



Wesfarmers Arts

# SYNOPSIS & CASTLIST

**Executive Director** Carolyn Chard AM  
**Artistic Director** Chris van Tuinen

## CARMEN

**24, 25 February 2023**  
**WACA Ground**

**Composer** Georges Bizet  
**Libretto** Ludovic Halévy, Henri Meilhac  
**Conductor** Dane Lam  
**Director** Stuart Maunder  
**Video and Lighting Designer** Sean McKernan  
**Fight Coordinator** Nastassja Kruger  
**Chorus Master** Hugh Lydon  
**Repetiteur** Tommaso Pollio  
**French Language Coach** Helen Brown  
**English Dialogue by** Tabatha McFadyen

**Carmen** Ashlyn Tymms  
**Don José** Paul O'Neill  
**Escamillo** José Carbó  
**Micaëla** Prudence Sanders  
**Frasquita** Emma Petteimerides  
**Mercédès** Brigitte Heuser  
**Moralès** Lachlann Lawton  
**Zuniga** Jake Bigwood  
**El Dancaïro** Mark Alderson  
**El Remendado** Matt Reuben James Ward  
**Lillas Pastia** Callen Dellar

*Castings correct at time of publication but may be subject to amendment.*

**WEST AUSTRALIAN OPERA CHORUS**  
**WEST AUSTRALIAN OPERA CHILDREN'S CHORUS**  
**WEST AUSTRALIAN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

Duration 3 hours including one interval.  
Sung in French with English surtitles.

Presented in association with Perth Festival.

### ACT ONE - SEVILLE

Micaëla is searching for Don José, but he is not amongst the soldiers on duty. The workers come out for their break, Carmen amongst them. Micaëla returns with a letter from Don José's mother, which dispels his thoughts of Carmen and reminds him of his love for Micaëla. Screams erupt from the factory where Carmen has attacked another worker. She is arrested and Don José is left to guard her. Carmen convinces Don José to help her escape, promising a night of love in return.

### ACT TWO – A TAVERN

Don José has just finished a prison sentence for his part in Carmen's escape. Escamillo, the celebrated toreador and his group pass by. Carmen and Escamillo are attracted to one another. A band of smugglers arrive and ask the girls to join them. Carmen refuses as she is waiting for Don José. He finally arrives, but shortly is recalled to the barracks. Carmen angrily accuses him of being more dedicated to duty than to love. Don José protests his devotion. Zuniga, Don José's officer, enters looking for Carmen. A fight erupts between the two men. After this act of insubordination, Don José joins Carmen and the smugglers.

### ACT THREE – THE SMUGGLERS' HIDEOUT

Don José is still infatuated with Carmen but is brooding over the life he has sacrificed for her. Carmen has lost interest in him and foresees her own death in the cards. Micaëla arrives to see Don José. Escamillo has also made his way to the hideout, seeking Carmen. A fight begins between the rival lovers, which is stopped by Carmen's return. Escamillo leaves, inviting the whole group to his next bullfight. Micaëla implores Don José to return home. He eventually agrees, warning Carmen that they will meet again.

### ACT FOUR - SEVILLE

Escamillo and Carmen arrive at the bullfight. Carmen is warned that Don José is in the crowd, but she is not intimidated. Don José confronts Carmen outside the ring and begs her to begin a new life with him. A chant goes up for Escamillo inside the ring. Carmen takes Don José's ring off her finger and throws it to the ground; Don José kills her.

### GOVERNMENT PARTNERS



*CARMEN is supported by the Restart Investment to Sustain and Expand (RISE) Fund – An Australian Government Initiative.*



*West Australian Opera is supported by the State Government through the Department of Local Government Sport and Cultural Industries and Lotterywest, and the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body.*