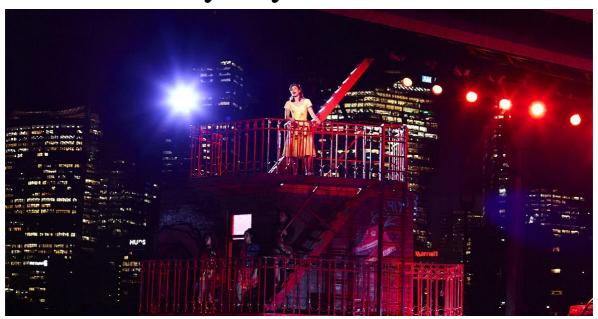
MEDIA RELEASE

22 March 2024

Smash-hit musical West Side Story lights up **Sydney Harbour**



RED CARPET ARRIVAL PHOTOS linked here

PRODUCTION PHOTOS, VIDEO B-ROLL and AUDIO linked here

NINA KORBE OPENING NIGHT PHOTO linked here

Opera Australia's smash-hit musical West Side Story on Sydney Harbour opened to a full house when it returned to the open-air stage at Mrs Macquaries Point, tonight Friday 22 March.

There was a buzz in the air as the glamorous, star-studded audience descended on the stunning waterfront setting for the keenly anticipated return of the most popular production ever staged at Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour.

The exceptional cast received rapturous applause, with stand-out performances by newcomer First Nations soprano Nina Korbe playing Maria and Canberra-born Billy Bourchier in his lead-role debut as Tony.

They were joined by Newcastle-born Patrick Whitbread as Riff, Gold Coast's Kimberley Hodgson as Anita, and Broadway performer Manuel Stark Santos in his Australian debut as Bernardo.

Jerome Robbins' celebrated choreography, that includes famous dance scenes like 'Dance at the Gym' and 'America', was elevated to larger-than-life status by a brilliantly talented and energetic ensemble of 33 dancers from all around Australia.

This legendary Broadway musical returns to Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour for a limited four-week season, directed by Francesca Zambello with Associate Director Eric Sean Fogel, Revival Choreographer Kiira Schmidt Carper and Musical Director Guy Simpson, who will conduct each performance.

Known as one of Sydney's most spectacular night's out, an evening at Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour includes a dazzling fireworks display, a range of pop-up bars and eateries across the site and unmatched views of Sydney's city skyline, including the Sydney Opera House and Harbour Bridge.

Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour is supported by the NSW Government, via its tourism and major events agency Destination NSW, and through the International Foundation for Arts and Culture as Naming Rights Partner, Dr Haruhisa Handa OA's Patron in Chief, and OA's Principal Partner HSBC.

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Creatives

Director Francesca Zambello Musical Director Guy Simpson Associate Director Eric Sean Fogel Revival Choreographer Kiira Schmidt Carper Set Design Brian Thomson Costume Design Jennifer Irwin Lighting Design John Rayment Sound Design Des O'Neill

Cast

Maria Nina Korbe

Tony Billy Bourchier

Anita Kimberley Hodgson

Riff Patrick Whitbread

Bernardo Manuel Stark Santos

Doc Wayne Scott Kermond

Schrank Scott Irwin

Officer Krupke Joe Clements

Gladhand Doron Chester

Standby Tony & Gladhand Joel Granger

Standby Maria Clarissa Spata

Male Swing Noah Missell

Female Swing Tayla-Grace Azzopardi

The Jets

John Rex Berry, Molly Bugeja, Ella Fitzpatrick, Ewan Herdman, Luke Jarvis, Chloë Marshall, Lexie Mav, Brittany Page, Bronson Pfeiler, Dimitri Raptis, Jamie Reisin, Lewis Shilvock, Ryan Smith, Bree Stephens, Daniel Wijngaarden and P. Tucker Worley.

The Sharks

Eli Clarke, Steve Costi, Tiana Costanzo, Emma Feliciano, Diego Garcia, Stefan Lagoulis, Josephine Lopes, Jayme Jo Massoud, Avigalle Mendoza, Matthew Nguyễn, Rebecca Ordiz, Temujin Tera, William Tukia-Edwards, Christopher Theodore Tsattalios and Massimo Zuccara.

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Performance information

Evenings at 7.30pm

March 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 30, 31 April 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21

Running time

Approximately 2 hours and 45 minutes including one interval

Bookings

Adult tickets from \$79 (fees may apply)

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

Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour Fleet Steps, Mrs Macquaries Point







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