

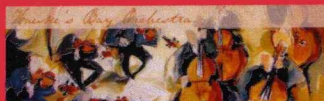
Opera Hawke's Bay in Association with Hawke's Bay Orchestra presents

SWEENEY TODD

THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET

"Everybody shaves, so
there should be plenty
of flayours."


May 2011



HAWKE'S BAY OPERA HOUSE

Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim - Book by Hugh Wheeler
From an Adaptation by Christopher Bond

Originally directed by HAROLD PRINCE. Originally produced on Broadway by Richard Barr, Charles Woodward, Robert Fryer, Mary Lea Johnson, Martin Richards. In association with Dean and Judy Manos. By arrangement with Hall Leonard Australia Pty Ltd. Exclusive agent for Music Theatre International (NY).



SWEENEY TODD

THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET

After 15 years in exile for a crime he didn't commit, respectable barber Benjamin Barker, now using the name Sweeney Todd, returns to London to find his wife dead and his daughter in the hands of the evil Judge Turpin.

When he learns from his former landlady, Mrs Lovett, that his wife poisoned herself after being raped by the judge he vows revenge. In his anger, Sweeney goes on a murderous rampage, initially directed towards Judge Turpin and his man-of-business, Beadle Bamford. His rage then spills rapidly out of control into a rampage on all of London.

With the help of Mrs Lovett, he opens a barber shop into which he lures his victims with a charming smile before casually ending their lives with a flick of his razor across their necks.

Mrs Lovett, who has amorous intentions towards Sweeney, persuades him that it would be 'such a terrible waste' to just 'bury the bodies' and so comes up with the even more diabolical plan, suggesting that Sweeney's victims be recycled into meat pies, thereby elevating her pie shop, from what was once known for serving the 'worst pies in London' to the most frequented new eatery in Fleet Street.

But not one man, nor ten thousand men killed, can satisfy Sweeney's lust for vengeance on those who've caused his years of pain.

This brilliant Operetta is both hilarious and horrifying! Sondheim's original intention was to create something for LIVE THEATRE that would have the same shocking impact on audiences as a HORROR FILM. His clever combination of wit, wickedness and wisdom makes this story a must for those who like their theatre intelligent and edgy!

A Brief History of the Show

Sweeney Todd (aka the Demon Barber) was a character from a 19th Century penny dreadful. He first appeared in 1846 as a secondary character in a short story called *The String of Pearls - A Romance* by Thomas Prest, which was published in *The People's Periodical*. A hack playwright by the name of George Dibdin Pitt, who commonly filched other people's stories, dramatised the story for the stage as *The String of Pearls - The Fiend on Fleet Street*, and advertised it as 'founded on fact'. The play debuted at London's Hoxton Theatre on 1 March, 1847, and ever since then people have speculated as to whether Sweeney Todd really had existed, or if he was simply a fictional bogeyman invented to sate the appetite of the morbid Victorian imagination.

Did Sweeney Todd really exist? Up until recently, nobody knew. A number of daily newspapers at the time had reported real-life horror stories that bore certain similarity to the ghastly tale of Sweeney Todd. Stories of fainting ladies aside, the Victorian community had an enormous, morbid appetite for all things ghastly. Shocking tales of crime like this would have been spread through word of mouth like wildfire, although they were also probably embellished along the way. Many penny dreadfuls were actually fictionalised accounts of real stories. It was known that Thomas Prest, who first wrote about Sweeney Todd, had the habit of scouring newspapers for story ideas. However, these were just written off by most as a story to scare bad children and to thrill audiences.

All of this changed when British author Peter Haining recently revealed, through painstaking research, that there was once a psychopathic barber named Sweeney Todd who lived in the 19th Century and who did actually murder his customers for money, although his tale is somewhat less exciting than Sondheim's musical. Unlike the Sondheim/Prest dramatised character, Sweeney Todd was simply an amoral, bitter man who was not adverse to killing for money.

Man or myth, one thing is for sure - the tale of Sweeney Todd, the Demon Barber, is not likely to be forgotten anytime soon.

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Director - Carol Della Barca



Carol Della Barca began her career in the theatre as a child watching and learning from her Father, Paul Person and his Auckland Opera Company, Perkel Productions.

She continued her involvement in the theatre through her teens and then on into her early 20's when she took on her first ever production as a 'Director'.

Twenty-two years later, with 20 musicals under her belt, she remains passionate about the Theatre and her role as a Director.

