



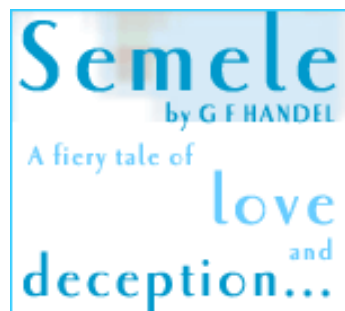
October 2002

Dear Friends,

## Le Meridien Sydney sponsorship

*Le* **MERIDIEN**  
SYDNEY

Our out of town soloists will stay at le Meridien Sydney in Jamison Street. This is a delightful new hotel a few blocks from the Recital Hall and Pinchgut is proud to have them as sponsors of Semele. See further down for details and hotel package for our audience to stay at le Meridien.



City Recital Hall  
Angel Place, Sydney  
4,6,7 & 9 December 2002  
at 7.30 pm

Tickets selling strongly and the opening night is already tight. Don't leave it too long or you may not get the seats you want! If you have bought 4 or more seats contact us to receive your copy of Angus Wood's single CD.

## NEWS

- ❖ Qantas has started flying in the Pinchgut team - Antony Walker and Justin Way are already both here to get everything organised for the start of rehearsals. Rehearsals begin on November 6 for the principals, on November 16 for chorus and November 23 for orchestra.
- ❖ The set is being made and painted at the moment. Looks stunning!! Samantha (in the picture) has given us this image to tantalize you.
- ❖ New postcards and A4 posters are available for any one who would like to distribute some at their workplace or to friends. Call Anna Cerneaz on 9362 5711.



Anna Ryberg is on the cover of 2MBS-FM's Fine Music Magazine November issue with stories on Anna and Semele inside. There's also a photo and short piece on another one of our soloists - Tobias Cole - and his winning the Opera Foundation Australia's 2002 Metropolitan Opera Young Artists Study Award. You can buy copies at most newsagents or, better still, become a subscriber by ringing 9439 4777.

- ❖ 2MBS FM are presenting Semele as their Opera of the Month on Wednesday 6 November at 8.00 pm. Prepared and presented by Alison Gyger, this is the John Nelson recording with Kathleen Battle as Semele.

- ❖ Semele is opera of the month in Opera-Opera magazine with a full libretto and discussion of music in the centre pages plus images of the set. You can buy a copy in several of the classical record shops in the Pitt Street Mall, in the Opera House box office shop and at the Opera-Opera offices at 44 Bridge Street. Or become a subscriber and receive the newspaper monthly. Their phone number is 9247 2264.
- ❖ The Weekend Australian October 19-20 Review section pages 16 and 17 carried an article on singers “Moving on up” which included a piece on Angus Wood retraining as a tenor and making his tenor debut as Jupiter in Semele for Pinchgut Opera.

Here’s the next of our artist profiles:

## **BERNIE TAN, LIGHTING DESIGNER**



Bernie knew he wanted to be a lighting designer from the time he lit school plays in high school in Adelaide. He went on to amateur theatre in Adelaide and then NIDA where he graduated in 2000. When Bernie left Adelaide in 1997 he booked a round the world ticket but he has not got past Sydney yet. He loves the life of a gypsy and thinks he would get bored being only in one place.

Bernie says “I love the challenge of lighting which I see as making the work find a place with the audience- to convince people of a world -to create a reality. Lighting makes the themes of a work flow. Lighting must help the piece along.”

Bernie is very interested in the play on people’s minds that lighting has without them knowing. “They will know if something is wrong and the lighting doesn’t work for the audience”, Bernie says. The psychoanalysis of the mind through the reflections of the created world interests him. He mentioned Jonathan Miller’s writings “On Reflection” which explores the effect of reflected images in art on people’s minds. Bernie has never wanted to be in the spotlight himself rather he wants to create a reality for the audience. The scale of opera, especially the potential for strong images of beauty supported by the music and the universal themes, interests him. These images and themes are what he wants to bring to life and make accessible to the audience in a different way.

Bernie had a marvellous introduction into opera for a nearly 23 year old. He was Nick Schlieper’s associate lighting designer for Parsifal for the State Opera of SA with Elke Nihardt directing in September 2001. He spent 21/2 months working on the lighting design. Nick has asked Bernie to be associate lighting designer for the SA Opera’s new ring Cycle in November 2004.

