

**MEDIA RELEASE**

4 SEPTEMBER 2019

**Rossini** | Directed by Damiano Michieletto | Conducted by Daniel Smith

## World's most famous artworks come to life in the Sydney premiere of Rossini's opulent opera *Il Viaggio A Reims*

October 24 – November 2, 2019 | Sydney Opera House

**Starring** Irina Lungu | Teddy Tahu Rhodes | Warwick Fyfe | Shanul Sharma | Giorgio Caoduro | Juan de Dios Mateos | Julie Lea Goodwin | Conal Coad


**Damiano Michieletto's imaginative production of Rossini's exultant *Il Viaggio a Reims* will premiere in Sydney this October, marking the first time the opera has ever been performed in the city.**

Originally written to celebrate the coronation of French King Charles X in 1825, the lavish and highly entertaining opera tells the story of a group travelling to the coronation for which it was written. In Michieletto's visually striking production, the setting is moved to an art gallery, where the eccentric characters find themselves surrounded by the world's most famous artworks as they come to life including paintings by Frida Kahlo, Keith Haring and Vincent van Gogh.

The production will bring together the crème de la crème of local and international singers to perform as part of the sixteen strong principal cast including star Russian soprano **Irina Lungu** and popular baritones **Teddy Tahu Rhodes** and **Giorgio Caoduro**. Australian favourites taking the stage include **Warwick Fyfe**, **Julie Lea Goodwin**, **Sian Sharp** and **Conal Coad**. Opera Australia Young Artist **Shanul Sharma** will perform the role of Conte di Libenskof, arguably one of the most difficult roles in the opera repertoire for a tenor.

Australian conductor **Daniel Smith** will be making his Sydney debut leading this mammoth cast. Currently Principal Conductor at the Teatro Carlo Felice in Genoa, Italy, Smith rapidly gained international acclaim after winning First Prize, the Golden Baton and the Orchestra's Choice Prize, in UNESCO's International Conducting Competition.

The brilliant combination of **Paolo Fantin's** sets and **Carla Teti's** costumes will transport audiences to the sensational and visually rich world envisioned by Michieletto. Iconic paintings have been recreated with remarkable fidelity; bringing together a collection of the world's best known artworks culminating in a grand scale *tableau vivant*.

A co-production with the Dutch National Opera, Opera Australia and Royal Danish Opera, OA is delighted to present this highly entertaining and imaginative production of Rossini's incredible and rarely performed work.

**Creatives**

Conductor **Daniel Smith**  
 Director **Damiano Michieletto**  
 Revival Director **Constantine Costi**  
 Set Designer **Paolo Fantin**  
 Costume Designer **Carla Teti**  
 Lighting Designer **Alessandro Carletti**

**Cast**

Corinna **Irina Lungu**  
 Contessa di Folleville **Emma Pearson**  
 Madama Cortese **Julie Lea Goodwin**  
 Marchesa Melibea **Sian Sharp**  
 Cavalier Belfiore **Juan de Dios Mateos**  
 Conte di Libenskof **Shanul Sharma**  
 Barone di Trombonok **Warwick Fyfe**  
 Lord Sidney **Teddy Tahu Rhodes**  
 Don Profondo **Giorgio Caoduro**  
 Maddalena **Jennifer Black**  
 Don Alvaro **Luke Gabbedy**  
 Don Prudenzio **Conal Coad**  
 Don Luigino **John Longmuir**  
 Antonio **Christopher Hillier**  
 Delia **Kathryn Radcliffe**  
 Modestina **Eva Kong**  
 Zefirino **Stuart Haycock**

**Opera Australia Chorus**  
**Opera Australia Orchestra**

**Performance information**

**Evenings at 7pm**  
 October 24, 28, 30  
**Saturday Evening at 7.30pm**  
 October 26  
**Saturday Matinee at 12.00pm**  
 November 2

**Running time**

Approximately 3 hours and 20 minutes,  
 including one interval.

Performed in Italian with English surtitles.

A co-production of the Dutch National Opera,  
 Amsterdam, Opera Australia, and Royal Danish  
 Opera, Copenhagen.

**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  
 (02) 9318 8200  
[www.opera.org.au](http://www.opera.org.au)

**Joan Sutherland Theatre, Sydney Opera House**

**Media enquiries**

Kate Warnock | Publicist  
 02 9318 8332 | 0419 316 135  
[kate.warnock@opera.org.au](mailto:kate.warnock@opera.org.au)