

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

ANSWER THE SIREN SONG OF OPERA QUEENSLAND'S SEDUCTIVE NEW SHOW

A new Australian opera cabaret kicks off Opera Queensland's 2020 season when **Lorelei** lures audiences to the **Conservatorium Theatre, South Bank** from **27 March** to **4 April**.

The sumptuous production tells the story of the Lorelei, three sirens of song who sit atop the cliffs of Germany's Rhine River, singing sailors to their watery graves.

Moral dilemmas begin to arise for the irresistible sirens however: are they tiring of singing sailors to their deaths, and honestly, do they even really deserve to die?

Conceived by Helpmann Award-winner and ARIA nominee **Ali McGregor**, the boundary-breaking new work rewrites an ancient myth for modern women.

McGregor enlisted composer **Julian Langdon** to create the contemporary score and librettists **Casey Bennetto** (*Keating! The Musical*) and **Gillian Cosgriff** to write the sharp and witty lyrics. The result is a work that traverses musical genres across tango, pop and classical.

Opera Queensland **Artistic Director and CEO Patrick Nolan** said Ms McGregor would be joined by **Dimity Shepherd** and **Antoinette Halloran** to bring this powerhouse performance exclusively to Brisbane.

"*Lorelei* subverts the traditional siren's tale," Mr Nolan explained.

"We encounter three different versions of the siren, each questioning the assumptions of their mythical status, changing their tune and their sense of identity in the process."

Lorelei premiered with Victorian Opera in November 2018 to a sold-out season at Melbourne's Malthouse Theatre.

Ms McGregor said the creative partnership with her two classically-trained co-stars began in 2005 when she created a genre-crossing Spiegeltent show, *The Opera Burlesque*, designed to "bring opera to a slightly more debauched arena".

"We had a huge amount of fun usurping the traditional opera stereotypes we found ourselves in," Ms McGregor said.

"I've always been fascinated by the Lorelei myth and how it essentially blames feminine wiles for the foibles and failings of men. This is a theme we see a lot of in traditional opera and Dimity, Antoinette and I had always wanted to do something to address this.

"What we've created is something really special: a 75-minute cabaret-opera that's accessible for all audiences.

Mr Nolan said *Lorelei* signalled a bold start to Opera Queensland's 2020 season.

"We believe in investing in Australian artists and developing a body of Australian work that will survive and thrive for years to come," Mr Nolan said.

Lorelei is sung in English and staged in the Conservatorium Theatre, South Bank.

-ENDS-



Opera Queensland presents

LORELEI

Julian Langdon, Casey Bennetto and Gillian Cosgriff

Date 27 March to 4 April 2020
Duration 75 minutes, no interval
Venue Conservatorium Theatre, Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University
Tickets From \$39
Bookings oq.com.au or 136 246

This production contains coarse language and adult themes. Recommended for ages 15+.

Download high resolution images: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/u856i7v082qiyak/AAAYLXdhkh57IRF2f-HKqLU1a/Her0%20Imagery/Additional%20Images/Lorelei?dl=0&subfolder_nav_tracking=1

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