



Sydney  
Festival  
2025

# SIEGFRIED & ROY: THE UNAUTHORISED OPERA





# SIEGFRIED & ROY: THE UNAUTHORISED OPERA

WORLD PREMIERE

SYDNEY FESTIVAL EXCLUSIVE

Sydney Theatre Company, Wharf 1 Theatre

8-25 January

1 hour, 30 minutes (no interval)

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## CREATIVES

**Composer** Luke Di Somma

**Libretto** Constantine Costi & Luke Di Somma

**Conductor** Luke Di Somma

**Director** Constantine Costi

**Movement Director** Shannon Burns

**Set and Prop Design** Pip Runciman

**Lighting Design** Damien Cooper

**Sound Design** Michael Waters

**Costume Design** Tim Chappel

**Puppet Design** Erth Visual & Physical

**Magic Consultant** Adam Mada

**Creative Producer** Olivia Ansell

**Associate Producer** LPD Productions

**Stage Manager** Jenny Ainsworth

**Assistant Stage Manager** Anna Frey

**Senior Project Manager** Nathalie Taylor

**Project Manager** Chanelle Muirhead

**Assistant Event Coordinator** Naomi O'Connor

**Lighting Supervisor** Jesse Greig

**Lighting Programmer** Jazmine Rizk

**Lighting Operator** Matilda Press

**FOH Engineer** Al Bremner

**Sound Supervisor** Hayley Forward

**Mic Tech** Krystelle Quartermain

**Staging Supervisor** Oscar Broadhead

**Mechanist** Matthew Phillips

**Dresser** Simone Edwards

**Wigs** Lauren Proietti

**Wardrobe Maintenance** Bella Sigglekow

## CAST

**Christopher Tonkin** Siegfried Fischbacher

**Kanen Breen** Roy Horn

**Danielle Bavli** Tabby Chateaubriand and Others

**Russell Harcourt** Ensemble

**Louis Hurley** Tyler D'Amor and Others

**Simon Lobelson** Randy Reggiano and Others

**Cathy-Di Zhang** Nancy White and Others

**Kirby Myers** Puppeteer and Showgirl

**Thomas Remaili** Puppeteer

## ABOUT THE SHOW

*Siegfried & Roy: The Unauthorised Opera* is a new operatic tragicomedy inspired by the extraordinary and unlikely lives of famous German magicians Siegfried Fischbacher and Roy Horn. This fascinating take on a true tale charts their formative years in Bavaria and Europe and then leaps forward to the night before the infamous tiger attack, which happened to be Roy's 59th birthday party. Glitzy, gauche, gorgeous and grim, *Siegfried & Roy: The Unauthorised Opera* is a genre-bending musical adventure with a cast of Australia's best singing actors, and a world-class creative team. In magic, nothing is impossible!

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CREATORS

When we were paired together to create *Siegfried & Roy: The Unauthorised Opera*, we knew we were in for a wild ride. We started with a period of research and everywhere we looked, the tale got crazier and crazier – it's a rich and ridiculous story, and one we knew was perfect for a new contemporary tragicomic opera.

The biggest question of all was 'how'? How did these two German boys actually meet? How did they actually get on? And, most crucially, how did their beloved Mantacore end up brutally mauling Roy in 2003.

Oh, and were they....? Yes. Yes, they were.



We're so excited to have worked on such a fun and eclectic new Australian opera. We believe opera should be for everyone, and so whether you're a first timer, a regular or a 'somewhere in-between' – Willkommen! We want to thank Olivia Ansell and Sydney Festival for entrusting us with this project and to our creative colleagues Tim, Damien, Pip, Michael and Adam, Steve and the Scotts for all their hard work. Thanks too to our wonderful cast, crew and orchestra. Opera is a team sport, and we feel so lucky to have such a fantastic team across the board.

Buckle up!

– Luke Di Somma & Constantine Costi

### LUKE DI SOMMA

Melbourne-based Luke Di Somma is an award-winning composer, lyricist and musical director working in musical theatre, opera and television. Originally from Aotearoa NZ, he is a Fulbright scholar, having studied at the Tisch School at New York University. He is the co-creator and songwriter for *Happiness* – a new musical TV comedy coming to screens in 2025. Last year he composed and conducted *The Unruly Tourists* for New Zealand Opera, and he is the co-writer of hit Kiwi musical *That Bloody Woman*. His debut album *Songs For My Friends* was released in 2021, and he has several new works in development.

### CONSTANTINE COSTI

Constantine Costi's 2024 highlights included a staging of Schoenberg's *Pierrot Lunaire* (Berliner Philharmoniker), Puccini's *Il Tabarro* (Opera Australia), William Bolcom's *Long Lost Loves* (Musica Viva), *Il Tabarro* outdoors (Sydney Festival/Victorian Opera)

and documentary feature film *The Golden Spurtle* (Hopscotch Films UK/Hytra Films). 2025 sees Constantine directing a re-imagined version of Mozart's *Die Entführung Aus Dem Serail* titled *Abduction* (Victorian Opera). His opera film *A Delicate Fire* for Pinchgut Opera was awarded Best Australian Feature Film at the Sydney Women's Film Festival and the ATOM Award's Best Experimental Film. For Victoria Opera his direction of Shostakovich's operetta *Moscow, Cheremushki* as *Melbourne Cheremushki* earned him a Best Direction Green Room Award. His work explores the possibilities of the operatic form from outdoor spectacles *La Traviata* on Sydney Harbour (Opera Australia), to Weill's *Mahagonny Songspiel* and *The Seven Deadly Sins* in a pub-theatre for 60 audience members.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Creative Team of *Siegfried & Roy: The Unauthorised Opera* are grateful for the invaluable assistance received from Opera Australia, Sydney Theatre Company, Tony Davies, Adrian Dean, Damion Holling, Isabel Hudson, Luca Kovacs, Ross Skiffington and Kate Shanahan.

Sydney Festival sincerely thanks Robyn Martin-Weber, Andrew Cameron AM and Cathy Cameron, the Hon. Ashley Dawson-Damer AM and all the Sydney Festival Donors who helped to make this production possible.

### SUPPORT SYDNEY FESTIVAL

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