Carol is a visionary person who has a unique style when it comes to interpreting and staging a major production. She paints with broad strokes, has a way of bringing out the guts of a story and always finds the heart. Her tireless belief in all who work alongside her makes her fun to work with and a wonderful mentor for the younger members of the cast.

Carol's vision for this production was to bring you believable, fallible characters with whom you will empathise - even as you are horrified by their actions.

Musical Director - Michael Joel



Michael's conducting training began at Otago University where he completed an Honours degree in conducting. He has taken part in several Masterclasses with such conductors as Heinz Wahlberg, James Judd, and Miguel Harth-Bedoya and has lessons with Jac van Steen in The Netherlands. He has also attended the Dartington International Summer School in England.

He has conducted many of the established orchestras and choirs throughout New Zealand and is equally at home in the orchestral, choral and operatic repertoire. He has worked with the Christchurch Symphony, the Southern Sinfonia, St Matthew's Chamber Orchestra, Opera Otago, the City of Dunedin Choir and the National Youth Orchestra.

From 2003 until 2006 Michael was on the permanent staff of Canterbury Opera (now Southern Opera) as Music and Development Officer, Chorus Master and Assistant Conductor. In 2003 he conducted performances of Canterbury Opera's productions of *Lakme* and *La Traviata*. In 2004 he conducted the New Zealand premiere season of *Count Ory*, and early in 2005 he conducted the 'work in progress' performance of Jonathan Besser's new opera, commissioned by Canterbury Opera. He arranged and conducted Dvorak's *Rusalka* for a run of sold-out performances by Canterbury Opera Youth in April 2006.

In August 2006 he conducted an enthusiastically received and successful production of *Die Fledermaus* for Opera Hawke's Bay. In 2009 he conducted concerts with renowned flute soloist, Alexa Still and the Hawke's Bay Orchestra, and piano soloist Catherine McKay and the Wellington Chamber Orchestra.

2011 is a busy year for him. As well as this production of Sweeney Todd for Opera Hawke's Bay, he will be working with the St Matthew's Chamber Orchestra in Auckland, the Kapiti Concert Orchestra and the Wellington Chamber Orchestra.

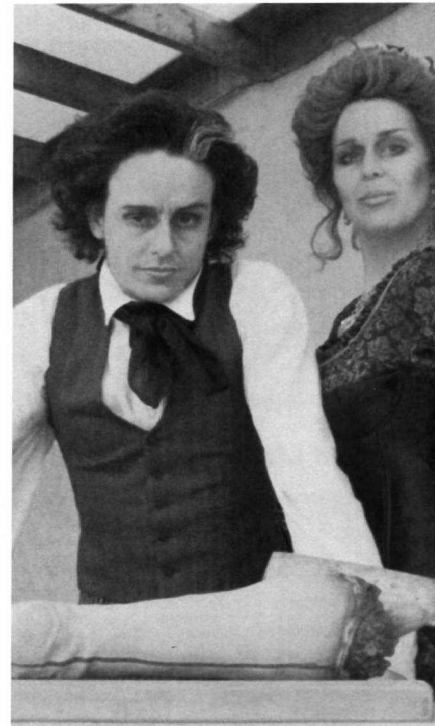
SWEENEY TODD

THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET

Scenes

ACT I

- Scene 1** A ship at the London Docks
- Scene 2** Mrs. Lovett's Pie Shop on Fleet Street
- Scene 3** Johanna's Bedroom within Judge Turpin's Residence
- Scene 4** Judge Turpin's Library
- Scene 5** Another London Street where local vendors gather
- Scene 6** Johanna's Bedroom
- Scene 7** Mrs. Lovett's Pie Shop on Fleet Street
- Scene 8** A Courtroom
- Scene 9** Johanna's Bedroom
- Scene 10** In the street outside the courtroom
- Scene 11** Mrs. Lovett's Pie Shop
-



ACT II

- Scene 1** Johanna's Bedroom
- Scene 2** Mrs. Lovett's newly revived Pie Shop
- Scene 3** Sweeney's Barber Shop; Bedlam and the Street below Johanna's Room
- Scene 4** Mrs. Lovett's Pie Shop
- Scene 5** Mrs. Lovett's Dream
- Scene 6** Sweeney's Barbershop and the Pie Shop
- Scene 7** The Basement of the Pie Shop
- Scene 8** Fogg's Asylum
- Scene 9** Mrs. Lovett's Pie Shop
- Scene 10** Sweeney's Barber Shop
- Scene 11** The Basement of the Pie Shop



SWEENEY TODD

THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET

Principal Cast

Sweeney Todd - James McCaffrey



James McCaffrey has already proven himself as a star on the local theatre scene, having taken leading roles in many successful productions around Hawke's Bay in the past few years; Fiddler on the Roof, Godspell, Gypsy, Cabaret, Thoroughly Modern Millie, Seussical the Musical and Forbidden Broadway to name a few.

