

**City of Perth's Opera in the Park  
20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert**

# **Die Fledermaus**

**JOHANN STRAUSS**

**FREE EVENT - SUPREME COURT GARDENS  
Saturday 5 February at 8pm**

**Conductor - Richard Mills  
MC - Channel 9's Greg Pearce**



***Die Fledermaus***, the evergreen comedic operetta by Johann Strauss provides the perfect offering for West Australian Opera's 'Opera in the Park' in 2011. This semi-staged concert will be the company's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of presenting opera as a free public event in the heart of the city. Starring Australia's favourite tenor, **David Hobson** as Eisenstein, with the stunning **Katja Webb** as Rosalinde this production will mark the directorial debut of popular West Australian Opera award winning baritone, **Andrew Foote**.

Andrew has performed many roles with West Australian Opera over his career, beginning with *Eureka* in 1988, and has sung with Opera Australia and OzOpera. Andrew featured in West Australian Opera's very first 'Opera in the Park' event 20 years ago, which was ***Die Fledermaus*** (1991).

Andrew won a Helpmann Award for Best Male Performer in a Supporting Role in an Opera for the West Australian Opera production of ***Peter Grimes*** (2010).

The story of ***Die Fledermaus*** begins when Eisenstein is sentenced to eight days in prison for insulting an official. His good friend Falke tells him to forget his woes for just one night and accompany him to a ball at Prince Orlovsky's home prior to commencing his sentence.

Bidding farewell to his wife Rosalinde and pretending he is going straight to prison, Eisenstein skips off to the ball. And there the fun begins!

The characters are colourful and the plot abounds with great confusion, comedy and disguise. The captivating, exuberant music of Strauss's most celebrated opera performed by the **West Australian Symphony Orchestra** accompanied by the **West Australian Opera Chorus**, together with the magical setting of the park, will ensure an enchanting evening.

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