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# Casting Brief

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## Opera Australia Sydney Winter Season 2026 *The Merry Widow - Dancers*

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### Overview

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**Let's waltz, let's sway the night away. It's time for a little romance.**

Sway, smile and swoon your way through our delicious production of *The Merry Widow*.

It's an opulent party, all glitz and glamour and Parisian charm. It's an old-fashioned romance, flirty and funny and fabulous. It's a Viennese waltz and you know all the steps.

The Merry Widow is a "shimmering all-singing, all-dancing Broadway-style show" (*The Sydney Morning Herald*), a frothy comedy packed with familiar waltzes and tuneful melodies. From the sumptuous Art Deco era costumes to the glamorous, geometric sets, the show is "visually stunning ...sometimes you simply don't know where to look" (*The Sydney Morning Herald*).

International opera star Emma Pearson and beloved Australian soprano Julie Lea Goodwin share the role of Hanna, bringing their own unique energies to the iconic role. They're supported by Alexander Lewis, returning with his acclaimed portrayal of Danilo, and Alexandra Flood, a dazzling Australian singer making waves internationally.

Graeme Murphy brings his signature brand of lively choreography and deft direction to the dance-packed score.

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## Production Information

**Conductor:** Vanessa Scammell

**Director:** Graeme Murphy

**Creative Associate:** Janet Vernon

**Set Designer:** Michael Scott-Mitchell

**Costume Designer:** Jennifer Irwin

**Lighting Designer:** Damien Cooper

**Choreographer:** Graeme Murphy

**English Translation:** Justin Fleming

**Venues:** Joan Sutherland Theatre, Sydney Opera House

**Production Rehearsals:** 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2026 – 1<sup>st</sup> July 2026

**Stage Calls:** As per below schedule

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

**Performances:** 8<sup>th</sup> July 2026 – 18<sup>th</sup> August 2026

Weekday	Date	Start	End	Type
Thursday	2/07/2026	13:00	16:00	Piano Tech
Thursday	2/07/2026	18:00	21:15	Piano Dress
Friday	3/07/2026	10:30	13:45	Piano Dress
Friday	3/07/2026	15:15	18:30	Piano Dress
Saturday	4/07/2026	10:30	13:30	Sound Orchestral
Saturday	4/07/2026	15:00	18:00	Stage Orchestral
Monday	6/07/2026	18:00	21:15	Stage Orchestral
Tuesday	7/07/2026	18:00	21:00	General
Wednesday	8/07/2026	19:30	22:30	Performance
Thursday	9/07/2026	19:30	22:30	Performance
Friday	10/07/2026	19:30	22:30	Performance
Saturday	11/07/2026	12:30	15:30	Performance
Saturday	11/07/2026	19:30	22:30	Performance
Friday	17/07/2026	19:30	22:30	Performance
Saturday	18/07/2026	19:30	22:30	Performance
Sunday	19/07/2026	14:00	17:00	Performance
Wednesday	22/07/2026	19:30	22:30	Performance
Friday	24/07/2026	19:30	22:30	Performance
Saturday	25/07/2026	12:00	15:00	Performance
Sunday	26/07/2026	14:00	17:00	Performance
Friday	31/07/2026	19:30	22:30	Performance
Tuesday	4/08/2026	19:30	22:30	Performance
Thursday	6/08/2026	19:30	22:30	Performance
Thursday	13/08/2026	19:30	22:30	Performance
Saturday	15/08/2026	19:30	22:30	Performance
Tuesday	18/08/2026	19:30	22:30	Performance

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## Audition Brief & Information

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**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.

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## Submission Process

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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

**Deadline:** April 8 2026

Opera Australia are committed equal opportunity employers.

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## Further information

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Email: [auditions@opera.org.au](mailto:auditions@opera.org.au)