
Casting Brief

Opera Australia Melbourne Spring Season 2026 *La Bohème - Actors*

Overview



To write, to paint, to think, to cry. To love, to fight, to live, to die.

They have love. They have art. They have each other. But you can't eat poetry, and philosophy won't warm a bitter winter.

This classic opera about young artists caught between ecstasy and pain has inspired countless Bohemian love stories. Now it's time for a fresh production of this timeless tale, created by our most exciting young artists. Constantine Costi leads a talented team to create a new *La Bohème*, set in snow-kissed Paris and shimmering with magic.

Puccini's music captures feelings you can't put into words. It swells with the intensity of first love, burns with jealousy, sighs in passion and breaks with sadness. This is opera to remind you of the power of love, of the beauty of youth, and the sheer joy of being alive.

Rising star conductor Finnegan Downie Dear leads a luminous cast of international and Australian singers. Galina Cheplakova and Valeria Sepe will break hearts as Mimì, with tenors Kang Wang and Paride Cataldo tackling Puccini's iconic, soaring melodies.

Production Information

Conductor: Finnegan Downie Dear

Director: Constantine Costi

Movement Director: Shannon Burns

Assistant Director: Shannon Burns

Set Designer: Dann Barber

Costume Designer: Sabina Myers

Lighting Designer: Morgan Moroney

Venues: The Regent Theatre, Melbourne

Production Rehearsals: 6 – 19 October 2026 (incl. 2x nights in Sydney)

Stage Calls: As per below schedule

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

Performances: 7 – 18 November 2026

Weekday	Date	Start	End	Type
Friday	30/10/2026	13:30	16:30	Piano Tech
Friday	30/10/2026	18:00	21:15	Piano Dress
Saturday	31/10/2026	10:30	13:45	Piano Dress
Saturday	31/10/2026	15:30	18:45	Piano Dress
Wednesday	04/11/2026	13:00	16:30	Stage Orchestral Extended
Wednesday	04/11/2026	18:00	21:30	Stage Orchestral Extended
Thursday	05/11/2026	11:00	14:00	General
Thursday	05/11/2026	16:00	19:00	General
Saturday	07/11/2026	19:30	22:30	Performance
Sunday	08/11/2026	14:00	17:00	Performance
Tuesday	10/11/2026	19:30	22:30	Performance
Wednesday	11/11/2026	19:30	22:30	Performance
Thursday	12/11/2026	19:30	22:30	Performance
Friday	13/11/2026	19:30	22:30	Performance
Saturday	14/11/2026	19:30	22:30	Performance
Sunday	15/11/2026	14:00	17:00	Performance
Tuesday	17/11/2026	19:30	22:30	Performance
Wednesday	18/11/2026	19:30	22:30	Performance

Audition Brief & Information

Important Note:

1. Artists must be available for the entire period. Any restrictions must be noted in the submission.
2. All artists must be Melbourne 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.

Strong acting skills and a movement or dance background are required.

Playing Age Range: 18–30

Specific character breakdowns are listed below. Please submit for the role you feel most suited to by completing the submission form and providing:

Roles

Role #1 — Joan of Arc / Drum Major

Gender: Any

Height: Tall (5'8" / 173 cm or above)

Skills: Dance/Movement background and strong theatrical presence

Role #2 — The Waiter

Gender: Male

Skills: Clowning and/or physical comedy background

Role #3 — Ballerina

Gender: Female

Skills: Ballet training

Roles #4 & #5 — Jesters

Gender: Female

Skills: Dance/Movement and/or acrobatic background

Role #6 — Shooting Star

Gender: Female

Skills: Dance/Movement background, cabaret/burlesque experience preferred

Act 4 Scene Requirements

In the final act 3 x Female Actors will be required to play life-drawing models / sex workers.

The scene will involve posing/performing in various levels of undress

An intimacy co-ordinator will be present for all necessary moments within the scene

Movement will be limited and stylised within the tone of the scene.

The creative team of course work in negotiation with the comfort levels of the cast

Submission Process

Submissions **must** include:

- CV
- Headshot
- Full-body shot
- Short performance reel (optional) 1 Min Max

All ethnicities and genders are welcome. The listed genders reflect the roles being portrayed. Some roles include nudity, partial nudity, or sheer/scant costuming. Please complete the questionnaire to indicate your preferences and comfort levels.

[APPLY HERE](#)

Deadline: 29 July

Callbacks: Sunday 9 August – Melbourne Opera Centre

Opera Australia are committed equal opportunity employers.

Further information

Email: auditions@opera.org.au