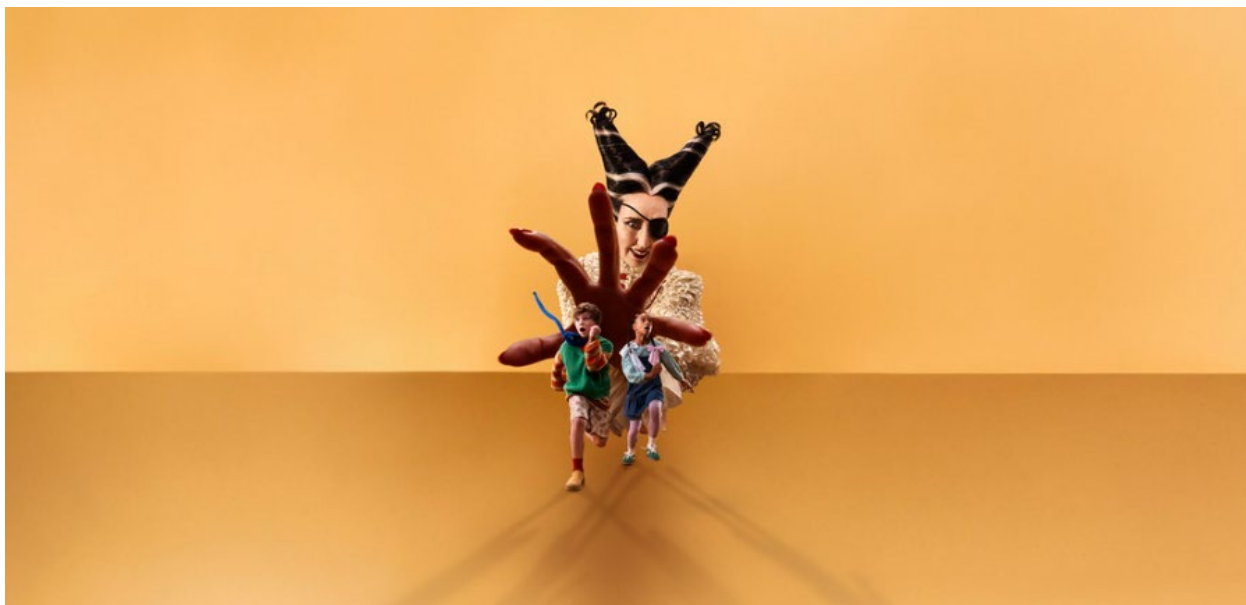

Casting Brief

Opera Australia Sydney Summer Season 2026 *Hansel & Gretel – Actors*

Overview



Nibble, nibble, little mouse, who's that nibbling at my house? I'll lure them in with sweets to eat, a child is a witch's favourite treat!

Deep in the dark woods, Hansel and Gretel are hungry and looking for home. Just when it all seems hopeless, they stumble upon a spun-sugar house and an eccentric woman, who's not as sweet as she seems. Will the plucky siblings outwit the wicked witch?

This whimsical production is a classic from acclaimed director Elijah Moshinsky, with plenty of humour and heart to balance the dark undertones of the Grimms' fairytale. Familiar characters roam a surreal storybook world, with larger-than-life sets and costumes by Mark Thompson. An all-star Australian cast features Margaret Plummer and Stacey Alleaume as the clever kids. Jane Ede is a delight in the role of the witch with Helen Sherman and Andrew Moran as the youngsters' parents.

Tahu Matheson conducts Humperdinck's magical score, which is filled with German folk tunes and luscious orchestration. Performed in English, *Hansel & Gretel* is an enchanting first opera for newcomers, and a nostalgic treat for opera fans.

Production Information

Conductor: Tahu Matheson

Director: Elijah Moshinsky

Set & Costume Designers: Mark Thompson

Lighting Designer: Nigel Levings

Revival Director: Claudia Osborne

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

Production Rehearsals: 29th December 2025 – 19th January 2026, between 10:30am – 5:30pm

Stage Calls: As per below schedule

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

Performances: 3rd January – 25th March 2026

Weekday	Date	Start	End	Type
Tuesday	20/01/2026	18:00	21:30	Piano Tech
Wednesday	21/01/2026	13:30	16:45	Piano Dress
Wednesday	21/01/2026	18:15	21:30	Piano Dress
Thursday	22/01/2026	10:30	13:30	Stage Orchestral
Friday	23/01/2026	11:00	14:15	Stage Orchestral
Saturday	24/01/2026	11:00	14:00	General
Tuesday	27/01/2026	19:30	22:30	Performance
Friday	30/01/2026	19:30	22:30	Performance
Tuesday	3/02/2026	19:30	22:30	Performance
Friday	6/02/2026	19:30	22:30	Performance
Thursday	12/02/2026	19:30	22:30	Performance
Sunday	15/02/2026	14:00	17:00	Performance
Tuesday	17/02/2026	19:30	22:30	Performance
Thursday	19/02/2026	19:30	22:30	Performance
Sunday	22/02/2026	14:00	17:00	Performance
Wednesday	25/02/2026	11:30	14:30	Performance
Thursday	26/02/2026	19:30	22:30	Performance
Saturday	28/02/2026	19:30	22:30	Performance

Audition Brief & Information

We are looking for Actors for the following roles:

1 x ANGEL (MALE PRESENTING)

Age: 20–35

Actor will perform simple choreography to music as one of five angels visiting Hansel and Gretel as they sleep in the forest. The Angels appear around the sleeping children as they recall Hansel's fifth birthday picnic and their mother's sudden death. The Angels then escort Hansel and Gretel's mother to heaven. Successful auditionees will need to be comfortable walking on a raked stage and willing to be clean-shaven if selected.

1 x MOTHER (FEMALE PRESENTING)

Age: 30–45

Actor will appear in the Dream Pantomime scene as part of Hansel and Gretel's dream, recalling Hansel's fifth birthday picnic and their mother's sudden death. Actor must be comfortable walking, kneeling, and sitting on the floor of a raked stage.

3 x AUNTS (FEMALE PRESENTING)

Age: 35–65

Actors will appear in the Dream Pantomime scene as part of Hansel and Gretel's dream, recalling Hansel's fifth birthday picnic and their mother's sudden death. Actors must be comfortable walking, kneeling, and sitting on the floor of a raked stage.

1 x GRANDFATHER (MALE PRESENTING)

Age: 55–70

Actor will appear in the Dream Pantomime scene as part of Hansel and Gretel's dream, recalling Hansel's fifth birthday picnic and their mother's sudden death. Actor must be comfortable walking, kneeling, and sitting on the floor of a raked stage.

4 x ANGELS, SANDMEN & DEW FAIRIES (FEMALE PRESENTING)

Age: 20–35

Actors will perform the roles of the Angels, Sandman's Assistants and the Dew Fairy's Assistants. The Angels appear around the sleeping children as they recall Hansel's fifth birthday picnic and their mother's sudden death. The Angels then escort Hansel and Gretel's mother to heaven. As the Sandman's Assistants, they will perform simple choreography to help manoeuvre the children into their final sleeping positions, and as the Dew Fairy's Assistants, ballet choreography to wake them from their slumber. Actors must be confident performing simple choreography, and comfortable moving and dancing on a raked stage.

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)
- Optional: 1–2-minute showreel

In-person callbacks: 11th December 3:00PM

Opera Australia are committed equal opportunity employers.

Further information

Email: auditions@opera.org.au