
Casting Brief

Opera Australia Sydney Summer Season 2026 *Madama Butterfly – Actors*

Overview



Fire. Water. Beauty. Darkness. When love is lost, what is left behind?

Cio-Cio-San is a woman who dreams of a bigger life. Pinkerton is a man who sees only a butterfly, something he can capture and keep. His callous pursuit ripples into sweeping tragedy.

Puccini's eternally popular *Madama Butterfly* is a profoundly moving experience. The yearning score soars to incredible heights (Cio-Cio-San's dazzling 'Un bel di') and offers moments of exquisite stillness (the 'Humming Chorus').

Moffatt Oxenbould's award-winning production is timeless. Tiny candles glimmer among floating flowers in a real onstage moat. Sliding paper panels reveal and conceal the secrets everyone is keeping. Sumptuous, colourful costumes are inspired by Japanese traditional dress. It's a serene, stunning backdrop for the unfolding emotional turmoil.

Production Information

Conductors: Andrea Battistoni, Paul Fitzsimon, Erina Yashima

Director: Moffatt Oxenbould AM

Set & Costume Designers: Russell Cohen, Peter England

Lighting Designer: Robert Bryan

Movement & Revival Director: Matthew Barclay

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

Production Rehearsals: 1st December – 20th December 2025, 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
Monday	22/12/2025	13:00	16:00	Piano Tech
Monday	22/12/2025	18:00	21:15	Piano Dress
Tuesday	23/12/2025	12:00	15:15	Piano Dress
Tuesday	23/12/2025	16:45	20:00	Piano Dress
Saturday	27/12/2025	12:00	15:00	Stage Orchestral
Saturday	27/12/2025	16:30	19:45	Stage Orchestral
Monday	29/12/2025	18:00		General
Wednesday	31/12/2025	19:45		Performance
Saturday	3/01/2026	19:30		Performance
Tuesday	6/01/2026	19:30		Performance
Thursday	8/01/2026	19:30		Performance
Saturday	10/01/2026	19:30		Performance
Tuesday	13/01/2026	19:30		Performance
Friday	16/01/2026	19:30		Performance
Thursday	22/01/2026	19:30		Performance
Saturday	24/01/2026	19:30		Performance
Thursday	29/01/2026	19:30		Performance
Saturday	31/01/2026	12:30		Performance
Wednesday	4/02/2026	19:30		Performance
Saturday	7/02/2026	12:30		Performance
Wednesday	11/02/2026	19:30		Performance
Saturday	14/02/2026	19:30		Performance
Friday	20/02/2026	19:30		Performance
Wednesday	25/02/2026	19:30		Performance
Sunday	1/03/2026	14:00		Performance
Tuesday	3/03/2026	19:30		Performance
Saturday	7/03/2026	12:30		Performance
Wednesday	11/03/2026	19:30		Performance
Saturday	14/03/2026	19:30		Performance
Wednesday	18/03/2026	19:30		Performance
Friday	20/03/2026	19:30		Performance
Wednesday	25/03/2026	19:30		Performance

Audition Brief & Information

We are looking for Actors for the following roles:

2 x BONZE / YAMADORI ATTENDANTS (MALE PRESENTING)

Age: 20 - 35

Height: 5'11 - 6'3 (180-190cm)

These males appear bare-chested with athletic, muscular bodies. They are the menacing, violent protectors of The Bonze in Act 1, and the elegant, stately attendants of Prince Yamadori in Act 2. These actors perform simple arm choreography to music. A thickset body-builder physique is not required - the look is toned, muscle definition. Auditionees should be prepared to remove their shirts at the audition and be willing to have their hair close-cropped and facial hair removed if selected.

2 x SERVANTS (MALE PRESENTING)

Age: 18 – 35

Height: 5'7 – 6'0 (170-182cm)

These males have with slim, fit, dancer-type physiques. They are agile and balanced - they must be able to kneel and stand repeatedly & easily. They must be willing to have all facial hair removed for performances.

5 x KŌKEN (2 x FEMALE PRESENTING, 3 x MALE PRESENTING)

Age: 18 – 40

Height: 5'1 – 6'1 (155-185cm)

These artists are integral to the production, drawing inspiration from the Japanese theatre tradition of Kōken. They contribute to the aesthetic by shaping the on-stage atmosphere through a Zen-like movement quality that lies at the heart of the concept. A movement style is created for them - so some training in dance or movement is an advantage and sought-after at the audition. They must be flexible, strong working on the floor and able to kneel for extended periods of time. These artists are likely dancers or former dancers with stage experience. They must have facial hair removed for performances.

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

All applications will be contacted once roles have been filled.

[Apply Here](#)

Opera Australia are committed equal opportunity employers.

Further information

Email: auditions@opera.org.au