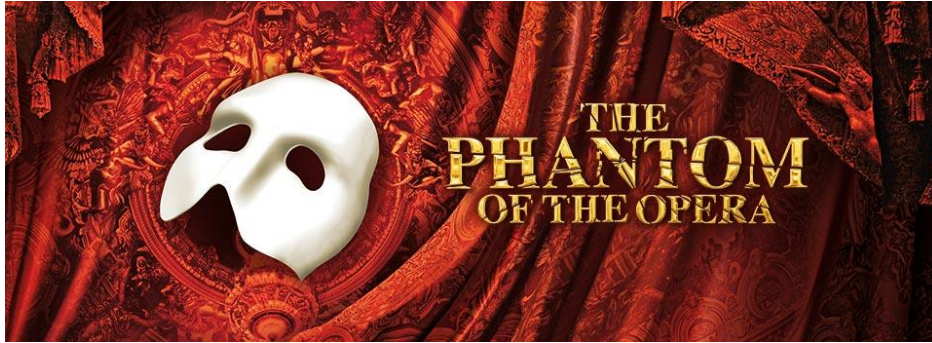




Media Release 3 August 2022



## ***THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA***

# **Rehearsals underway ahead of historic Sydney Opera House Premiere Season**

**Only 3 weeks until the chandelier drops!**

**[First look at Australian cast in rehearsals here](#)**

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The energy in the rehearsal room continues to intensify as the 37-strong company count down towards the first preview of Andrew Lloyd Webber's *The Phantom of the Opera* at the globally renowned **Sydney Opera House** on 19 August.

Preparations continue as this passionate and talented company wait for the curtain to rise – and the chandelier to drop - on this historic premiere Sydney season of one of the most successful and celebrated musicals of all time, in one of the world's most iconic buildings.

Director **Seth Sklar-Heyn** said, "It is thrilling to be in Sydney working with this incredible Australian company, who are going above and beyond in our rehearsals to bring this theatrical masterpiece to the stage. I am excited for audiences to see them all breathe new life into this classic story and Andrew Lloyd Webber's magnificent score, while inhabiting a truly unique physical production. The anticipation is building for all of us to finally move into one of the most famous opera houses in the world. Sydney Opera House, the Phantom is ready and on his way!"

The talented Australian cast is led by **Josh Piterman** in the coveted lead role of the *Phantom* while **Amy Manford** takes on the role of the ingénue *Christine Daaé* and **Blake Bowden** plays *Raoul Vicomte de Chagny*.

Australian musical theatre stalwart **David Whitney** will play *Monsieur Firmin*, **Andy Morton** returns to the stage as *Monsieur André* and soprano **Giuseppina Grech** will play *Carlotta Guidicelli*. *Madame Girly* will be played by **Jayde Westaby**, while classical crossover artist **Paul Tabone** will revive the role he played to much acclaim on Sydney Harbour earlier this year as *Ubaldo Piangi*, and newcomer **Mietta White** will play young ballerina *Meg Girly*.

Joining them will be the talented ensemble cast including **Elliot Baker**, **Anton Berezin**, **Laura Bianchi-Bishop**, **Eleanor Blythman**, **Gavin Brown**, **Ben Clark**, **Bridget Costello**, **Andrew Dunne**, **Lewis Francis**, **Christina Gibbs**, **Claudia Hastings**, **Olivia Jenkins**, **Daniel Koek**, **Naomi Livingston**, **Josephine Lonergan**, **Aaron Lynch**, **Lucy MacFarlane**, **Kayleigh Marven**, **Emma McFarlane**, **Lachlan O'Brien**, **Brittany Page**, **Edward Smith**, **Anna Stephens**, **Tod Strike**, **Troy Sussman**, **Raphael Wong**, **Jack Wunsch** and **Elisha Zion Lee**.



The Sydney season of ***The Phantom of the Opera*** is supported by the NSW Government via its tourism and major events agency Destination NSW.

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**.

**PHANTOM IS AN ENORMOUS HIT ALL OVER AGAIN!**

★★★★★

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

**“Extraordinarily opulent. This Phantom’s storytelling and relationships have an electrifying tension.”**  
*Chicago Sun-Times*

**“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*

**Joan Sutherland Theatre, Sydney Opera House 19 August - 16 October 2022**

**Tickets [PHANTOMOFTHEOPERA.COM.AU](https://www.phantomoftheopera.com.au)**

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For more information on the production please visit [phantomoftheopera.com.au](https://www.phantomoftheopera.com.au)

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**About Destination NSW**

Destination NSW is the lead agency, champion and voice for the visitor economy within the NSW Government. Spearheading a whole-of-government approach to visitor economy growth, Destination NSW is responsible for leading the delivery of the NSW Visitor Economy Strategy 2030 in partnership with government and industry. Destination NSW influences and shapes the visitor economy through strategic research, policy and thought leadership, stakeholder engagement and consultation, commercial partnerships and investment in visitor experiences, business support, marketing and events. Destination NSW is also the major investor in Business Events Sydney (BESydney) for the purpose of securing more international and domestic conventions, incentive travel reward programs, corporate events and exhibitions.