

MEDIA RELEASE

28 January 2025

Eddie Perfect and Lyndon Watts star in Sydney premiere of *Candide*



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"The best of all possible productions" - Australian Book Review

Tony Award nominated composer Eddie Perfect and renowned musical theatre star Lyndon Watts lead the cast of Dean Bryant's production of Leonard Bernstein's brilliant satirical operetta *Candide*, when it makes its Sydney premiere in the Joan Sutherland Theatre on February 20.

Star of the stage and screen, and composer of the Broadway smash hit *Beetlejuice The Musical*, Eddie Perfect will play the roles of both Pangloss and Voltaire, the latter of which narrates the adventures of the title character performed by Australian musical theatre royalty, Hamilton star Lyndon Watts.

Fast-paced and funny, award-winning director Dean Bryant's burlesque-style staging is set after a climate apocalypse, with renaissance costumes by Dann Barber, lighting by Matt Scott and choreography by Freya List forming an accomplished all-Australian creative team.

Euan Fistrovic Doidge will make his OA debut as Maximilian and Eddie Muliaumaseali'i will have his first Sydney Opera House performance as Cacambo, after a record number of 14 performances in the OA's National Tour spanning the past 25 years.

Musical theatre cross-over star Annie Aitkin will perform as Cunegonde, ahead of her taking the Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour stage as Sarah Brown in *Guys & Dolls*.

One of Australia's foremost choral conductors, Brett Weymark, will guide the OA Orchestra through the Victorian Opera production of Leonard Bernstein's vibrant score, featuring the orchestral favourite overture, soprano showpiece 'Glitter and Be Gay' and touching choral 'Make Our Garden Grow' finale.

Based on Voltaire's famous novella of the same name, *Candide* is a philosophical satire following an optimist's journey through a series of adventures that open his eyes to the reality of the world around him.

February 20 – March 14, 2025 | Joan Sutherland Theatre, Sydney Opera House

PATRON-IN-CHIEF
DR HARUHISA HANDA

HERO PARTNERS

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Creatives

Conductor **Brett Weymark**
 Director **Dean Bryant**
 Set & Costume Designer **Dann Barber**
 Lighting Designer **Matt Scott**
 Choreographer **Freya List**

Cast

Voltaire / Pangloss **Eddie Perfect**
 Candide **Lyndon Watts**
 Cunegonde **Annie Aitken**
 Old Lady **Dominica Matthews**
 Maxmilian **Euan Fistrovic Doidge**
 Paquette **Cathy-Di Zhang**
 Cacambo **Eddie Muliaumaseali'i**
 Governor / Vanderdendur **John Longmuir**
 Martin **Andrew Moran**

Opera Australia Chorus
Opera Australia Orchestra

Performance information

Evenings at 7.30pm
 February 20, 22
 March 6, 8, 11, 14
Wednesday Matinee at 12.30pm
 February 26
Saturday Matinee at 12.30pm
 March 1

Running time

Approximately 2 hours and 30 minutes, including one interval.

Performed in English

This production contains mature content, depictions of hanging and flogging, atmospheric haze, strobe lightning effects, loud thunder, and simulated explosion sounds.

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**

Opera Australia presents Victorian Opera's production of Candide.

Music by Leonard Bernstein, book by Hugh Wheeler after Voltaire, Lyrics by Richard Wilbur, with additional lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, John La Touche, Lillian Hellman, Dorothy Parker and Leonard Bernstein

Orchestrations by Leonard Bernstein and Hershy Kay; Musical continuity and additional orchestrations by John Mauceri.

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