

Jodi McKay

Minister for Tourism
Minister for the Hunter
Minister for Science and Medical Research
Minister for Women



Tuesday 20th July 2010

SYDNEY SECURES WORLD PREMIERE OF DOCTOR ZHIVAGO

Sydney is set to host the World Premiere of the new musical *Doctor Zhivago*, next year, starring Anthony Warlow.

Minister for Tourism, Jodi McKay, was joined by the musical's star, Anthony Warlow, at Star City Casino today to make the announcement.

"I am very pleased that Australia's leading theatre producer, John Frost, has chosen Sydney as the location for this exclusive eight week run of *Doctor Zhivago*," Ms McKay said.

"From February next year Sydney will host the very first stage adaptation of the world's eighth highest grossing film.

"People will have the amazing opportunity to see Anthony Warlow, one of the world's best performers, in a World Premiere in Australia's only Global City.

"From mid February the Lyric Theatre will be home to the World Premiere of *Doctor Zhivago* for eight weeks and is sure to attract thousands of local and interstate visitors to Sydney."

Ms McKay said the NSW Government, through Events NSW and Tourism NSW, will help promote the musical to regional, interstate and international markets.

"In the months leading up to the show's opening night next year the NSW Government will promote the World Premiere in NSW, Australia and around the world," Ms McKay said.

"Musical productions bring substantial economic benefits to the State's tourism industry and more than 100,000 people are expected to see the show in Sydney, injecting more than \$8 million into the State's economy.

"For eight weeks next year people will be able to visit and explore Australia's number one city and enjoy the World Premiere of the famous movie turned musical, *Doctor Zhivago*."

Ms McKay said securing the World Premiere of *Doctor Zhivago* reaffirmed Sydney's number one ranking in *Travel and Leisure*, a leading US based travel magazine and website.

"Last week Sydney was voted the number one city in Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific and ranked sixth overall of the top ten cities in the world," Ms McKay said.

"Readers voted on a range of criteria including sights, culture, the arts, restaurants and food, people, shopping and value for money.

"Today's announcement confirms Sydney's position as Australia's only global city."

Ms McKay said recent ABS figures from the March quarter showed that Sydney's hotels recorded the highest occupancy rates in the country spurred on by a range of events.

"There were certainly signs that people were coming in droves for events such as Chinese New Year, Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras, Top Gear Live and the Edinburgh Military Tattoo," Ms McKay said.

Jodi McKay

Minister for Tourism
Minister for the Hunter
Minister for Science and Medical Research
Minister for Women



Tuesday 20th July 2010

“Our strong and diverse events calendar is providing more and more people with reasons to visit NSW and has been a major contributor to the State’s growth in visitor numbers.

“Being able to choose from a range of exhibitions, theatre and sporting events year round gives visitors the reason they are looking for to book a flight and visit Australia’s only global city.”

Ms McKay said the NSW Government was currently working with the Gordon Frost Organisation to secure a second Australian premiere for Sydney with more details to be announced shortly.

Media Contact: Karl Schubert (02) 9228 5668 or 0429 904 937

Notes Editor:

Based on the famous novel by Boris Pasternak, **Doctor Zhivago** hit the big screen in 1954 as an epic, drama romance by David Lean and created a star of Omar Sharif in the title role.

The film remained popular for decades, and as of 2010 was the eighth highest grossing film of all time. Now this epic tale comes to the stage as a powerful and moving musical.

Doctor Zhivago will run for eight weeks from Saturday 19th February at the Lyric Theatre Star City, tickets going on sale from Monday 2nd August.

Performance Times: Tues–Sat 8pm, Matinees Wed 1pm, Sat 2pm, Sunday 3pm

Synopsis:

Doctor Zhivago is an explosive new musical romance based on Boris Pasternak's 20th-century Russian masterpiece that gives us Doctor Yuri Zhivago as a man divided against himself - a dedicated husband, father and healer while in his secret heart a poet, dreamer and passionate idealist.

Reflecting his private struggle the story swirls around our hero in a panoramic portrait of a nation in upheaval, telling a story at once epic and personal, funny and heartbreaking, impetuously romantic and bitingly political.

We move breathlessly through the final glory days of Czarist Russia and into the chaos and upheaval of the Russian Revolution where a new and unprecedented tyranny makes every day a test of the human spirit.

Through these volcanic upheavals, three passionate men - the ardent young Doctor Zhivago, the fiery political radical Pasha Antipov, and the cynical bourgeois magistrate Viktor Komarovskiy - compete for the love of one woman, the alluring and enigmatic Lara, as if vying for the very soul of Russia itself.

Anthony Warlow:

Jodi McKay

Minister for Tourism
Minister for the Hunter
Minister for Science and Medical Research
Minister for Women



Tuesday 20th July 2010

Anthony has forged an enviable reputation on the operatic and commercial theatre stage. He made his debut with the Australian Opera aged 19 as a guest artist in Benjamin Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. After working closely with the company's Musical Director, Richard Bonyngé, he was awarded the Joan Sutherland Scholarship and asked to prepare the role Papageno in Mozart's *The Magic Flute* which he performed in 1984 to critical acclaim.

In 1990 Anthony was chosen by director Hal Prince to play the role of the Phantom in Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber's *The Phantom of the Opera*, his portrayal of which earned him several industry awards. In 1991 he was the recipient of the prestigious Advance Australia award for contribution to Music Theatre. The following years saw Anthony battle lymphoma, record successful albums and receive a myriad of industry awards, as well as perform in his national sell-out tour *Back in the Swing*.

In 1993 he was invited to play the role of Henry Higgins in the Victoria State Opera's production of *My Fair Lady*, a sell-out season for the company and a role he has enjoyed performing in several seasons around the country. Anthony made a long awaited return to The Australian Opera in 1995 in Gilbert & Sullivan's operetta *Patience*.

In 1998, Anthony was honoured by the nation and the National Trust, being elected Living National Treasure.

In 1999, Anthony returned to opera as Papageno in Opera Australia's *The Magic Flute*, and in 2000 starred as Daddy Warbucks in the hit musical *Annie*. A new song, *Why Should I Change a Thing*, was written for him creating music theatre history and changing *Annie* forever. 2002 saw Anthony performing the dual roles of Cervantes & Don Quixote to critical acclaim in the Australian production of *Man of La Mancha*.

In 2005 Anthony returned to the world of Gilbert & Sullivan with Opera Australia, performing in two new productions of *HMS Pinafore* and *Trial by Jury*, then in 2006, placing his inimitable stamp on G&S's Pirate King in a new production of *The Pirates of Penzance*. In 2007 he recreated his critically acclaimed performance of the Phantom in Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber's *The Phantom of the Opera*. He donned the mask for over two years and his performances were acclaimed both critically and publicly. He returned to the Opera this year in his first Sondheim musical, *A Little Night Music*.