

MEDIA RELEASE

15 February 2022

Halévy | Directed by Olivier Py | Conducted by Carlo Montanaro***La Juive*'s story of impossible love to finally premiere in Australia****March 9 - 26, 2022** | Joan Sutherland Theatre, Sydney Opera House**Starring** | Natalie Aroyan | Diego Torre | Francisco Brito | Esther Song

After pandemic restrictions shut down its scheduled opening in 2020, acclaimed French director Olivier Py's new production of *La Juive* will finally have its Australian premiere at the Sydney Opera House, this coming March.

Big and tragically romantic, Fromental Halévy's heart-wrenching opera about forbidden love between a Christian and a Jew offers audiences the rare treat of two sopranos, two tenors and a world-class bass raising their voices together.

The Australian premiere of *La Juive* has been cast with some of the country's finest singers developed by Opera Australia over the last decade. Sopranos Natalie Aroyan and Esther Song sing the parts of Rachel and Princess Eudoxie respectively, while bass David Parkin plays Cardinal Brogni, and Diego Torre will soar through the tremendously difficult tenor part of Eléazar.

Argentinian tenor Francisco Brito will make his Opera Australia debut in the role of Leopold, having sung it in Konstanz, Germany, in 2018. Celebrated Italian maestro Carlo Montanaro also visits Australia to conduct the Opera Australia Orchestra and Chorus through the challenging yet shimmering score.

Py's updated setting of 1930s France adds to the drama, providing an extra layer of historical context to the secrets and impossible choices, bitter rivalries and persecution, forgiveness and sacrifice that play out in poignant moments right until the final curtain.

Halévy's most successful opera, *La Juive* still delivers a relevant and important message of religious tolerance where audiences can't help but empathise with the doomed Jewish woman and Christian man who love each other but can't be together.

A co-production with the Opéra National de Lyon, *La Juive* features an impressive set and elegant monochromatic costume designs by Pierre-André Weitz and striking lighting by Bertrand Killy, Py's version was labelled "*highly impactful*" and received a five star review from Bachtrack when it premiered in Lyon in 2016.

PATRON-IN-CHIEF
DR HARUHISA HANDA



HERO PARTNERS



GOVERNMENT PARTNERS



Creatives

Conductor **Carlo Montanaro**
 Director **Olivier Py**
 Revival Director **Constantine Costi**
 Set & Costume Designer **Pierre-André Weitz**
 Lighting Designer **Bertrand Killy**

Cast

Rachel **Natalie Aroyan**
 Eléazar **Diego Torre**
 Leopold **Francisco Brito**
 Princess Eudoxie **Esther Song**
 Cardinal Brogni **David Parkin**
 Ruggiero **Andrew Moran**
 Albert **Richard Anderson**
 Herald **Shane Lawrencev**
 1st Man of the People **Alexander Hargreaves**
 2nd Man of the People **Tom Hamilton**
 Officer **Tomas Dalton**
 Executioner **Anthony Mackey**

Opera Australia Chorus

Opera Australia Orchestra

Opera Australia is committed to COVID Safe practices.
 Please refer to the website for the Company's COVID Safe procedures:
<https://opera.org.au/covid-safety>

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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Performance information

Evenings at 7pm
 March 9, 15, 18, 22, 24
Saturday Matinees at 12pm
 March 12, 26

Running time

Approximately 3 hours and 20 minutes including one interval

Performed in French with English surtitles

Production Patron



Proudly supported by *La Juive* Syndicate

Bookings

Adult tickets from \$79 (fees may apply)

Opera Australia Box Office
 (02) 9318 8200
www.opera.org.au

**Joan Sutherland Theatre,
 Sydney Opera House**