



Wesfarmers Arts

# SYNOPSIS & CASTLIST



## ORPHEUS & EURYDICE

West Australian Opera and Circa present  
an Opera Queensland in association with Circa production

24 October – 2 November 2024  
His Majesty's Theatre

**Composer** Christoph Willibald Gluck  
**Librettist** Ranieri de' Calzabigi  
**Conductor** Christopher van Tuinen  
**Director & Set Designer** Yaron Lifschitz  
**Associate Director** Heather Fairbairn  
**Assistant Director** Margrete Helgeby Chaney  
**Costume Designer** Libby McDonnell  
**Lighting Designer** Alexander Berlage  
**Projection Designer** Boris Bagattini  
**Choreography** Yaron Lifschitz, Bridie Hooper,  
and the Circa Ensemble  
**Repetiteur** Tommaso Pollio

**Orpheus** Russell Harcourt  
**Eurydice & Amor** Prudence Sanders  
**Circa Ensemble**  
**West Australian Opera Chorus**  
**West Australian Symphony Orchestra**

### GOVERNMENT PARTNERS



Department of  
Local Government, Sport  
and Cultural Industries

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 Creative Australia, its arts funding and advisory body.



CIRCA



*Orpheus and Eurydice, an Opera Queensland in association with Circa production. Created by Yaron Lifschitz with Libby McDonnell and the Circa Ensemble. Circa and Opera Queensland acknowledge the assistance of Creative Australia and Arts Queensland.*

### OVERTURE

A woman descends into the Underworld.

### ACT 1

It is the morning after the night of Orpheus and Eurydice's wedding. A night of love that ended tragically with the bride's death. Orpheus wakes to find himself alone in an asylum. He is immersed in his grief and his guilt. His hold on reality is tenuous. The room fills with phantasmal images and creatures. Amor (love) appears. She looks exactly like Eurydice. She may or may not be real. She grants Orpheus the chance to descend into the Underworld to rescue Eurydice. The condition is that he doesn't look at Eurydice until they return.

### ACT 2

Orpheus meets the Furies. Through the beauty of his song, he charms them into allowing him to pass. He arrives in Elysium and sings of its wonders. We see Eurydice surrounded by the blessed spirits. Orpheus and Eurydice reunite.

### ACT 3

Years have passed in the Hades that is Orpheus's fractured imagination. Eurydice won't leave. Orpheus won't look at her or tell her why. They are stuck in a hell inside heaven. Eurydice pleads and Orpheus relents. He looks at Eurydice who dies. Orpheus is bereft, realising all is lost. His world further dislocates from reality and Amor and Eurydice return, funerals and weddings meld into a celebration of the triumph of love, which is death.

**PROGRAM:** [bit.ly/OrpheusProgram](https://bit.ly/OrpheusProgram)

  
**Wesfarmers Arts**  
Principal Partner

PRINCIPAL PARTNER AND  
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**WEST  
AUSTRALIAN  
OPERA**