

Thespis

Alexander Theatre, Monash University

April 16, 17 & 23 2010 at 8.00 pm

April 17, 24 2010 at 2.00 pm

Thespis was first performed in 1871 at the Gaiety Theatre, London. It is an extravaganza in which the Greek gods, grown elderly, are temporarily replaced by a troupe of actors and actresses. One of these actors is the eponymous Thespis, the Greek father of drama. It is an ingenious and humorous political satire and parody of Grand Opera. It mimics Offenbach's *Orpheus in the Underworld*

and

La Belle Helene,

which, in translation, were enormous hits on the English musical stage at the time.

Recently restored and professionally staged in London by Timothy Henty and Anthony Baker, this is the first time the opera, in any version, has been staged in Australia! With additional music by Jacques Offenbach this is a wonderful recreation of an almost "lost" opera. Cheekier and spicier than the later G&S operas this promises to be the most exciting light opera event of the Century. Designed by James Wright and Phoenix Zhou and Musical Direction by John Ferguson.

Directed and Choreographed by James Wright

Music arranged and orchestrated by Timothy Henty

Libretto revised by Anthony Baker

CAST

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| Thespis | Ron Pidcock |
| Nicemis | Felicity Caterer |
| Sparkeion | Tracey Hendy |
| Daphne | Claire Colthup |
| Sillimon | Kyp Iacovou |
| Pretteia | Jessica Yeo |
| Tipseion | Jamie Moffat |
| Timidon | Austin Moore |
| Cymon | Rebecca Muratore |
| Jupiter | Lucas Richter |
| Apollo | Andrew McGrail |
| Mars | Edward Burger |
| Diana | Judith O'Shea |
| Venus | Christine Keys |
| Mercury | Ilsa Cook |
| Chorus | |

Jenny Coll, Alicia Marcano, Susannah Middleton, Lisa Steinmetz, Zoe Taylor, Dave Gerard, Peter Ha

Director and Designer

James Wright

Musical Director

John Ferguson

Costume Design and Maker

Phoenix Zhou

Production Manager

Andrew McGrail

Lighting Designer

Francis Croese

Stage Manager

John Larcombe

Assistant Stage Manager

Anna Castle

Personnel Co-ordinator

Jamie Moffat

Orchestra

Violins: Chantal Roddy (Concertmaster), Vanessa Neagle, Lesley O'Meara, Michael

Production Crew

Administration:

Robert Ray.

Repetiteur:

Jessica Yeo.

Cost