

**MEDIA RELEASE**

13 June 2019

Verdi | Director &amp; Choreographer Davide Livermore | Conductor Francesco Lanzillotta

# Spectacular digital *Aida* to complement Ring Cycle Brisbane 2020

17 November – 4 December 2020 | Opera Australia | Opera Queensland

Starring | Elena Gabouri | Natalie Aroyan | Diego Torre | Amartuvshin Enkhbat | Roberto Scandiuzzi



Opera Australia and Opera Queensland today announced they will co-present **Davide Livermore's** critically acclaimed digital production of Verdi's mighty *Aida* alongside the Ring Cycle in 2020 at Queensland Performing Arts Centre.

This spectacular production played to rapturous audiences and rave reviews when it premiered in Sydney in 2018.

Opera Australia's Artistic Director Lyndon Terracini believes presenting, arguably the world's most popular opera in Brisbane alongside the Ring, will be yet another reason for audiences to embrace opera in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

"Co-presenting this work with Opera Queensland has given us the opportunity to further showcase our digital development program to the people of Queensland, and we're proud to have again assembled an amazingly talented cast of singers and musicians."

Patrick Nolan, Artistic Director and CEO of Opera Queensland said, "We are thrilled to be partnering with Opera Australia to bring this very fine production to audiences in Brisbane. The visual brilliance and very fine cast in this *Aida* is not to be missed."

This new interpretation by Livermore of Verdi's Egyptian world conveys the scale, depth and magnificence demanded by this monumental opera using the same integrated digital technologies as the Ring Cycle, slotting into the nights between performances and giving audiences even more spectacular opera to choose from.

This digital production elevates the audience experience to a whole new level with stunning visuals combining with **Gianluca Falaschi's** magnificent costumes, thrilling dance routines and the highest quality singing from the huge cast of principals, the Opera Australia and Opera Queensland chorus' and the Queensland Symphony Ring Cycle Orchestra, it is a feast for the senses.

The cast will feature some of the world's best singers for this special Brisbane event, including Australia's own **Natalie Aroyan** performing the lead role of the enslaved princess, *Aida*. She will be joined by dynamo French-Russian mezzo-soprano **Elena Gabouri** playing her arch-rival, *Amneris*.

Powerhouse tenor **Diego Torre** reprises his role as *Radames* and Mongolian baritone **Amartuvshin Enkhbat**, who recently wowed audiences in Melbourne with his magnificent portrayal of *Rigoletto*, will play the commanding role of King *Amonsaro*, the enslaved Ethiopian King and *Aida's* father.

Local Queenslander **Conal Coad** returns to the QPAC stage as The King while Italian bass **Roberto Scandiuzzi** reprises his role as Ramfis and **Dean Bassett** as the Messenger completes the exceptional cast.

Making his Australian debut will be one of the most exciting young conductors performing in Europe today, Italian **Maestro Francesco Lanzillotta**.

Tourism Industry Development Minister Kate Jones said the production would create a ‘festival of opera’ in Brisbane next year when it runs alongside the world-first operatic masterpiece Ring Cycle.

“Brisbane will turn into a festival of opera in 2020 when the production of Verdi’s grand Aida runs alongside the world-first Ring Cycle, enticing even more visitors to Queensland and injecting millions into the state’s economy,” Ms Jones said.

“The world-class tourism experiences that the city and wider region had to offer visitors to this event played a major role in Brisbane securing this event.

“This is another proud achievement in cementing Queensland as Australia’s major events capital.”

Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner said *Aida* running alongside the Ring Cycle would be another drawcard for people to enjoy opera in Brisbane in 2020.

“Major events like this inject more than \$150 million into Brisbane’s economy each year. They shine a spotlight on our wonderful city, draw interstate and international visitors, fill hotel rooms and boost hospitality, retail and service industries,” Cr Schrinner said.

“There is more to see and do in Brisbane than ever before, and it’s a very attractive offer for opera aficionados to be able to choose from the Ring Cycle, Aida or both in our city.”

*Aida* is co-presented by Opera Australia and Opera Queensland along with presenting partners Queensland Performing Arts Centre and Queensland Symphony Orchestra and is supported by the Queensland Government via Tourism and Events Queensland and Brisbane City Council via Brisbane Marketing.

**Creatives**

Conductor <b>Francesco Lanzillotta</b>	Costume Designer <b>Gianluca Falaschi</b>
Director & Choreographer <b>Davide Livermore</b>	Digital Content Designer <b>D-Wok</b>
Revival Director <b>Shane Placentino</b>	Lighting Designer <b>John Rayment</b>
Set Design <b>Giò Forma</b>	

**Cast**

Aida <b>Natalie Aroyan</b>	<b>Opera Australia Chorus &amp;</b>
Amneris <b>Elena Gabouri</b>	<b>Opera Queensland Chorus</b>
Radames <b>Diego Torre</b>	<b>Queensland Symphony Ring Cycle Orchestra</b>
Amonasro <b>Amartuvshin Enkhbat</b>	
Ramfis <b>Roberto Scandiuzzi</b>	
The King <b>Conal Coad</b>	
Messenger <b>Dean Bassett</b>	

**Performance information**

**Evenings at 7.30pm**

Nov 17, 20, 25, 30

Dec 2, 4

**Saturday Matinee at 1.00pm**

Nov 28

**Lyric Theatre, Queensland Performing Arts Centre**

**Running time** - Approximately 2 hours and 50 minutes, including one interval.

**Sung in Italian with English and Simplified Chinese surtitles.**

**Bookings**

**Media enquiries**

STRATEGIC PARTNERS



PRESENTING PARTNERS



PATRON-IN-CHIEF  
DR HARUHISA HANDA

OPERA AUSTRALIA PARTNER



Tickets are \$69, \$99, \$155, \$185, with 50% discount for children. Booking fees apply.

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