

MEDIA RELEASE

East collides with West in *Turandot* spectacular

Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour 2016



Hear the heroic top notes of ‘Nessun dorma’ ring-out in the open air of Sydney Harbour and witness the well-known Chinese fable as you’ve never seen it before

Known internationally as one of the world’s great opera events, **Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour** returns in 2016 with Puccini’s *Turandot*.

Director **Chen Shi-Zheng** grew up in China during the Cultural Revolution and was taken in by an opera troupe where he developed a significant reputation as a Chinese opera performer. The opportunity to have an opera set in Imperial Peking directed by an artist so steeped in Chinese cultural traditions is one that is bound to produce a new vision for one of opera’s most loved works. Chen Shi-Zheng’s take on *Turandot* will be one for the history books, with his innate understanding Chinese and Western artistic approaches.

Opera Australia Artistic Director **Lyndon Terracini** recounts the *Turandot* journey. “For some time I’ve wanted to work with Director Chen Shi-Zheng. He was one of the great singers working in Chinese Opera in Beijing before moving to New York. In New York he studied to be a director in the Western tradition and now he’s one the most interesting people working in theatre today. His incredibly rigorous Chinese opera background combined with his work in the West has given him two worlds to draw upon. The result is a unique style, both spectacular and incredibly intense and powerful.

“Although Shi-Zheng initially wanted to collaborate with a Chinese designer, I introduced him to local designer **Dan Potra** and he was so impressed by Dan’s brilliant imagination they became a team. The designs for *Turandot* are sensational and make full use of the vast harbour setting. This production will likely be the most authentic that audiences will ever see.”

Puccini’s *Turandot* is a fantasy opera of poetry and myth, set in an exotic world where fear and love go hand in hand and death is always just around the corner. When Pavarotti sang out the top B in *Nessun Dorma* across a huge crowd at the 1990 FIFA World Cup, the world collectively held its breath. A generation of football fans were learning what opera was all about – music that can transport you to another world, another place, a place where emotion wells up inside you at the sound of a single note.

“We want everyone to come to *Turandot*. It’s the perfect opportunity for people who have never been to an opera, and if you know *Turandot* already, then you’re going to be amazed by this production,” Terracini said.

Past audiences to Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour know that the fantastic opera is just the beginning of the event. There is so much more on-hand to make the entire evening a magical experience. The custom-built site has an impressive range of dining and drinking options that

STRATEGIC PARTNER



PRINCIPAL PARTNER

OPERA AUSTRALIA PRINCIPAL PARTNER

BROADCAST PARTNER

OPERA AUSTRALIA GOVERNMENT PARTNERS

VENUE PARTNER

make the most of the magnificent harbour views and nightly fireworks. The stunning “Platinum Club” – a pop up dining room and bar set amongst the tree tops – offers fine dining before the show, drinks at intervals and after the performance. Dinner and show packages are available with variable components that include a three-course dinner, interval drinks, program and performance.

To complete a glamorous night out, guests can arrive at the site by Water Taxi. Pick up points are around Sydney Harbour, dropping guests at Andrew (Boy) Charlton Pool, just metres from the entrance to Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour.

Ticket prices start at \$79

Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour: *Turandot* runs from 24 March 2016 to 24 April 2016

www.opera.org.au

Creatives

Conductor **Brian Castles-Onion**
 Director **Chen Shi-Zheng**
 Set & Costume Designer **Dan Potra**

Bookings

Opera Australia Box Office
 (02) 9318 8200 / www.opera.org.au

Cast

Turandot **Dragana Radakovic**
Daria Masiero
 Calaf **Riccardo Massi**
Arnold Rawls
 Liù **Hyeseoung Kwon**
Eva Kong
 Timur **Conal Coad**
 Pong **John Longmuir**
 Pang **Graeme Macfarlane**
 Ping **Luke Gabbedy**
 Emperor **David Lewis**
 Mandarin **Gennadi Dubinsky**
 With **Australian Opera and Ballet Orchestra**
 and **Opera Australia Chorus**

Performance information

Performances at 7.30pm
 Tuesday to Sunday excluding Good Friday
 24 March to 24 April 2016
 Fleet Steps, Mrs Macquarie’s Point, Sydney

Site opens at 5pm for pre-performance drinks and dining

Performed in Italian with English subtitles

Media enquiries

Janet Glover
 Publicist, Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour,
 Opera Australia
 (02) 9318 8246 / 0412 601 816
gemma.rasmussen@opera.org.au