

MEDIA RELEASE

WEST AUSTRALIAN OPERA PRESENTS

FALSTAFF

GIUSEPPE VERDI

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE

3, 5, 8, 10, 12 November at 7.30pm

**Conducted by Simon Hewett
with James Clayton, Sitiveni Talei and
Elisa Wilson**

Sung in Italian with English surtitles



Falstaff is one of Shakespeare's greatest creations, a character who we both laugh with and laugh at, almost in the same breath.

Although written when Verdi was 80 years of age, Falstaff is filled with the spirit of youth and joy and is considered one of the great comedies.

Set in the reign of Henry IV, Sir John Falstaff is always inappropriate with his larger than life behaviour and amorous adventures.

Falstaff is in love with two wealthy married women - Meg Page and Alice Ford, - who each receive identical love letters from him. Young Fenton is in love with Nannetta but their marriage is opposed by her father, Ford, who prefers old Dr Caius as her suitor. After a series of hilarious and complicated interactions, mostly presided over by Mistress Quickly, the tangled webs of romantic intrigue, disguise and mistaken identities joyfully unravel.

Baritone **James Clayton** takes on the title role of Sir John Falstaff with **Elisa Wilson** and **Sarah-Janet Brittenden** as his prime love interests. **Katja Webb** makes her second appearance with the company this year, this time in the role of Nannetta. Joining them are **Sitiveni Talei, Sally-Anne Russell, Sam Sakker, Bernard Hull, Gérard Schneider** and **Ryan Sharp**, who is making his professional debut.

The brilliant orchestration will be performed by the **West Australian Symphony Orchestra** accompanied by the **West Australian Opera Chorus** under the baton of Australian conductor Simon Hewett.

Tickets on sale now at all BOCS ticketing outlets on 9484 1133 or on www.bocsticketing.com.au

Further media information:

Lynne Burford Publicity
Ph: 08 9355 1455 or 041 792 1038
Email: lburford@inet.net.au