



Victorian
Opera



ERNST TOCH

25 March 2017

Arts Centre Melbourne, Playhouse

Welcome

Welcome to Victorian Opera's newest family production, *The Princess and the Pea*.

This production takes the beloved fairy tale from the page to the stage, admittedly with a few changes along the way. We've traded our castle for a TV studio and the filming of a very unusual show!

The Princess and the Pea has been a joy and a challenge to direct and I must thank our cast of singers, musicians and creative team for their brilliant work. To the man waving the baton, Fabian Russell: thank you for your impeccable musical instincts.

Our Developing Artists Candice MacAllister (Design) and Alastair Clark (Direction) have brought so much to this production. An imaginative designer, Candice's set and costumes are bursting with colour and fun. Alastair is an intuitive young theatre maker and we are excited to see him direct our Youth Opera in October, *The Second Hurricane*.

Thanks for tuning into P.TV. Enjoy the program!

LIBBY HILL

Director



Production

The Princess and the Pea

25 March 2017

**Arts Centre Melbourne
Playhouse**

Composer Ernst Toch

Librettist Benno Elkan

Running time is approximately 40 minutes
without interval

Sung in German with English narration and
scene descriptions

Creative Team

Conductor Fabian Russell

Director Libby Hill

Set & Costume Designer

Candice MacAllister

Lighting Designer Peter Darby

Assistant Director Alastair Clark

Stage Manager Meg Deyell

Assistant Stage Manager Katharine Timms

Production Manager Eduard Inglés

Repetiteurs Phillipa Safey, Andrea Katz

Cast

The King Jerzy Kozlowski

The Queen Kathryn Radcliffe

The Prince James Egglestone

TV Cameraman Michael Lampard

TV Director Michael Petruccelli

TV Host Dimity Shepherd

The Princess Olivia Cranwell

Orchestra

Concertmaster Ben Spiers

Violin II Natasha Conrau

Viola Matthew Laing

Cello Mee Na Lojewski

Double Bass Rohan Dasika

Flute I Tamara Kohler

Flute II/Piccolo Dominique Chaseling

Oboe Jessica Foot

Clarinet Luke Carbon

Bassoon Chris Martin

French Horn Aidan Gabriels*

Trumpet Tony Frantz

Tuba Alexander Jeantou

Percussion Arwen Johnston

Timpani Ben Dickson

* = Musician appears courtesy of the Australian National
Academy of Music (ANAM)

Acknowledgements

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Arts Centre Melbourne.

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and Show Works.



Education
and Training



Synopsis

The Princess and the Pea

Set location: Television Station P.TV

Welcome to this week's episode of *Mythical Mysteries*! Today we will explore an old-fashioned fairy tale, The Princess and the Pea. Today's episode questions outward appearances. Can you tell where someone comes from, or who they are, based on the clothes they wear?

Scene 1

Let's meet our ageing King, worried that his fussy son has rejected every suitable bride.

Scene 2

Now the snobby Queen enters. The Queen thinks only a girl of the purest royal blood would be good enough for her son, the Prince. Everyone gets hysterical until they're interrupted by a knock at the door.

Scene 3

Who is knocking at the door? It's our Princess of course. Unfortunately the actor hasn't turned up so our TV Director's assistant has to do it. The Princess is all in a mess because she has run away from her evil stepmother and got caught in a storm. The Queen, judging her by her appearance, doubts her story, but the Princess insists she is telling the truth.

Scene 4

The Prince, besotted by the girl, falls head over heels in love. The Queen is unhappy that her son could fall in love with someone so low in status. She insists the so-called Princess leave to tidy herself up!

Scene 5

The Queen wants more proof that the Princess is real. The "Nobles of the Court" come up with crazy suggestions. The Television Host, fearing the program will grind to a halt, steps into the program and starts an experiment that just might reveal the true identity of the girl with the scruffy clothes.

Scene 6

The TV Host, now pretending to be part of the television episode, guides the Queen and Nobles to come up with a plan to make a beautiful bed with many mattresses and place a tiny pea at the bottom of the bed. If the girl is a Princess as she says, the pea will prove so uncomfortable she won't be able to get to sleep.

Scene 7

They make the bed, then choose a pea.

Scene 8

The exhausted Princess enters the bedroom to find the most beautiful bed she's ever seen. Not realising she is being tested, she can't understand why this perfect bed is so uncomfortable. She can't get to sleep. The Princess shouts to all the Palace for assistance.

Scene 9

The experiment was a huge success. The girl with the scruffy clothes is a Princess, after all! The Queen begs her forgiveness and the Prince asks her to be his wife.

And what is the moral of our story? Don't judge a book by its cover!



Illustrations © Candice MacAllister

Learn about the cast!

The Princess and the Pea



JERZY KOZLOWSKI

Bass | The King

I was about eight years old when I began singing in a church choir. My favourite fairy tale is *Goldilocks* and favourite song is Ol' Man River from *Showboat*. Being a low bass singer, I enjoy wallowing in the depths of this song.



KATHRYN RADCLIFFE

Soprano | The Queen

My favourite fairy tale is *Red Riding Hood* – the Roald Dahl version is the best. If you haven't read it, you should! The first opera I saw was *The Magic Flute* by Mozart. After, I tried to sing the Queen of the Night's arias in the shower. I still sing the Queen of the Night, but now I get paid for it!



JAMES EGGLESTONE

Tenor | The Prince

When I was four years old I began singing in the Sunday school church choir. My absolute favourite fairy tale is *The Sleeping Beauty*, and you may not expect this from an opera singer but my all-time favourite song is Rosanna by Toto! (ask your parents)



MICHAEL LAMPARD

Baritone | TV Cameraman

I started singing when I was seven years old. I was very lucky to have a teacher who encouraged me to follow my dream. The first show I was taken to was a local performance of *Oliver!* in Hobart. My aunt and grandfather were performing! I loved everything about it.



MICHAEL PETRUCCELLI

Tenor | TV Director

I began singing when I was 8 years old in the primary school choir, although my parents would say I sang from my cot! I would have to say my favourite fairy tale is *Hansel and Gretel*. Who wouldn't love to eat their way through a gingerbread house!?



DIMITY SHEPHERD

Mezzo Soprano | TV Host

My mum says I always sang and used to wander around making up tunes. She also recalls me imitating the sounds from when I first heard opera at about 5. I think the first full opera I saw was *Lucia di Lammermoor*. I was in primary school and I liked it but I did fall asleep for a bit!



OLIVIA CRANWELL

Soprano | The Princess

I joined a school choir in primary school with all my friends and started singing lessons in year six. Now I get to sing as a part of my job! The first opera I saw was *Cinderella* by Rossini here at the Arts Centre. Years later I performed as an ugly stepsister in the same opera.





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