

Opera with a strange tale

■ William Yeoman

Perth shoppers took photos with their mobile phones yesterday as a chorus of automatons headed for a coffee break during rehearsals for WA Opera's production of Offenbach's tuneful, fantastical opera *The Tales of Hoffmann*, which opens next week at His Majesty's Theatre. WA-born soprano Rachelle Durkin will sing four roles while tenor Rosario La Spina will play the lovesick poet Hoffmann, who attempts to woo a succession of beautiful women.



Theatre outing: Automatons from the opera 'The Tales of Hoffmann'.

Picture: Michael Wilson