In Semele, Bernie says he is looking forward to the challenge of a new company and a new work. It fits his restless spirit to have such a new challenge and to work with new people.

And finishing up the smaller roles in Semele, here are Paul McMahon and Craig Everingham who are playing Apollo and the Priest respectively.

## **Paul McMahon – Apollo**



Born and bred in Queensland, Paul McMahon is a graduate of the Qld Conservatorium of Music and the University of Southern Queensland and has been a resident of Sydney since 1997. He is featured on a number of compact discs on the ABC Classics label including Orff's Carmina Burana, Fauré's La Naissance de Venus, Prayer for Peace and the soundtrack to the Australian film The Bank. He has recorded cantatas by J.C. Pepusch with Salut Baroque and Handel's Messiah, an ABC Classics and TV project for release on CD and DVD. He was awarded a 2002 Churchill Fellowship that enabled him to

undertake a period of study in baroque repertoire at The Koninklijk Conservatoire in The Hague, Netherlands. He is particularly fond of fine food and wine and currently divides his time between teaching singing and discovering the elusive secret to hitting a cricket ball in the middle of the bat and golf balls down the middle of the fairway.

## **Craig Everingham – The Priest**

Craig Everingham studied at the Newcastle and Sydney Conservatoriums, before undertaking studies at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, England. Craig has performed under the baton of Claudio Abbado in the Salzburg Festival, and at the Batignano Festival, Italy (1997). Among many scholarships and prizes, Craig won an award from the Moores Foundation Trust which enabled him to take up further studies in Florence. On his return to Australia, Craig took up a position with Opera Australia extra-chorus and has also performed the role of Javert in 'Les Miserables'



the Civic Theatre, Newcastle and the role of Calchas in 'Le Belle Helene' and the title role in 'Rigoletto' for Opera Hunter. Apart from a heavy performance agenda, Craig also maintains his teaching practices at Newcastle Conservatorium, Newcastle Grammar School and his private studios, which certainly keep him on his toes.

## **Le Meridien Sponsorship**

### **Le Meridien joins our exclusive band of sponsors with Credit Suisse First Boston and Qantas**

Pinchgut Opera is delighted to announce that le Meridien hotel in Jamison Street, Sydney, just a few blocks from the Recital Hall, is a major sponsor of our Semele production. Three of our soloists will be staying at the hotel. When talking to the hotel, it was obvious to the Pinchgut team that we have similar aims. We both have excellent and unique products to offer and both Pinchgut and le Meridien believe in quality and value and fun. Le Meridien recognised the adventure of a new company, they are interested in the fact that we are using young Australian singers and players and that our approach is to make the great music accessible and entertaining and that we have set out to run our affairs in a business-like way. They have recognised our difference and we are very honoured to be supported by such a fine establishment.

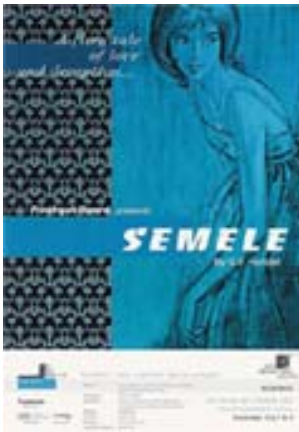
If you would like to stay at le Meridien Sydney when you are coming to a performance please ring 02 9696 2500 and ask about the Pinchgut Opera package. Or why not experience Le Meridien Sydney's stylish service when next in the city for a meal or overnight stay?

## AND JUST REPEATING OUR REQUEST FOR HELP

Pinchgut is a non-profit company and is not receiving any government financial support. We will pay full commercial rates to the Sydney City Council for use of the City Recital Hall. Our money will come from box office, commercial sponsorship and some generous private individuals. Our first production has been underwritten by a small group of music lovers.

If you would like to support Pinchgut and help secure its long term future, your donation would be greatly appreciated. The Pinchgut Public Fund is on the Register of Cultural Organisations, so donations over \$2 are fully tax deductible and a receipt for tax purposes will be issued. Donations may be sent to:

Pinchgut Opera Public Fund  
PO Box 1017  
Neutral Bay 2089



### Semele

A fiery tale of love and deception!  
The affair that gave birth to Bacchus!  
The love that invented wine!  
**ENDLESS PLEASURE.**

See you there.

From the Pinchgut Team, in particular, Liz, Alison, Anna and Ken

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**“Handel strikes like a thunderbolt” -  
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**

### Major sponsors

