

MEDIA RELEASE

5 December 2019

Unforgettable experience of a Walk-on Role in Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour now on sale!

Opera Australia today announced that a limited number of walk-on roles are now available to purchase for the first time for their spectacular outdoor event Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour.

The perfect gift for the opera aficionado who has everything – the chance to make their opera debut in Verdi's classic *La Traviata*, in front of an audience of nearly 3,000 people.

This is an unforgettable opportunity to be in the spotlight on the huge overwater stage in one of the most famous operas in the world, with the equally famous backdrop of the city skyline, Sydney Opera House and Harbour Bridge.

Walk-on role participants will appear during the vibrant Parisian party scene in Act 1, raising their champagne glass surrounded by the 80-strong cast including chorus, dancers, actors and principal singers in an event that Director Constantine Costi describes as "like attending an exclusive waterside party."

This exclusive offer allows dedicated opera fans the opportunity to experience the production from the performer's unique perspective from behind the scenes, receiving the full opera-star treatment including:

- Professional stage hair and makeup
- Costume fitting
- Stage directions from the Assistant Director
- A ticket for a guest to watch the performance
- Interval Dessert High Tea for two in the exclusive Travel Associates Platinum Club

Opera Australia also offers ten walk on roles each year for *La Bohème*, staged in the iconic Joan Sutherland Theatre. A glamorous production that sees participants enter the glitzy world of 1930s Berlin. Opera lovers from Australia, the USA and Korea have all enjoyed this cultural attraction.

Tourism Australia's Global Manager Experiences, Karen Fitzgerald, considers her walk-on role experience in *La Bohème* to be an absolute highlight. "I'd always considered myself more of a musical theatre fan, but I now have a new respect and appreciation for opera. Following my 15 mins of fame on the stage of the Sydney Opera House, I'm still pinching myself. I would highly recommend this incredible opportunity to anyone interested in the arts. Opera is a wonderful combination of historical and contemporary storytelling - climactic, powerful, vibrant, extravagant, emotional and now more accessible than ever!" she said.

Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour is supported by the NSW Government via its tourism and major events agency Destination NSW and Dr Haruhisa Handa through the International Foundation for Arts and Culture.

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Bookings

opera.org.au/star

Walk-on Role \$AUD4,999 per person

Available on 1, 8, 15, or 22 April 2020

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