James has had extensive acting experience and seems to have an incredible knack for bringing out the true essence of each character he creates.

This Operetta has proved to be his most challenging yet and he has delved deep into his 'dark side' to bring to life the vengeful, yet vulnerable Demon Barber of Fleet Street.

Mrs Lovett - Olive Purdie



Olive Purdie plays the manipulative and seducing spinster Mrs Lovett, a challenging role, but definitely one she has loved getting her teeth into!

Since first stepping on stage at age 3, she fed the acting bug with school performances including Joseph & the Technicolour Dreamcoat and in One Act Play Festivals for Porirua Little Theatre and Stagecraft Theatre in her teens.

A move to Wairarapa saw her perform in Dancing at Lughnasa, Steel Magnolias and Anybody for Murder at Harlequin Theatre.

Now at home in Hawke's Bay Olive has appeared in a number of productions for both Napier Repertory Theatre and Theatre Hawke's Bay including About Alice, Noises Off, The 23 Year Old Escort, Music Man and most recently Stiff!

Sweeney Todd is Olive's first production performance in the Hawke's Bay Opera House, she's delighted to be working with an entertaining and awesomely experienced ensemble and trusts you'll enjoy this dangerously delectable slice of theatre.

Judge Turpin - Jon Fletcher



Jon's usual gig is entertaining crowds throughout NZ as a singer/front-man, having performed all over the world in this capacity. It is with great pleasure that he performs as Judge Turpin, relishing the role of being the "baddie".

Jon has a number of roles to his credit in terms of musical theatre including Jean Valjean, Judas, The Engineer and The Rum Tum Tugger to name a few.

It has been a pleasure working with this very talented cast and big ups to Carol, Linda, Amanda and Michael for their amazing direction and vision throughout this whole process.

Jon sends out heaps of love and gratitude to his wife and whanau who haven't seen much of him late. Love you guys. Thank you all for coming to the show tonight... Enjoy...

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Principal Cast

Tobias Ragg - Phoebe Chenery

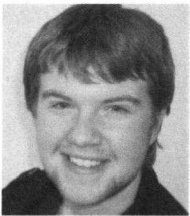


Playing her first major role in an Operetta, Phoebe has truly blossomed into a superb performer.

Having caught the acting bug at Heretaunga Intermediate School where she performed in Bugsy Malone, she has gone on to Hastings Girls High School and continued her pursuit of the Arts, singing in several choirs, including Barbershop Choir and taking part in a couple of short plays.

Phoebe also enjoys performing with the Four's Company Singers and has taken part in some of their Musical Theatre Workshops. Her interpretation of Toby will move you deeply as she charms you with a smile.....for a while....

Anthony Hope - Callum Reeve



Callum is no stranger to the stage, having performed a lead role in Fiddler on the Roof at Intermediate School and since then several smaller roles alongside adults in Opera's such as Amahl and the Night Visitors.

Callum has a maturity beyond his years and at the age of 17, shows great promise as a performer. His role as Anthony Hope is a pivotal one, as he is the HOPE throughout this dark tale. He plays the young hero with charm and grace, energy and passion.

Johanna - Holly Antonsen



Holly is also new to the Opera House Stage in this her first leading role in an Operetta.

Born in the Hawke's Bay, she is a local lass, with a serious passion for the Arts - dramatic, visual and musical. She holds a BA majoring in English Literature and Theatre and is planning further study next year as she works her way towards becoming a qualified secondary school teacher.

Holly feels a deep connection to her role as Sweeney's long lost daughter and has delighted in creating a believable Johanna, tempering sweet innocence with a passionate underside.

Segnor Pirelli - Tim Eagle



Tim is a born and bred Hastings local Optometrist and Director at Visique Shattky on Russell. He performed in lead roles while at Havelock North High School, and did performance level speech and drama. Sweeney Todd is his first production since high school.

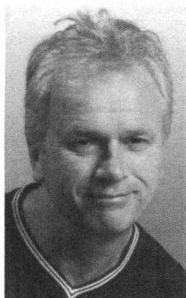
Tim has taken to the role of the 'Italian Barber' with gusto, infused this colourful character with his own special brand of charm and wit - he is indeed the "king of Barbers, the Barber of Kings!"

