and astoundingly raw, visceral score comprising electronic music and cinema-like surround sound effects.

Known as the ‘tortured tenor’ due to his extraordinary performances, British tenor Allan Clayton will reprise the demanding title role opposite homegrown soprano Lorina Gore singing her spellbinding Helpmann-winning performance as Ophelia and tour-de-force American baritone Rod Gilfry as Claudius.

Australian mezzo soprano Catherine Carby makes a welcome return to OA to make her role debut as Gertrude alongside an outstanding local cast and the Opera Australia Chorus, while Scottish accordionist James Crabb will join to perform the part written specifically for him.

PATRON-IN-CHIEF  
DR HARUHISA HANDA

HERO PARTNERS

GOVERNMENT PARTNERS



**Creatives**

Music by **Brett Dean**  
 Libretto by **Matthew Jocelyn** after **William Shakespeare**  
 Conductor **Tim Anderson**  
 Director **Neil Armfield**  
 Set Designer **Ralph Myers**  
 Costume Designer **Alice Babidge**  
 Lighting Designer **Jon Clark**  
 Sound Designer **Bob Scott**  
 Lighting realised by **Peter Harrison**  
 Movement Director **Denni Sayers**  
 Assistant Director **Eugene Lynch**  
 Fight Director **Nigel Poulton**  
 Assistant Fight Director **Tim Dashwood**  
 Intimacy Director **Chloe Dallimore**

**Cast**

Hamlet **Allan Clayton**  
 Ophelia **Lorina Gore**  
 Claudius **Rod Gilfry**  
 Gertrude **Catherine Carby**  
 Polonius **Kanen Breen**  
 Horatio **Samuel Dundas**  
 Ghost of Old Hamlet/  
 Gravedigger/Player 1 **Jud Arthur**  
 Laertes **Nicholas Jones**  
 Rosencrantz **Russell Harcourt**  
 Guildenstern **Christopher Lowrey**  
 Marcellus/Player 4 **Andrew Moran**  
 Player 2 **Virgilio Marino**  
 Player 3 **Iain Henderson**  
 Accordionist **James Crabb**

**Opera Australia Chorus**  
**Opera Australia Orchestra**

**Media enquiries**

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**Performance information**

**Evenings at 7.00pm**

July 20, 24, 30  
 August 2, 5, 9

**Saturday Matinee at 12.00pm**

July 27

**Running time**

Approximately 3 hours and 25 minutes, including one interval.

Performed in English with surtitles

Please note this production contains depictions of violence.

**Bookings**

Adult tickets from \$79 (fees may apply)

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

**Joan Sutherland Theatre,  
 Sydney Opera House**

***Hamlet***

Music by Brett Dean  
 Libretto by Matthew Jocelyn after William Shakespeare  
 With thanks to the Banff Centre for the Arts Leighton Residency program, Canada.

This season of *Hamlet* is dedicated to Jacqueline Dark (1968-2023). Jacqui was due to perform Gertrude in this production before her passing.