



CO-OPERA PRESENTS ROSSINI'S OPERA 'THE BARBER OF SEVILLE'

Straight from a sell-out regional tour of the eastern states, Co-Opera will present their acclaimed production of Rossini's comic opera *'The Barber of Seville'* in Adelaide and regional SA in the coming weeks.

A raucous story of mistaken identity and the mysteries and mischief of young love, *Barber of Seville* has remained widely popular with audiences since its creation two hundred years ago.

The cast features some of Australia's finest emerging opera artists including mezzo-soprano Bronwyn Douglass (*Joan Sutherland and Richard Bonynges Bel Canto Award* winner, 2107) in the role of Rosina and is conducted by Co-Opera's newly appointed Musical Director Josh van Konkelenberg.

This is van Konkelenberg's first production and tour for the company. "I'm really excited to be conducting this production. The whole ensemble makes Rossini's score sparkle," said van Konkelenberg

Co-Opera was founded in 1995 by Brian Chatterton OAM, who saw the need to give emerging Opera talent (singers, musicians, technicians and designers) real opportunities to perform and develop their craft whilst delivering culture and live opera performances to Australia's more regional and remote communities.

The 2018 tour of *Barber of Seville* travels across regional Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia and includes 20+ performances under the Gumtrees, in Woolsheds, Rec Centres, and Community Theatres as well as partnerships with Deniliquin Air Show and the Penola Coonawarra Arts Festival. In many places, audiences bring a picnic and enjoy the show in cabaret style settings. The company works with local community choirs in various towns who perform the choruses alongside the professional singers, and where possible deliver workshops to school children.

In 2018 Co-Opera extends its home-state presence thanks to **SA Power Networks**, who are helping to connect local communities to unique cultural experiences in Whyalla, Port Lincoln, Ceduna and Roxby Downs.

EVENT: *The Barber of Seville* - Rossini
SEASON: National Regional Tour – NSW, VIC, SA (March-May 2018)

Adelaide – Sun 22, Sat 28, Sun 29 April 2018 (7:30pm)
The Thomas Edmonds Opera Studio, Adelaide Showgrounds

Regional SA: Penola – Thu 17 May, Whyalla – Sat 19 May, Pt Lincoln – Sun 20 May, Ceduna – Wed 23 May, Roxby Downs – Sat 25 May

Tickets on sale now at www.co-opera.com.au



ABOUT CO-OPERA

Co-Opera is Australia's *Opera on the move* company, dedicated to bringing culture and unforgettable experiences to regional and remote Australia. Co-Opera specialises in engaging and fun productions of great operas, allowing audiences to relax and enjoy an evening of incredible music and performance.

Founded in 1995, Co-Opera has performed in every state and territory in Australia and toured SE Asia and to Germany. The company was founded by Brian Chatterton OAM, who saw the need to give emerging Opera talent (singers, musicians, technicians and designers) real opportunities to perform and develop their craft whilst delivering culture and live opera performances to Australia's more regional and remote communities.

PRODUCTION CREATIVES

Director: Tessa Bremner OAM

Conductor: Josh van Konkelenberg

Set Designer: Ian Macdonald

Costume Designer: Giovina d'Angelo

Lighting Designer: Brenton Watson

BARBER OF SEVILLE: CAST

Figaro: Shoumendu Schornikow (VIC)/ Daniel Smerdon (QLD)

Rosina: Bronwyn Douglass (NSW) / Livia Brash (NSW)

Count Almaviva: Shanul Sharma (VIC) / Branko Lovrinov (SA)

Doctor Bartolo: Matt Biscombe (VIC)/ Daniel Smerdon (QLD)

Don Basilio: Eddie Muliaumaseali'I (VIC)

Berta: Sidonie Henbest (SA)

Fiorello: Rod Schultz (SA)

Chorus: Peter Deane, Duncan Vecchiarelli, David Visentin (SA)

With the musicians of the Royal Commonwealth Society Ensemble

www.co-opera.com.au

www.rcsensemble.com.au

Publicity enquiries:

Sidonie Henbest - Co-Opera "*Opera on the Move*"

E: sidonie.henbest@co-opera.com.au

M: 0416 454 466