

MEDIA RELEASE

12 JULY 2019

Opera Australia’s National Tour flies *Madama Butterfly* to communities across the country



Launching at Victoria’s Frankston Arts Centre to a sold out crowd on 13 July, John Bell’s highly acclaimed *Madama Butterfly* is set to tour the north of Australia, from Queensland’s sunny beaches, through the red centre to coastal communities of Western Australia.

Performed in Italian with English surtitles, audiences can enjoy an authentic experience of one of the world’s most popular operas. *Madama Butterfly* tells the tragic tale of two lovers separated by culture, oceans and time, with stunning visuals and memorable performances promising to place this opera as a firm favourite in hearts across the country.

Over 23 years Opera Australia has presented more than 600 fully-staged performances in 115 different locations, and covered almost 300,000kms. This year, a traveling troupe of 30 people including cast, crew, and a chamber orchestra tours across the nation to bring the traditional operatic experience to new audiences.

The 7-week tour visits regional and metropolitan locations in five states – Victoria, Queensland, Northern Territory, Western Australia and South Australia – giving 24 performances in 20 locations, including two new towns where Opera Australia hasn’t performed before, Maryborough and Mackay.

Opera Australia’s Artistic Director, Lyndon Terracini, is passionate about bringing opera to new audiences of all ages, backgrounds and locations.

“Everyone at Opera Australia is thrilled to be presenting, with our local partners, this wonderful production of *Madama Butterfly*. We have engaged exceptional singers who will enable audiences to hear this beautiful music sung in the original language, with surtitles, at the highest level. It is a feast for the senses!” Mr Terracini said.

After a record breaking season in 2018, Chinese soprano Sharon Zhai reprises the shared titular role of Cio-Cio-San, known as ‘Madame Butterfly’, with South Korean-born soprano Eva Kong making her role debut. Australian tenor Matthew Reardon returns as Lieutenant Pinkerton, a US naval officer, shared with internationally praised tenor Bradley Daley. This year also marks Chinese-Australian mezzo-soprano Barbara Jin’s Opera Australia debut as Suzuki.

This emotionally riveting production brings together two contrasting worlds through clever set design and colourful costumes by Australian designers Jennie Tate and Julie Lynch. The vibrant production is coloured further by Puccini’s magnificent score, including the famous ‘Humming Chorus’ and heart breaking ‘Un bel di Vedremo’ (‘One Fine Day’), performed with a chamber orchestra conducted by Paul Fitzsimon, one of Australia’s leading conductors to emerge in the last decade.

Opera Australia’s National Tour also provides an opportunity for local children to participate in the production through the Regional Children’s Chorus program. Under the direction of Regional Children’s Chorus Master Mark Connors, children are selected by local choir leaders and learn the music from *Madama Butterfly* before joining the professional cast for rehearsals and then on stage for the performance.

NATIONAL TOUR PARTNERS

LEADING PARTNER PRODUCTION PARTNER SUPPORTING PARTNER PATRON-IN-CHIEF **DR HARUHISA HANDA** PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY GOVERNMENT PARTNER OPERA CONFERENCE



CREATIVES

Conductor | Paul Fitzsimon
Director | John Bell
Revival Director | Liesel Badorrek
Designer | Jennie Tate
Designs Realised By | Julie Lynch
Lighting Designer | Matt Scott
Choreographer | Sachiko Tange
Revival Choreographer | Alice Dixon

CAST

Cio-Cio-San | Eva Kong, Sharon Zhai
Pinkerton | Bradley Daley, Matthew Reardon
Suzuki | Barbara Jin
Sharpless | Andrew Moran
Goro | Michael Lapina
Bonze | Steven Gallop
Yamadori | Shoumendu Schornikow
Kate Pinkerton | Kristen Leich

PERFORMANCE LOCATIONS AND DATES

Please check with local venues for more information

Frankston, VIC | 13 July, [Frankston Arts Centre](#)
Rockhampton, QLD | 16 July, [Pilbeam Theatre](#)
Gold Coast, QLD | 18-20 July, [HOTA, Home of the Arts](#)
Maryborough, QLD | 23 July, [Brolga Theatre and Convention Centre](#)
Gladstone, QLD | 25 July, [Gladstone Entertainment Convention Centre](#)
Mackay, QLD | 27 July, [Mackay Entertainment & Convention Centre](#)
Cairns, QLD | 30 July, [Cairns Performing Arts Centre](#)
Mount Isa, QLD | 1 August, Mount Isa Civic Centre
Tennant Creek, NT | 3 August, Tennant Creek Civic Hall
Alice Springs, NT | 6-7 August, [Araluen Arts Centre](#)
Darwin, NT | 9-10 August, [Darwin Entertainment Centre](#)
Broome, WA | 14 August, Performance location to be announced
Karratha, WA | 16 August, [Karratha Arts and Community Precinct](#)
Geraldton, WA | 19 August, [Queens Park Theatre](#)
Mandurah, WA | 21 August, [Mandurah Performing Arts Centre](#)
Bunbury, WA | 22 August, [Bunbury Regional Entertainment Centre](#)
Albany, WA | 24 August, [Albany Entertainment Centre](#)
Kalgoorlie, WA | 27 August, [Goldfields Arts Centre](#)
Port Pirie, SA | 29 August, [Northern Festival Centre](#)
Mount Gambier, SA | 31 August, [Sir Robert Helpmann Theatre](#)

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

For interview and image requests please contact:

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NATIONAL TOUR PARTNERS

LEADING PARTNER

PRODUCTION PARTNER

SUPPORTING PARTNER

PATRON-IN-CHIEF
DR HARUHISA HANDA

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY

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OPERA CONFERENCE