

**WEST AUSTRALIAN OPERA PRESENTS
THE TALES OF HOFFMANN
JACQUES OFFENBACH**

WA PREMIERE

**HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE
14, 16, 19, 21, 23 July at 7.30pm**

**Conducted by Lionel Friend
with Rosario La Spina, Rachelle Durkin
and James Clayton**

Sung in French with English surtitles



Set in a tavern in Nuremburg, the opera revolves around Hoffmann, an ardent lover, poet and writer who tells three stories of his great but unhappy loves all ending tragically thanks to the meddling of his enemy, a supernatural villain and evil genius.

Objects of Hoffmann's love and desire include Olympia, the wind-up doll; Giulietta, the Venetian courtesan who, in collaboration with the villain Dapertutto, robs Hoffmann of his 'other self' in the form of his reflection, and Antonia, the frail and beautiful opera-singer, who is unable to sing due to a hereditary chest complaint.

This Roger Kirk production is a WA Premiere and an 'opera fantastique' – the perfect combination of fantasy and classical music with an endless stream of gorgeous melodies, seductive and tender love scenes, bizarre characters and tragic climaxes.

Starring Rosario La Spina as the lovesick Hoffmann, Rachelle Durkin as incarnations of his three loves and James Clayton as Hoffmann's rival in the duplicitous roles of Lindorf, Coppelius, Dapertutto and Dr Miracle.

Conducted by Lionel Friend and directed by Stuart Maunder, this dark romantic fairy tale is a true feast for the eyes and ears. The ensemble includes Adrian McEniery, Catherine Carby, Robert Hofmann, Andrew Foote and Sarah-Janet Brittenden.

The most famous number from the opera is the Barcarolle (folk song) in Act 2. This theme has been incorporated into numerous modern movie scores including *Life is Beautiful* and *Titanic*.

Featuring the West Australian Opera Chorus and West Australian Symphony Orchestra, Offenbach's final masterpiece is a must-see event on the arts calendar of Perth.

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

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