MEDIA RELEASE
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Strauss | Directed by Gale Edwards | Conducted by Johannes Fritzsch

Sex, blood and opera: Salome returns to the Sydney stage

March 6–26, 2019 | Joan Sutherland Theatre, Sydney Opera House
Starring | Lise Lindstrom | Jacqueline Dark | Andreas Conrad | Alexander Krasnov

Based on Oscar Wilde’s 1891 banned play of the same name, Richard Strauss’ interpretation of this taboo-breaking biblical tale of sex and death returns to the Sydney stage for the first time since its premiere in 2012.

Described as “highly eccentric, even vulgar… also compelling, effective and deeply dramatic” (Sydney Morning Herald, 2012), this intense production powerfully conveys the spirit of Strauss’s phenomenal score and boldly explores the degeneracy of lust without limits.

Superstar American soprano Lise Lindstrom will bring her commanding stage presence to the titular role. Considered one of the world’s greatest interpreters of Salome, her vocal power and intensity will provide the perfect instrument to take on this famously taxing part. Lindstrom will perform alongside German tenor Andreas Conrad as the depraved King Herod. A regular performer at the Bayreuth Festival, Conrad will bring his talent to a role that is both theatrically and musically demanding.

Joining them onstage will be Australian favourite, mezzo soprano Jacqueline Dark, reprising the role of the malevolent Herodias and bass-baritone Alexander Krasnov, who will make his Opera Australia debut as the ill-fated Jokanaan.

Conductor Johannes Fritzsch will make his long awaited return to Opera Australia, leading a grand scale orchestra through Strauss’ entrancing score filled with exotic melodies and enticing rhythms, including the pivotal ‘Dance of the Seven Veils’, choreographed by renowned Australian choreographer, Kelley Abbey.

The production’s carnal ambiance is delivered by the design dream team; set designer Brian Thomson, costume designer Julie Lynch and lighting designer John Rayment. A visceral display of carcass backdrops, seductive costumes and chilling lighting provide a rich visual and emphasise the depravity on stage.
Creatives
Conductor Johannes Fritzsch
Director Gale Edwards
Revival Director Andy Morton
Set Designer Brian Thomson
Lighting Designer John Rayment
Choreographer Kelley Abbey

Cast
Salome Lise Lindstrom
Herodias Jacqueline Dark
Herod Andreas Conrad
Narraboth Paul O’Neill
Jokanaan Alexander Krasnov
Page/Slave Sian Pendry
First Jew Virgilio Marino
Second Jew Brad Cooper
Third Jew Benjamin Rasheed
Fourth Jew John Longmuir
Fifth Jew Andrew Moran
Soldier Gennadi Dubinsky
Cappadocian Alexander Hargreaves
First Nazarene David Parkin
Second Nazarene Christopher Hillier

Opera Australia Orchestra

Performance information
Evenings at 7.30pm
March 6, 9, 15, 18, 21, 26
Saturday Matinee at 1.00pm
March 23

Running time
Approximately 1 hour and 40 minutes with no interval.

Performed in German with English surtitles.

This production of Salome was commissioned by the Opera Conference, Australia’s national partnership of professional opera companies.

Bookings
Adult tickets from $47 (fees may apply)
Group and concession prices available for most performances.
Student Rush available for most performances: $50 (fees may apply)
Opera Australia Box Office
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Joan Sutherland Theatre, Sydney Opera House

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