



Wesfarmers Arts

SYNOPSIS & CASTLIST

West Australian Opera presents

COSI FAN TUTTE

A Glyndebourne production, originally performed in the Glyndebourne Festival 2006

His Majesty's Theatre

24, 27, 29, 31 October 2020

Composer **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**

Librettist **Lorenzo da Ponte**

Conductor **Christopher van Tuinen**

Director **Nicholas Hytner**

Revival Director **Bruno Ravella**

Assistant Director **Margrete Helgeby Chaney**

Set & Costume Designer **Vicki Mortimer**

Lighting Designer **Paule Constable**

Lighting realised by **Andrew May**

Fiordiligi **Prudence Sanders**

Dorabella **Ashlyn Tymms**

Ferrando **Paul O'Neill**

Guglielmo **Sam Roberts-Smith**

Don Alfonso **James Clayton**

Despina **Penny Shaw**

Featuring **WAO Chorus**

Featuring **WASO**

ACT ONE

A bet puts female fidelity to the test

Philosopher Don Alfonso is passing the time in the coffee house with his friends Ferrando and Guglielmo. Talk turns to love, and cynical Alfonso warns the young men of the dangers of women. They both protest; their fiancées Dorabella and Fiordiligi are good and faithful. Don Alfonso proposes a wager. He bets the men 100 zecchini that he can devise a plan that will prove both women unfaithful. Ferrando and Guglielmo accept. Overwhelmed with grief, the sisters are contemplating suicide. But their down-to-earth maid Despina dismisses their sadness. Why weep over men, she counsels, when they are all unfaithful?

Meanwhile Alfonso has persuaded the men to disguise themselves as wealthy Albanians and enlists Despina's help in introducing them to her mistresses as potential suitors. The peace of the villa is suddenly disturbed by shouts and cries. The 'Albanians' rush in declaring that they will poison themselves if the sisters cannot and will not love them. They swallow the poison in front of the horrified women. Despina and Don Alfonso fetch a doctor (really Despina in disguise), who waits until the women are sufficiently softened by sorrow.

Executive Director Carolyn Chard AM
Music Director Chris van Tuinen

ACT TWO

Choosing a suitor

Despina urges the sisters to reconsider and accept the 'Albanians' as their suitors. The sisters then must decide who gets which man. Dorabella chooses first, opting for the dark one (Guglielmo – her sister's fiancé), while Fiordiligi is happy with the fair one (Ferrando, Dorabella's fiancé).

Don Alfonso brings the two 'Albanians' to meet the sisters in the garden. But everyone is suddenly shy and eventually Ferrando and Fiordiligi go for a walk, leaving Dorabella and Guglielmo alone. Guglielmo declares his love for Dorabella. Gradually she weakens and is eventually won over. Fiordiligi continues to reject Ferrando but struggles with her growing feelings. The men compare notes. Guglielmo is smug in Fiordiligi's fidelity; Ferrando is embarrassed and angry at Dorabella

Despina congratulates Dorabella on her new lover. Fiordiligi now admits to having feelings for the blond 'Albanian', but her loyalty to her fiancé convinces her instead to disguise herself as a man and follow Guglielmo to war. Both men are furious at their lovers' betrayal, but Alfonso consoles them.

Preparations for the double-wedding are complete, and Despina and Don Alfonso congratulate themselves on a successful plan. The lovers scatter in fright, and the men disappear to remove their disguises. Returning as themselves, Ferrando and Guglielmo now confront the sisters, who confess all. The men confess in their turn, and soon the whole story is revealed. The women ask for forgiveness, which is granted, and everyone agrees that it is better to smile than cry.

Duration 3hrs and 20 minutes with one 20 minute interval
Sung in Italian with English Surtitles
Casting correct at time of publication but may be subject to amendment.

GOVERNMENT PARTNERS



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