

Melbourne's own Danielle de Niese sizzles in new production of *Carmen*



'Opera's coolest soprano' Danielle de Niese will make a triumphant return to her home city this November, performing in Opera Australia's new production of *Carmen* from 15 to 25 November at the Regent Theatre.

Passionate and tragic, this critically acclaimed new production raises thought provoking questions about power, gender, violence and class. Regarded as one of opera's most demanding roles, de Niese's powerful portrayal of the iconic titular role makes for a scintillating take on the doomed femme fatale.

Carmen is the first fully staged opera directed by Anne-Louise Sarks, current Artistic Director of Melbourne Theatre Company, and a commanding debut to the artform. Teaming up with her frequent collaborator, Tony Award winning Marg Horwell, who has designed the maximalist set and costumes, Sarks has devised a contemporary, visually spectacular world for one of the most famous operas in the canon.

Born to Sri Lankan parents in Melbourne, de Niese was catapulted into the world of performing at the age of nine when she became the youngest contestant ever to win 'Young Talent Time' and hasn't slowed since. At 16 she won an Emmy for presenting on TV program 'L.A. Kids' and debuted at the Metropolitan Opera at age 19. She has since made her mark with innumerable internationally acclaimed performances across the world and at her residence, as chatelain of famed opera estate, Glyndebourne.

OA principal mezzo Sian Sharp shares the role with de Niese, together, these two powerhouse vocalists will each bring their unique interpretations to showcase Carmen's flirtation with rebellion and danger. Sharp is no stranger to Carmen, having played her in four different productions, bringing vocal virtuosity and depth of character to the role.

Mexican Spanish tenor Abraham Bretón will make his Melbourne debut as Don José, sharing the role with OA favourite Diego Torre. A strong line-up of local stars round-out the ensemble cast including Luke Gabbedy, Jennifer Black, Jane Ede, Angela Hogan, Richard Anderson, Phillip Rhodes, Alexander Hargreaves, Nathan Lay, Ruth Strutt and Virgilio Marino.

Celebrated Italian pianist conductor Clelia Cafiero will make her Australian debut to lead Orchestra Victoria through Bizet's dynamic score.

From the moment the curtain rises, audiences will be immersed in the beautifully crafted score and irresistible tunes, from the Habanera to the Toreador Song; the sensual dancing and the thrilling, sultry plot that oozes with passion, romance and danger. *Carmen* is a true classic in every sense.

15 – 25 November | Regent Theatre, Melbourne

DR HARUHISA HANDA

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MEDIA RELEASE

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*“Sarks’ finely detailed direction... brilliant. ★★★★★” – Sydney Morning Herald**“Smart, seductive and spectacular ★★★★★” – The Guardian**“Brilliantly staged and uplifting... fresh, crisp and up-to-date.” – Sydney Travel Guide***Creatives**Conductor **Clelia Cafiero**Director **Anne-Louise Sarks**Set & Costume Designer **Marg Horwell**Lighting Designer **Paul Jackson**Choreographer **Shannon Burns****Cast**Carmen **Danielle de Niese** (15, 18, 20, 22, 25 Nov)**Sian Sharp** (17, 19, 21, 24 Nov)Don José **Abraham Bretón** (15, 18, 20, 22, 25 Nov)**Diego Torre** (17, 19, 21, 24 Nov)Escamillo **Phillip Rhodes** (15, 18, 20, 22, 25 Nov)**Luke Gabbedy** (17, 19, 21, 24 Nov)Micaëla **Jennifer Black**Zuniga **Richard Anderson**El Dancairo **Alexander Hargreaves**Remendado **Virgilio Marino**Morales **Nathan Lay**Frasquita **Jane Ede**Mercedes **Angela Hogan****Opera Australia Chorus****Opera Australia Children’s Chorus****Orchestra Victoria****Media enquiries**Caitlin Eames | Publicist | +61 433 746 644 | caitlin@cepr.com.au**Performance information****Evenings at 7.30pm**

November 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25

Saturday Matinees at 12:30pm

November 22

Running time

Approximately 2 hours and 50 minutes including one interval.

Performed in French with English surtitles

This production contains adult themes, including sexual references and violence against women

Bookings

Adult tickets from \$79 (fees may apply)

Opera Australia Box Office
(03) 9685 3700
www.opera.org.au**Regent Theatre, Melbourne**