



Wesfarmers Arts

# SYNOPSIS & CASTLIST

West Australian Opera presents

## CAVALLERIA RUSTICANA & PAGLIACCI

His Majesty's Theatre  
17, 20, 22, 24 July 2021

### CAVALLERIA RUSTICANA

Composer **Pietro Mascagni**

Librettist **Giovanni Targioni-Tozzetti and Guido Menasci**

### PAGLIACCI

Composer **Ruggero Leoncavallo**

Librettist **Ruggero Leoncavallo**

Conductor **Christopher van Tuinen**

Director **Andrew Sinclair**

Assistant Director **Margrete Helgeby Chaney**

Set Designer **Shaun Gurton**

Costume Designer **Victoria Rowell**

Lighting Designer **Donn Byrnes**

Lighting realised by **Matthew Nankivell**

Featuring **West Australian Opera Chorus & Children's Chorus**

Featuring **West Australian Symphony Orchestra**

### CAVALLERIA RUSTICANA

Turiddu **Paul O'Neill**

Santuzza **Ashlyn Tymms**

Alfio **Simon Meadows**

Lola **Brigitte Heuser**

Mamma Lucia **Nicole Youl**

Peasant Woman **Alexandra Bak**

### PAGLIACCI

Canio **Paul O'Neill**

Nedda **Emma Matthews**

Tonio **Simon Meadows**

Silvio **Christopher Tonkin**

Beppe **Matthew Lester**

Peasant #1 **Mark Alderson**

Peasant #2 **Tom Buckmaster**

### CAVALLERIA RUSTICANA (RUSTIC CHIVALRY)

*Sicily, Easter Day*

Turiddu serenades Lola, a former lover now married to the wealthy Alfio. Lola had married Alfio while Turiddu was away on military service. On his return, Turiddu had seduced Santuzza, a girl in the town, and left her pregnant. Now, Santuzza appeals to his mother Mamma Lucia to know his whereabouts.

They are interrupted by Alfio. He asks Mamma Lucia for her special wine, but she tells him Turiddu has gone to Francofonte to buy more. Alfio questions this, as Turiddu was seen earlier near his own house. The Easter ceremonies begin. The excommunicated Santuzza remains in the piazza imagining the church service she can no longer attend. Mamma Lucia questions Santuzza, who pours out her heart. Disturbed, Mamma Lucia leaves to pray.

Executive Director Carolyn Chard AM  
Artistic Director Christopher van Tuinen

Turiddu crosses the piazza, attempting to ignore Santuzza. He tells her he has been to Francofonte but she calls him a liar. Lola enters and Turiddu attempts to escape into the church, but Santuzza implores him not to abandon her. Unmoved, he joins Lola in church.

Alfio returns looking for Lola. In anger, Santuzza reveals his wife's infidelity. He vows revenge. Santuzza contemplates suicide but knows that would be a mortal sin. Her only choice is to leave town.

After the Mass, Turiddu invites the townspeople to drink with him. Lola and Turiddu flirt openly. Alfio refuses the wine offered to him by Turiddu. The townspeople realise the situation and hurry away. Left alone, Alfio and Turiddu make a formal challenge. Frightened, Turiddu admits his guilt and says Alfio has every right to kill him.

Alfio leaves to wait in the orchard. Consumed by fear and intoxication, Turiddu bids Mamma Lucia farewell. He begs her to take care of Santuzza and rushes off. Mamma Lucia, distraught, rounds on Santuzza for betraying her son. Voices are heard in the distance and then a scream: "Turiddu has been killed!"

### PAGLIACCI

*A town in Southern Italy, late afternoon*

A band of players arrive. Canio, the leader, invites the townspeople to a performance. He becomes angry when his wife, Nedda, receives too much attention from Tonio. He leaves with Beppe to drink.

Left alone, Nedda dreams of a better life. Tonio returns and makes advances to her. She scornfully rejects him. Nedda's lover Silvio arrives. He tries to persuade her to elope with him after the performance that evening. Tonio overhears and fetches Canio from the tavern. Nedda promises to leave with Silvio, and Canio returns in time to overhear. Silvio manages to get away unrecognised. Canio threatens to kill Nedda but she refuses to give her lover's name.

Night has fallen and the townspeople arrive for the performance. Silvio is among the audience. Tonio, who acts the role of the servant, Taddeo, makes comic advances to Columbine (played by Nedda). He embellishes his part with references to what has already taken place that afternoon. Harlequin (played by Beppe) arrives and pays court to Nedda but is forced to retreat when Pagliaccio (Canio) returns. Canio attempts to play his role but breaks down under the influence of alcohol. Reality takes over and he furiously demands the name of Nedda's lover.

Nedda tries to continue in her role, but passion overwhelms Canio. When Nedda refuses to reveal the name of her lover, he stabs her. She calls out for Silvio who rushes forward from the audience and is savagely stabbed by Canio. The comedy, Tonio announces, is over.

*Duration 2hrs and 40 minutes with one 20-minute interval.*

*Sung in Italian with English surtitles.*

*Casting correct at publication but may be subject to amendment.*

### GOVERNMENT PARTNERS



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