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Principal Cast

Beadle Bamford - Colin Cook



Beadle Bamford is such a wonderful slimy character - here I am playing the bad guy again and loving every minute of it! My more recent theatre roles include Harold (The Full Monty) and Officer Lockstock (Urinetown), along with being a Billy Idol lookalike (The Wedding Singer) and, whilst on the rock theme, I used to play lead guitar in a covers band. I have also written my first one-act play, and hope to bring this to the boards soon.

After such diverse experiences, some of them in very shady bars, it's great to play the Hawke's Bay Opera House, and bring the Beadle to the Bay.

It never ceases to amaze me how many gifted actors there are in the region and I've enjoyed rubbing shoulders with many of them in this show. I am looking forward to a gruesome but great season with this production of Sweeney Todd.

Beggar Woman - Lisa Eagle



Lisa has been in shows since she was 9 years old when she got the lead role in Oliver at her local dancing school.

She was involved with her family in Chorus and lead parts in several Musicals and Pantomimes in Hanmer Springs throughout her teens.

Sweeney Todd is her first production since high school. Lisa was only recently persuaded back to the theatre in Hastings when she joined in as a chorus member in Amahl and the Night Visitors. She then went on to become a strong member of the Four's Company Choir. Lisa is now very keen to continue treading the boards here in the Hawke's Bay... she must be MAD!

Jonas Fogg - Peter Berry



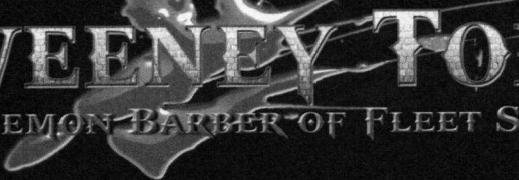
Peter's return to the stage 8 years ago was alongside Director Carol Della Barca and Producer Linda Gilchrist singing in an off-stage choir for Brigadoon.

He is thrilled to have this opportunity to work alongside them again, acting this time, in a role that has few words, playing a character that has no redeeming features! It's much more fun playing bad guys!

Peter is a wonderful local performer and playwright who contributes a great deal to the local theatre scene.

Chorus

Abigail Lassing	Jaimee Howse	Matteo Della Barca	Rosalie Thompsom
Acacia Hapi	Jillian Andrew	Molly Nilsson	Ruia Waite
Antonio Della Barca	Jo Murphy	Oscar Nagy	Sarah Roil
Claudia Wood	Kerran Williams	Paul O'Connor	Taylor Vercoe
Jack Gilchrist	Kyle Bond	Peter Berry	Wiki Murphy



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Orchestra

Michael Joel - Conductor

Raewyn Newcomb - Orchestra Manager

Gretchen Anderson - violin

Paula Sugden - cello

Rosemary Severinsen - bass

Anton Wuts - clarinet

Pieta Hextall - bassoon

Dave Kempton - trumpet

Shadley van Wyk - horn

Darryl Turner - percussion

Paul Carnegie-Jones - piano

Amanda Cooper - keyboard

Production Team

Director - Carol Della Barca

Musical Director - Michael Joel

Choreographer - Jillian Andrew

Production Manager - Linda Gilchrist

Rehearsal Repetiteurs - Linda Gilchrist & Amanda Cooper

Stage Manager - Paula Nagy

Lighting - Opera House

Sound - Opera House

Costume Design/Seamstress - Wendy Person

Amanda Cooper - Mrs. Lovett's Act II costume

Makeup and Wigs - Linda Gilchrist, Wendy Person, Carol Della Barca, Jillian Andrew and Rosalie Thompson

Stage Props - Kerran Williams

Production Secretary - Joanne Murphy

Publicity and Programme - Angela Kilkolly

Publicity Photographer - Claire Holmes

Anime Artist - Sophie Blokker

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The Set

Concept - Carol Della Barca

Architectural Design - Michael Cooper

Construction - Michael Cooper, Todd Gilchrist, Paul Murphy, James McCaffrey and Jack Thompson

Painting Design - Rosalie Thompson

Set Painting - Rosalie Thompson, Paula Nagy, Carol Della Barca, Fiona Reeve & others

Special Props

Barber's Chair; Hydraulic Trap Door and Slide - Jack Thompson

The Grinder - Colin and Rory Cook

Acknowledgements

Special thanks to...

- Sutto for their imaginative and enthusiastic Pie Promotion
- Theatre Hawke's Bay for help with props and costumes
- Napier Operatic Society for their help with costumes
- Barbara Morris for her help with rehearsal afternoon teas

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