

MEDIA RELEASE

3 June 2021

Bizet | Directed by Matthew Barclay | Conducted by Luke Spicer

OA returns to Canberra with fiery new production of *Carmen*, opera's most famous femme fatale

8 – 10 July 2021 | Canberra Theatre Centre



As part of the 25th anniversary of its national touring program, Opera Australia is bringing an exciting new production of Bizet's *Carmen* by director Matthew Barclay to the Canberra Theatre Centre this July.

Opening in Victoria in May to enthusiastic acclaim, this brand new production of Bizet's most famous opera is set in Franco's socially conservative 1950's Spain and follows the ill-fated relationship of a free spirited gypsy woman, the fiery *Carmen*, and the passionate and ultimately destructive police corporal-turned-rebel Don José.

"Director and choreographer Matthew Barclay's evocative mid-20th century transposition is a revving good fit, energetically choreographed and complimented by a strong, versatile cast....here is a great chance to see Carmen close up and be swept up in its simmering Spanish tragedy." – Limelight, 17 May 2021.

Director Matthew Barclay is aware that this may be some people's first encounter with Bizet's work.

"I'm so excited to have created this touring production of *Carmen*, I really hope it enables newcomers to fall in love with the opera.

"Carmen really has it all, some of opera's greatest music and most famous tunes, Spanish flair, passion, tragedy and a truly enigmatic character in *Carmen*, but above all it's about love," said Matthew.

The tour also provides an invaluable opportunity for local Canberra children to experience this traditional art form with a professional company, by participating in the children's chorus. Under the direction of Children's Chorus Master Kate Stuart, children are selected by local choir leaders and learn the music from *Carmen* before joining the professional cast for rehearsals and then on stage for the performance.

As Australia's national opera company OA maintains the importance of performing across the country, as far and as wide as possible, to help Australians everywhere access the art form, experience the magic of opera and encourage children to pursue a career in music.

Over the past 25 years OA's tour has traditionally alternated between the northern and southern states each year, covering more than 305,000kms to present more than 655 fully-staged performances in 117 different locations.

For the 2021 'mega-tour' of Australia, OA is making up for the cancellation of last year's tour due to COVID by performing in more than 40 cities and towns across the country, from May through to August 2021.

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PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY



PATRON-IN-CHIEF



DR HARUHISA HANDA



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Creatives

Conductor **Luke Spicer**
 Director & Choreographer **Matthew Barclay**
 Set & Costume Designer **Anna Cordingley**
 Lighting Designer **Paul Jackson**
 Orchestration **Robert Andrew Greene**
 Children's Chorus Master **Kate Stuart**

Cast

Carmen
Angela Hogan
Dimity Shepherd
Agnes Sarkis
 Don José
Iain Henderson
Matthew Reardon
 Micaela
Danita Weatherstone
Cathy-Di Zhang
 Micaela/Frasquita
Esther Song
 Escamillo/Zuniga
Alexander Sefton
Haotian Qi
 Dancairo
Michael Lampard
 Remendado
Daniel Todd
 Frasquita
Giuseppina Grech
Clarissa Spata
 Mercedes
Genevieve Dickson
 Morales
Daniel Macey

Performance information

Evenings at 7.30pm
 July 8, 9, 10

Saturday Matinee at 1pm
 July 10

Canberra Theatre Centre

Running time

Approximately 2 hours and 25 minutes
 including one interval

Performed in French with English surtitles

Bookings

Adult tickets from \$79 (fees may apply)
 Canberra Theatre Centre Box Office
 (02) 6275 2700
canberratheatrecentre.com.au
<https://opera.org.au/events/national-tour/carmen/>

This Production is Supported by
 The Opera Conference, Australia's national
 partnership of professional opera companies.

The Australian Government through the
 Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding
 and advisory body.

The NSW Government through Create NSW.
 The Victorian Government through Creative
 Victoria.

**The National Tour Regional Children's
 Chorus Program is Supported by**

The Bourne Foundation
 The William Rubensohn Foundation

Media enquiries

Janet Glover | Communications Manager | 0412 601816 janet.glover@opera.org.au
 Christy Seddon | Publicist | 0413 890 819 | christy.seddon@opera.org.au

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