



SYDNEY

Theatre, Music & Art

Overview

Celebrate Sydney's festive season with Academy Travel's four-night program designed for lovers of the performing and visual arts. Our itinerary is based around four outstanding performances: *The Boomkak Panto*, a delightful, big-hearted comedy by Virginia Gay; Pinchgut Opera's new production of *Platée*, one of Rameau's finest works; a performance in-the-round of Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* by the Sydney Theatre Company; and the smash hit musical *Hamilton*. We have reserved excellent seats for all events.

Around the performances we have woven a program of gallery visits, including the exciting new Matisse exhibition at the Art Gallery of NSW, as well as several other experiences designed to show off some of Sydney's hidden treasures. Fine dining experiences at Crafted by Matt Moran at the AGNSW, Ripples at Chowder Bay and Bistro Gavroche in Chippendale have also been included. Accommodation is in the luxurious Fullerton Hotel, located in the historic former GPO building on Martin Place.

Tour leaders

The tour is led by Robert and Penny Gay. Robert is one of Australia's most respected tour leaders and music educators, with more than 30 years' experience. Penny is Professor Emerita of English Literature at the University of Sydney, specialising in drama. Virginia Gay is Robert and Penny's younger daughter.

Essential information

Tour dates: December 1-5, 2021

Price per person: \$3,870

Supplement for sole use of double room: \$740

Maximum number in group: 20

Start: 4pm on December 1 at the Fullerton Hotel

Finish: After breakfast on December 5 at the Fullerton Hotel

Fitness level

★ Reasonable stamina required

Itinerary

Sydney (4 nights)

Further information and bookings

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Highlights

The Boomkak Panto

Belvoir presents the premiere production of Virginia Gay's *The Boomkak Panto*, which she wrote and also stars in. This delightful big-hearted comedy is set in the dusty little country town of Boomkak, which happens to be confronting some very big challenges and a fight for its very survival.

Julius Caesar

The Sydney Theatre Company presents an exciting new 'in the round' production, by artistic director Kip Williams, of Shakespeare's complex study of power and moral corruption, *Julius Caesar*.

Rameau's Platée

Rameau's comic masterpiece *Platée* is brought to life in a new production by renowned director Neil Armfield for Sydney's Pinchgut Opera. The opera will be conducted by Pinchgut's artistic director Erin Helyard with the Orchestra of the Antipodes.

Hamilton

Lin-Manuel Miranda's once-in-a-generation musical *Hamilton* tells the dramatic story of one of the founding fathers of the United States with witty, poetic dialogue and an inventive score.

Detailed itinerary

Wednesday, 1 December 2021

Independent check-in to the Fullerton Hotel from 2.00pm. At 4.00pm, meet Robert and Penny and your fellow participants for festive drinks and canapés, after which Penny will discuss the pantomime tradition referenced in Virginia's new play *The Boomkak Panto*. We transfer by coach to Belvoir Street Theatre for our performance, then back to the hotel afterwards for supper. (Canapés, Supper)

Thursday, 2 December

This morning, Robert introduces you to Jean-Philippe Rameau's *Platée*, a gloriously oddball comedy by the greatest of all French baroque composers. Lunch at Crafted by Matt Moran at the Art Gallery of New South Wales is followed by a visit to the new Matisse exhibition with special guest Dr Nick Gordon. This evening we stroll across Martin Place to the City Recital Hall, the venue for this evening's performance. (B, L)

Friday, 3 December

This morning we walk down to King St Wharf for a private cruise up Sydney Harbour to the Quarantine Station at North Head. We then head to Clifton Gardens, an exclusive harbourfront neighbourhood, where we enjoy lunch at Ripples, a restaurant in a historic building overlooking the beach. In the early evening, after a short talk by Penny, we transfer to the Wharf Theatre at Walsh Bay for this evening's performance of *Julius Caesar*. (B, L)

Saturday, 4 December

This morning after a short heritage tour of our hotel, we hear a talk by US historian Dr Richard Bell on the musical *Hamilton*. Richard provides both an overview of the production and an expert appraisal of the way the story is told. The talk is transmitted live onto a large screen from Maryland in the USA. We then head to inner-city Chippendale for lunch at Bistro Gavroche, followed by a visit to the remarkable contemporary Chinese art collection at the White Rabbit, a private gallery run by philanthropist Judith Nielsen. This evening a coach takes us to and from the Lyric Theatre in Pyrmont for our performance of *Hamilton*, after which we gather in the hotel bar for farewell drinks. (B, L)

Sunday, 5 December

The tour ends after breakfast. (B)

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