



## Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour: *Phantom of the Opera* 2026 Student Placement Brief

Opera Australia is offering students from a range of disciplines the opportunity to gain experience in the planning and operations involved in staging a large-scale outdoor theatre event such as 2026's Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour, *Phantom of the Opera*.

### Key Dates:

Auditions: 20 October – 29 October 2025

Studio Rehearsals: 23 February – 14 March 2026

Site Construction: 2 March – 22 March 2026

Technical Rehearsals: 16 March – 26 March 2026

Performances: 27 March – 3 May 2026

Bump Out: 3 May – 16 May 2026

Placements are available to students who are keen to be involved and whose studies are relevant to the following areas:

### Auditions\*

Auditions placement, students will observe the auditions process, which may involve tasks such as assisting with the recording and logging of auditions, managing auditionees, and providing general support to the casting and producing teams for the purpose of their development. Students will have the opportunity to work closely with the professional Producing and Casting departments and gain insight into the audition and casting process from a behind-the-scenes perspective. This placement is open to students from all disciplines, including Stage Management, Acting, and related fields.

*\*Opportunities are available for both Melbourne and Sydney-based applicants, as auditions will be held in both cities.*

### Production (Stage)

Production placement students will have the opportunity to participate in the planning and execution of pre-production and production activities of the Production team within Major

Projects. This placement may involve assisting in such tasks as sourcing production equipment and services, assisting with production administrative and planning tasks, and observing and assisting the stage and site build. Students may have the opportunity to work with various technical contractors and, depending on the skills and interest of the individual, to observe and assist in various departments.

### Technical Theatre

Technical Theatre placement students will observe a technical production department (sound, lighting, mechanists etc.). This role may be involved in the bump-in, performance and/or bump-out periods. The department that this role is placed within, and the tasks they may have the opportunity to be involved in, will depend on the capacity of the department and skills and interest of the individual.

### Stage Management

Stage Management placement students will observe the Stage Management team and may be involved in tasks such as assisting with the management of performing company and creatives, setting scores and calling cues. Students will have the opportunity to work very closely with a professional Stage Management team and attend production and key creative meetings.

### Directorial Placement

The Directorial Placement will take place with Director Simon Phillips observing the directorial process.

### What previous student placements have to say:

*"Observing how a professional production works was incredible. I feel like I have a much better understanding of how professionals in my industry conduct themselves and their roles. I especially loved being able to watch how all the different roles interacted with each other."* - Heather Edmonds, Bachelor of Theatre/Media, Charles Sturt University.

*"It was a giant and lavish production with multiple moving parts, an internationally acclaimed cast, and a floating set on Sydney Harbour- to be a part of this production was an absolutely unforgettable experience which has inspired me to pursue directing in the future."* - Stephanie Todd, Bachelor in Communications (Media Arts and Production), UTS Sydney.

### Participating students are required to:

- Be 18 or older at the time of the placement and possess a white card.
- Commit to the placement including enthusiastic participation and regular attendance at activities.
- Demonstrate a high level of organisation, teamwork, and communication skills.
- Follow internal Opera Australia policies, including WHS, Codes of Conduct, etc.
- Students will be required to cover all their own expenses, including travel and food expenses.
- It is a compulsory requirement that all students entering the HOSH site complete an online induction prior to arriving on-site

### Student involvement must be part of a formalised placement program which is endorsed by their education institution.

Opera Australia strongly recommends that any interested student discuss this placement with their course coordinator to determine that it will contribute towards their course's intended learning outcomes.

The period for all placements is flexible depending on the needs of the placement department and the student's course requirements, and schedules will be determined on an individual basis.

For more information, please email [Amellia.Bruderlin@opera.org.au](mailto:Amellia.Bruderlin@opera.org.au) or [Apply Here](#)