

MEDIA RELEASE

Puccini | Directed by John Bell | Conducted by Paul Fitzsimon

Puccini’s acclaimed opera *Madama Butterfly* coming to Broome in 2019



This August, Opera Australia in association with Bernard Gerbes bring John Bell’s highly acclaimed production of Puccini’s much-loved opera, ***Madama Butterfly***, to Broome’s iconic Sun Pictures. Since 1996, Opera Australia has presented over 600 fully-staged opera performances in 115 different locations across the country. The company returns to Broome on its National Tour for the first time since 2004.

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 have teamed up with our local partners in Broome to present this wonderful production of *Madama Butterfly*. We have an exceptional cast who will give audiences an opportunity to hear this beautiful music sung in its original Italian, it is a feast for the senses!”

Bernard Gerbes is excited to be able to be partnering with Opera Australia for this performance:

“Broome is certainly privileged to host Opera Australia, an internationally acclaimed company, again this year. Complete with full operatic cast, orchestra, lighting and sets, it’s going to be a first class event the likes of which is rarely seen in Broome”

In this touring production, the role of Cio-Cio-San (the titular *Madama Butterfly*) will be shared by Eva Kong and Sharon Zhai, while Bradley Daley and Matthew Reardon will share the role of US naval officer Lieutenant Pinkerton. Zhai and Reardon are both returning to these roles after a record-breaking 2018 season. This year also marks up-and-coming Chinese-Australian mezzo-soprano Barbara Jin’s Opera Australia debut in the role of Suzuki.

Regarded by many as the world’s most celebrated opera, ***Madama Butterfly*** tells the tragic tale of two lovers separated by culture, oceans and time. This emotionally riveting production brings together two contrasting worlds through clever set and costume design. 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’). The production tours with a chamber orchestra, and is 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 of Broome to be a part of 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.

Through this initiative, Opera Australia is proud to continue the relationships within the Broome community established through our presentation of *Bran Nue Dae* – Touring Australia in 2020.

NATIONAL TOUR PARTNERS

LEADING PARTNER

PRODUCTION PARTNER

SUPPORTING PARTNER

PATRON-IN-CHIEF
DR HARUHISA HANDA

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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 DETAILS

Wednesday 14 August, 7:30pm
 Sun Pictures
 Running Time: 2 hours & 30 minutes including one twenty minute interval

BOOKINGS

opera.org.au/broome
 02 9318 8200

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

Elicia Petite | 0406 319 611 | captain@pirate88.com

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