



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

18 March 2021

**Opera Australia and the Really Useful Group
announce the first ever season of**

**CAMERON MACKINTOSH'S
Spectacular New Production of**

**ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S
THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
at THE SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE**

Starring Australia's JOSH PITERMAN as the Phantom

OPENING SEPTEMBER 2021 TICKETS ON SALE 19 APRIL 2021

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Opera Australia in association with **The Really Useful Group**, will present **Cameron Mackintosh's** spectacular new production of **Andrew Lloyd Webber's *THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA***, finally making its highly anticipated premiere at the **Sydney Opera House**.

Marking almost 35 years to the day since it opened in London's West End, before going on to become one of the most successful musicals of all time, this will be the first time in the show's history that it will play in the iconic Joan Sutherland Theatre, Australia's home of opera when it opens this September.

This spectacular new staging by **Cameron Mackintosh** premiered with a record-breaking sell out tour of the UK followed by a 7-year tour of the United States which grossed over US\$400 million and thrilled critics and audiences alike. Australia is now only the third country to see this new **PHANTOM** with its beloved and thrilling score including the hit songs *The Music of the Night*, *All I Ask of You* and *Masquerade*. With stunning new staging and scenic design, **Maria Björnson's** iconic original costumes and many special effects including a spectacular new realisation of the show's chandelier. It will be performed in Australia by a cast and orchestra of 65, making it one of the largest musical productions ever in Australia.

Andrew Lloyd Webber and **Cameron Mackintosh** said, "We are thrilled to be bringing this exciting new production to Australia with its spectacular new staging by director Laurence Connor and fabulous designs by Paul Brown and Maria Björnson. The show has already proved a sensational box office success on National tours across the UK and the US. It is a great delight to us both that a new production which has a totally original take on our beloved Phantom has been embraced with as much enthusiasm as the brilliant original.



PHANTOM

“Our wonderful cast will be headed by the terrific Australian star **Josh Piterman** who recently scored a huge personal triumph playing the role of Phantom in London before we had to close because of the pandemic. So let our Opera begin at the Opera House!”

Josh Piterman is an established musical theatre performer and classical crossover artist who has been working consistently on Australian and UK stages over the past 15 years. His past credits include being a part of international pop opera group *The Ten Tenors*, *Tony* in the 2010 Australian production of *Westside Story*, *Bustopher Jones/Gus/Growltiger* in the 2015/16 Australian season of *Cats* (a role that won him the Green Room Award for best supporting actor in a Musical), *Corny Collins* in the UK tour of *Hairspray* and *Gerry Goffin* in the 2017/18 Australian tour of *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*. His impressive West End debut came as he took on the most coveted role as *The Phantom* in **THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA** in 2019.

“Words cannot describe how I feel about being cast in this **Sydney Opera House** season of **THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA**. The role of *The Phantom* has truly been a lifelong dream of mine and donning the mask on the West End stage in such a legendary production was magical in every way. Experiencing the global effects of the pandemic especially on the theatre industry over the past year has been difficult for so many, which makes it an even bigger honour to now be able to play *The Phantom* at home, helping to resurrect our industry and bring people back to our theatres” said Josh.

Opera Australia’s Artistic Director Lyndon Terracini commented, “We are thrilled at **Opera Australia** to be presenting such an iconic piece of musical theatre at the Sydney Opera House. We are looking forward to working with **Cameron Mackintosh** and **Andrew Lloyd Webber** to present this new production in Australia, creating incredible theatre for audiences to enjoy and opportunities for many arts professionals to return to.”

The NSW Government is proud to support this new production of **PHANTOM** through its tourism and major events agency, Destination NSW.

NSW Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney, Stuart Ayres, said, “Musicals and theatre productions are a major contributor to the NSW visitor economy, which is why we have been working with Health and the live performance community to get this important sector back up and thriving.

“**THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA** is a cultural icon and we anticipate that this upcoming season at the Sydney Opera House will attract more than 10,000 visitors who stay more than 25,000 nights and spend close to \$6.14 million. We are delighted to have secured this significant coup for Sydney, which also reinforces our vision of positioning Sydney and NSW as the premier events destination of the Asia Pacific.”

PHANTOM IS AN ENORMOUS HIT ALL OVER AGAIN!

★★★★★

“**Andrew Lloyd Webber’s ravishing score, intense and spectacular, a stunning new design with fresh drama and added momentum.**”

Sunday Express

★★★★★

“**Delight at the opera, this new Phantom soars to incredible heights.**”

Manchester Evening News

“**The Phantom is back. If you liked the show before, you’ll probably like this one even better.**”

Seattle Times



PHANTOM

“Extraordinarily opulent. This Phantom’s storytelling and relationships have an electrifying tension.”

Chicago Sun-Times

“Powerful, gorgeous...and better than ever.”

-The Philadelphia Inquirer

“Take a deep breath and prepare to be dazzled; this kind of gorgeous escapism is exactly what audiences need.”

-The Scotsman (U.K.)

“This PHANTOM is for a new generation.”

-Roy Leonard, Chicago Now

Directed by **Laurence Connor** with choreography by **Scott Ambler**, set design by **Paul Brown**, Tony Award®-winning original costume design by **Maria Björnson**, lighting design by Tony Award®-winner **Paule Constable** and sound design by **Mick Potter**, **THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA** has music by **Andrew Lloyd Webber**, lyrics by **Charles Hart** (with additional lyrics by **Richard Stilgoe**), book by **Richard Stilgoe** and **Andrew Lloyd Webber**, orchestrations by **David Cullen** and **Andrew Lloyd Webber**. This new production is overseen by **Matthew Bourne** and **Cameron Mackintosh**.

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA in Australia is directed by **Seth Sklar-Heyn** and produced by **Cameron Mackintosh**, **The Really Useful Group** and **Opera Australia**.

Based on the classic novel *Le Fantôme de L’Opéra* by Gaston Leroux, **THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA** tells the story of a masked figure who lurks beneath the catacombs of the Paris Opera House, exercising a reign of terror over all who inhabit it. He falls madly in love with an innocent young soprano, Christine, and devotes himself to creating a new star by nurturing her extraordinary talents and by employing all of the devious methods at his command.

Full casting for **PHANTOM** will be announced at a later date.

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For more information on the production and a video sneak peek, please visit

[phantomoftheopera.com.au](https://www.phantomoftheopera.com.au)

PLEASE SEE LINK HERE TO DOWNLOAD IMAGES AND VISION

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For all media enquiries please contact:

Vicky Iliopoulos, Lucky Star Media +61 410 551 388 vicky@luckystarmedia.com.au