

Famously funny Figaro frolics in triumphant *Barber of Seville*



Proclaimed a “*triumph*” (Bachtrack) when it was last staged in the Joan Sutherland Theatre almost a decade ago, Elijah Moshinsky’s much loved and genuinely funny production of *The Barber of Seville* will return to the Sydney Opera House for its 30th anniversary season this January.

Conceived as an energetic slapstick, late genius Elijah Moshinsky places the action amid a world inspired by 1920s silent films, on Michael Yeargan’s detailed two-storey doll’s house.

This playful romp offers a perfect introduction to opera: first timers will recognise tunes remixed in popular culture, as heard in *Looney Tunes*, *Mrs Doubtfire* and *Jersey Shore*, performed with virtuosic singing that is so widely adored by opera connoisseurs.

Set in Seville, Figaro is the friendly neighbourhood barber with tricks as sharp as his razors, who sets out on a mission to unite two young lovers in a hilarious evening of disguise and duplicity.

To tackle its most famous aria ‘Largo al factotum’, known as “Fi-ga-ro! Figaro! Figaro!”, Australian baritone Samuel Dale Johnson will make his mainstage Opera Australia debut as the mischievous barber Figaro.

Italian mezzo soprano Serena Malfi, in her first Australian appearance, will share the role of Rosina with Australian Helen Sherman while local tenors John Longmuir and Shanul Sharma will perform Count Almaviva, all accompanied by the Opera Australia Chorus.

International conducting sensation Daniel Smith will return to his homeland to guide the Opera Australia Orchestra, including accomplished Siro Battaglin on the fortepiano, through Rossini’s iconic score, followed by OA Head of Music Tahu Matheson.

A rollicking comedy spurred on by some of the most famous arias in the operatic canon, Gioachino Rossini’s fast-paced, quick-witted masterpiece is the only comic opera to have held its own among the iconic tragedies of the nineteenth century.

January 18 – February 28, 2025 | Joan Sutherland Theatre, Sydney Opera House

Creatives

Conductor **Daniel Smith** (Jan 18-Feb 22),
Tahu Matheson (Feb 24-28)
 Director **Elijah Moshinsky**
 Revival Director **Heather Fairbairn**
 Set Designer **Michael Yeargan**
 Costume Designer **Dona Granata**
 Lighting Designer **Howard Harrison**

Cast

Figaro **Samuel Dale Johnson**
 Rosina **Serena Malfi** (Jan 18-Feb 13),
Helen Sherman (Feb 15-28)
 Count Almaviva **John Longmuir** (Jan 18-Feb
 13), **Shanul Sharma** (Feb 15-28)
 Dr Bartolo **Andrew Moran**
 Don Basilio **David Parkin**
 Berta **Jane Ede**
 Fiorello / Ambrogio / Notary **Simon Meadows**
 Officer **Nathan Lay**

Opera Australia Chorus
Opera Australia Orchestra

Performance information

Evenings at 7.30pm

January 18, 21, 29
 February 1, 5, 8, 13, 15, 17, 19, 24,
 26, 28

Saturday Matinees at 12.30pm

January 25
 February 22

Running time

Approximately 2 hours and 45
 minutes, including one interval.

Performed in Italian with English
 surtitles

Bookings

Adult tickets from \$79 (fees may
 apply)

Opera Australia Box Office
 (02) 9318 8200
www.opera.org.au

**Joan Sutherland Theatre,
 Sydney Opera House**

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