

Melbourne Premiere of cult classic film-turned-opera *Breaking the Waves*



“Savage, heartbreaking and thoroughly original” – Wall Street Journal

“Dark and daring” – The New York Times

“The most startling and moving new American opera in memory” – Parterre Box

For the first time in Melbourne, Missy Mazzoli and Royce Vavrek’s *Breaking the Waves* will startle audiences, as it has across the world, including acclaimed seasons at Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM), Edinburgh Festival and Adelaide Festival.

Opera Australia will present a Melbourne exclusive, one-night-only semi-staged performance of this contemporary opera on 26 July at Hamer Hall, directed by Melbourne Theatre Company’s Artistic Director **Anne-Louise Sarks** and conducted by award-winning **Jessica Cottis**.

Opera Australia Artistic Director Jo Davies says “Missy Mazzoli is one of the most exciting composers working anywhere in the world.

“Dubbed by Time Out as ‘Brooklyn’s post-millennial Mozart’, Missy Mazzoli’s adaptation of Lars von Trier’s film has been acclaimed as one of the 21st-century’s best operas. This is Anne-Louise’s first foray into opera and we’re totally thrilled to work with her on this exciting piece - expanding her significant creative output in a whole new direction,” Davies said.

Anne-Louise Sarks says “opera is an entirely different type of theatre. The sheer drama of the music adds a greater depth and dimension to the storytelling and allows us immediate access to the inner life of these characters. I am looking forward to working with some of Australia’s finest singers and musicians to bring this story to life.

“*Breaking the Waves* brings together some brilliant female creatives, composer Missy Mazzoli, conductor Jessica Cottis and designer Marg Howell are world leaders in their fields and it is so special to collaborate with them on this project,” said Ms Sarks.

Opera Australia filled Hamer Hall last year with its critically successful *Satyagraha*, and *Breaking the Waves* presents the perfect opportunity for a musically adventurous audience to once again experience a superb contemporary opera performed by some of the country’s most talented singers and musicians.

In this cast, lyric soprano **Jennifer Black** will sing as Bess, baritone **Duncan Rock** will make his debut with Opera Australia as he reprises the role of Jan, following success at Edinburgh and Adelaide Festivals, mezzo soprano **Sian Sharp** sings Dodo and making a welcome return to OA is Australia’s most highly awarded soprano, **Emma Matthews** in the role of Mother.

For the culturally curious under the age of 35 there will be a limited supply of \$35 tickets up for grabs via OA’s recently launched Under 35s program. The offer will go live on 9 July for all members of the program which anyone aged 35 and under can sign up for on the [Opera Australia](https://www.operaaustralia.com.au) website at no cost.

Creatives

Music By **Missy Mazzoli**
 Libretto **Royce Vavrek**
 Based on the film by **Lars von Trier**
 Conductor **Jessica Cottis**
 Director **Anne-Louise Sarks**
 Designer **Marg Horwell**
 Lighting Designer **Paul Jackson**

Cast

Bess **Jennifer Black**
 Jan **Duncan Rock**
 Dodo **Sian Sharp**
 Terry **Gennadi Dubinsky**
 Dr Richardson **John Longmuir**
 Mother **Emma Matthews**
 Councilman **Kiran Rajasingam**
 Sadistic Sailor **Alex Pokryshevsky**
 Young Sailor **Asher Reichman**

Opera Australia Chorus
Orchestra Victoria

Performance Information

26 July, 7.30pm

Running time

Approximately 2 hours and 50 minutes including 1 interval.
 Performed in English with English surtitles.

Please note

This production contains depictions of sexual violence.

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Bookings

Adult tickets from \$69 (fees may apply)

Opera Australia Box Office
 (03) 9685 3700
www.opera.org.au

Hamer Hall, Arts Centre Melbourne
100 St Kilda Road, Melbourne

Hi-Res Images: opera.org.au/about/media-centre/melbourne
Website: opera.org.au/productions/breaking-the-waves-melbourne/

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