
Casting Brief

Opera Australia Sydney Summer Season 2026 *Eugene Onegin - Dancers*

Overview



In restless youth, adolescent gloom, she was waiting... but for whom?

Tatyana is a dreamer, lost in romantic stories. When the dashing Eugene Onegin walks into her world, she feels her own love story beginning. But Onegin rejects her passion.

Eugene Onegin is the journey from what could be to what might have been. Between lies tragedy. Tchaikovsky's sumptuous opera is a study in reminiscence and regret.

Kasper Holten's "hyper-intelligent, deeply moving production" (*Limelight*) brings memory to the fore. Through flashback, Tatyana and Onegin watch their younger selves make choices that will haunt their lives. As memories pile up on stage, the effect is devastating.

Lauren Fagan makes a triumphant return to our stage, following her unforgettable performance as *Suor Angelica* in *Il Trittico*. She's joined by Ukrainian baritone Andrei Bondarenko as Onegin and rising Australian star Nicholas Jones as Lensky.

German conductor Anna Skryleva makes an exciting Opera Australia debut conducting one of Tchaikovsky's most celebrated works. The Romantic score adds layers of emotion to Pushkin's tale of unrequited love.

Production Information

Conductors: Anna Skryleva

Director: Kasper Holten

Revival Director: Heather Fairbairn

Set Designers: Mia Stensgaard

Costume Designer: Katrina Lindsay

Lighting Designer: Wolfgang Goebbel

Choreographer: Signe Fabricius

Revival Movement Consultant: Matthew Barclay

Rehearsal Choreographer: Chloe Dallimore

Venues: The Opera Centre (Surry Hills) and Sydney Opera House

Production Rehearsals: 13th February 2026 – 7th March 2026

Stage Calls: As per below schedule

(Artists are expected to be available for all Stage Calls)

Performances: 17th March 2026 – 28th March 2026

Weekday	Date	Start	End	Type
Monday	9/03/2026	18:00	21:00	Piano Tech
Tuesday	10/03/2026	10:30	13:45	Piano Dress
Wednesday	11/03/2026	11:00	14:15	Piano Dress
Thursday	12/03/2026	13:30	16:30	Stage Orchestral
Thursday	12/03/2026	18:00	21:00	Stage Orchestral
Friday	13/03/2026	10:30	13:45	Stage Orchestral
Saturday	14/03/2026	11:00	14:00	General
Tuesday	17/03/2026	19:30	22:30	Performance
Tuesday	17/03/2026	18:45	19:00	Chorus Warm-Up
Thursday	19/03/2026	19:30	22:30	Performance
Saturday	21/03/2026	19:30	22:30	Performance
Tuesday	24/03/2026	19:30	22:30	Performance
Thursday	26/03/2026	19:30	22:30	Performance
Saturday	28/03/2026	12:30	15:30	Performance

Audition Brief & Information

We are seeking contemporary dancers with strong, formally grounded technique. Applicants should have completed tertiary or professional training in contemporary dance. The project favours technical depth, experience in contemporary ballet technique is an advantage. Dancers whose primary training is in commercial, jazz, or street-based styles may find this project less aligned with their practice.

We are seeking to cast two featured dance roles, both roles are 'movement doubles' that physically resemble the principal singers in the roles of Tatiana (Lauren Fagan) and Onegin (Andrei Bondarenko).

Young Tatiana

Age: 18 – 25 (with ability to play 17) Height: 162cm – 167cm

'**Young Tatiana**' is the alter ego of the opera singer, a young girl on the edge of adulthood, open-hearted and emotionally unguarded - she writes impulsively to Onegin and is decisively rejected, beginning her journey from innocence toward inner strength.

Young Onegin

Age: 23 – 33 (with ability to play 25) Height: 177 – 182cm

'**Young Onegin**' is the youthful alter ego of the opera singer, he believes himself worldly and emotionally in control, rejects Tatiana's declaration of love, choosing distance over vulnerability and setting in motion a future shaped by loss and regret.

Young Onegin Cover

Age: 23 – 33 (with ability to play 25) Height: 177 – 182cm

Male dancer covering 'Young Onegin'. Description above.

Polonaise Dancers (Female)

Height: 155 – 175cm

We are seeking six technically advanced, professional dancers with broad training in contemporary dance and/or classical or modern dance, and excellent line, control, and extension. Dancers must be collaborative, adept at working as a unified ensemble, and responsive to complex musical accompaniment.

Young Tatiana Cover & Polonaise Dancer

Age: 18 – 25 (with the ability to play 17) Height: 162-167cm

Female dancer covering 'Young Tatiana'. This role also performs as a Polonaise Dancer (casting criteria above)

Important Note:

1. Artists must be available for the entire period. Any restrictions must be noted in the submission.
2. All artists must be Sydney based for the duration of the contract.

This production values the diversity of the Australian performing community and strives to provide an authentic and creative representation of Australia on stage. We strongly encourage applications from performers of varied experiences, perspectives and backgrounds, including performers from culturally and linguistically diverse communities and performers with disabilities.

Submission Process

Submissions **must** include:

- Current CV (in PDF Format)
- Headshot (File clearly labelled)
- Full Body Shot (File clearly labelled)
- 1–2-minute video submission of movement improvisation in response to this clip from the production - <https://youtu.be/RNKPy0BA0QQ?si=1f6370CzM378UeE8>

Deadline: Friday 16 January

All applications will be contacted once roles have been filled.

Opera Australia are committed equal opportunity employers.

Further information

Email: auditions@opera.org.au