

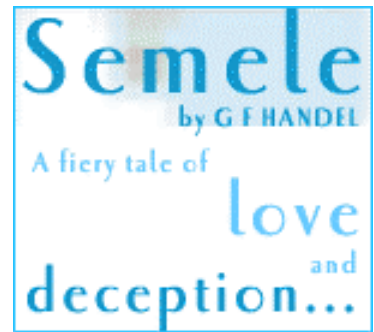


November 2002

Dear Friends,

This will be the last Pinchgut Newsletter before the opening of Semele on 4 December. We are in the middle of rehearsals and the show is already looking wonderful!

Justin Way is producing the story the way Handel intended it - as a "bawdy opera". It is, after all, the story of an affair between a god and a princess so it's not quite Jane Austin. And one of Semele's arias is "Endless Pleasure, Endless Love", which pretty well sums up Act II. Be prepared for passion as well as great music. And watch for an interesting use of a flocati rug, also in Act II.



City Recital Hall
Angel Place, Sydney
4,6,7 & 9 December 2002
at 7.30 pm. The Angel Place
Box Office phone no. is
8256 2222.
BOOK NOW!!!



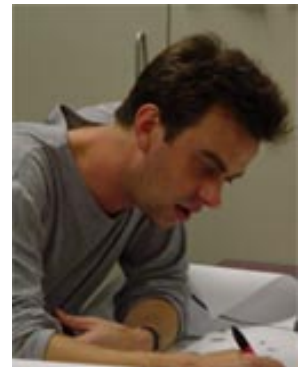
The principals have been rehearsing for a couple of weeks now, and the chorus for a week. The orchestra starts on Saturday.

We can't show you any production shots as we want it to be a surprise! But here are a few shots of behind the scenes.

If you haven't booked yet, please contact City Recital Hall on 8256 2222 or www.cityrecitalhall.com soon.

Quite a few TV and radio programs and newspapers are planning stories about Pinchgut and Semele over the next couple of weeks. Watch for stories in Sydney Morning Herald, The Australian and 24 Hours. ABC TV's 7:30 report is filming material at the rehearsals for a story that will probably go to air on 3 November – the night before opening night.

Lindy Montgomery, Shelli Gilhome, Erin Helyard and Anna McDonald and a small team of players will be singing, playing and being interviewed on ABC Nightclub on Radio National on Wednesday 27th November from 8.30 - 9pm. Tune in and listen to a couple of the arias from the show.



We have mentioned that ABC Classics will be recording the production for CD release, probably about late 2003. Meanwhile, we would like to mention that a CD release of Messiah, on ABC Classics will be out early December. It features Cantillation, Antony Walker conducting a period instrument orchestra containing many of the players performing in Semele, including Anna McDonald and Erin Helyard. It will be shown on ABC TV on Christmas Eve and released on DVD.

Cantillation and Sirius Ensemble are also featured on the ABC Classics 2003 Christmas CD "Glorious Night".

We are close to confirming Pinchgut's December 2003 production. It will be announced in the Programme Book on sale at Semele and then by email to everyone on the list.

We assume that you would like to stay on the list for next year, but if not, please let us know. We will, reluctantly, remove you from the list and say goodbye.

Many people tell us they have enjoyed our quotes about Handel. Here is the last one:

“A tub of pork and beer”
Hector Berlioz

But Handel's biographer Charles Burney explained:

“Handel, with many virtues, was addicted to no vice that was injurious to society. Nature, indeed, required a great supply of sustenance to support such a huge mass, and he was rather epicurean in the choice of it; but this seems to have been the only appetite he allowed himself to gratify.”

Finally, sincere thanks to our sponsors: Credit Suisse First Boston, Qantas and Le Meridien Hotel Sydney. They showed great faith in us in deciding to back a new company.



Le Meridien, which is one of Sydney's newest first class hotels, is offering a great value Semele package which includes 2 A Reserve tickets for the performance on Friday 6 November, supper before the opera, a cocktail party after with soloists from the performance, a deluxe contemporary room for two and a full buffet breakfast the next morning. Phone 9696 2500 or details on the website at <http://www.pinchgutopera.com.au/bookings/package.pdf>

Thank you all for your interest in our newsletter and the adventure of Pinchgut's first production.

We are sure you will enjoy the show.

And best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Liz, Alison, Anna C, Anna Mc, Erin and Ken, on behalf on the whole team of 63 bringing you *The Story of Semele*.

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