

# cdp Kids

## 'Meeting Mozart' Marketing pack

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Photo by Daniel Boud of Simon Tedeschi

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## **About the Show**

'**Sydney Opera House Proms: Meeting Mozart**' is a 50-minute theatre work that instills a love and appreciation of classical music in young children aged 2-10 years old and their families.

Through live music, stories and song the show takes us on an interactive journey to explore and learn about the instruments, scores and themes that inspired Mozart to compose his greatest works, from variations on 'Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star' through to his great orchestral pieces. The production explores the instruments, scores and themes behind the music and life of one of the worlds most celebrated musicians, through an atmosphere that is fun, participatory and inclusive.

Watch with delight as world-renowned pianist Simon Tedeschi assumes the persona of the mischievous musical wunderkind himself, Wolfgang Amadeus, accompanied by an Australian actor/Soprano as wife, Constanze. Audiences will meet all the instruments in the ensemble along the way and discover some of Mozart's best-known and beloved classical music.

Since its 2013 premiere at Sydney Opera House as part of their "Babies Proms" series, MEETING MOZART, directed by Eva Di Cesare (Monkey Baa's Diary of a Wombat), has played two sold out runs at Sydney Opera House, toured to Abu Dhabi International Arts Festival and four times to China, and returns to Sydney Opera House shortly.

This production requires a local string-quintet to perform alongside the two touring musicians. This is a perfect residency opportunity to engage exceptional high school, college, or community musicians, who can prepare ahead of the show's arrival and be integrated into the performance in a relatively short rehearsal with the company that can coincide with the load-in. The production can also work with local professionals with less advance rehearsal required.

## **Creative Team**

Producers:	CDP Theatre Producers, Sydney
Written by:	Eva Di Cesare, Tim McGarry, Simon Tedeschi
Director:	Eva Di Cesare
Cast:	Simon Tedeschi, Michelle Doake
Stage Manager:	Sharna Galvin
International Consultant:	Vicki Middleton
String Quintet:	Local musicians



**Above:** Photo of Michelle Doake and Simon Tedeschi by Susannah Wimberley

## **What the critics and audiences said**

'The music was beautiful, the performance engaging and funny..... Very, very clever indeed.'  
**North Shore Mums**

'A beautifully cast and expertly-woven performance filled with songs, dance and comedy, which captured the imaginations of children and grown-ups alike...a charming and informative glimpse into the life, loves and compositions of one of the world's most important musical influences.'  
**Alphabet Street**

“最适合他这个年龄听的莫扎特作品。当全小朋友唱起小星星的时候，真的会有种漫天繁星的。” "The best suited Mozart works for little ones. When the whole audience sings "twinkle twinkle little star" , I really feel under a starry sky." (Audience member, China tour)

## **Reviews for Simon Tedeschi (solo works)**

'Tedeschi draws the listener into his world... a rare gift.'  
**London Evening Standard**

'Tedeschi can dive and dive deeply he does ... with a pulsating delivery ... the abundance of his musicality serves these treasures well'.  
**The New York City Jazz Record**

'Pure brilliance... masterful... This was a powerhouse performance of intense corporeality.'  
**Sydney Morning Herald**

## **Video excerpts:**

<https://youtu.be/cSVRKSvT5Kq> - About the show (for presenters only) includes cast interviews

<https://vimeo.com/325145125/9e1654ede7> - Trailer (1.47m)

<https://vimeo.com/267364696> Password: TWINKLE – Full length version (Archival quality)

**NB:** A new high quality recording of the whole show will be filmed at the Sydney Opera House in October 2019 and available to presenters.

## About CDP Theatre Producers

"A reliable and prolific source of high-quality children's theatre".  
***The Age (Australia)***

CDP Theatre Producers is a boutique producer based in Sydney. The company is Australia's largest producer of work for young audiences, creating award winning theatre of the highest quality. CDP adapts the world's best children's books for the stage for 0-12 year olds and their families, working with Australia's highest calibre artists. The company tours more widely than any other theatre company across Australia, and are committed to producing work which engages, educates, inspires and challenges audiences, whilst remaining relevant and accessible.

Founded 25 years ago by Christine Dunstan and today led by Co-Directors Andrew Threlfall and Yolande White, CDP have produced 79 productions (35 for young audiences), seen by over five-million people across 55 Australian and 15 international tours to the USA, Singapore, Hong Kong, New Zealand, UAE, Holland and China. CDP have two major International co-productions in Holland and the UK and have won multiple theatre awards.

Works in the repertoire include 'The 13-Story Treehouse' (and 4 other shows in the series), Mr. Stink, Billionaire Boy, as well as the Australian co-productions (with Tall Stories, UK) of The Gruffalo, The Gruffalo's Child and Room on the Broom. CDP also co-produced 16 works for 'The Sydney Opera House Babies Proms' series, which includes 'Meeting Mozart'.



**Photos credits:** Left. Michelle Doake by Susannah Wimberley.  
Right: Simon Tedeschi by Susannah Wimberley

## Touring history

Meeting Mozart opened at Sydney Opera House in 2013. Since 2015 CDP have toured the show to the UAE International Arts Festival and to nine cities across China over four tours since 2016 (in partnership with Tong Productions, Beijing). The show toured to the Canberra Theatre Centre in April 2018 and will return to the Sydney Opera House from 4-13<sup>th</sup> October 2019. The show is highly scalable having successfully played venues from 120 to 1200 seats.

Other CDP works have toured extensively across Australia as well as across the USA (2018 eight week tour), Holland (international co-production with Meneer Monster), Singapore, Hong Kong plus 4 tours to New Zealand. A major co-production of 'The 13-Story Treehouse' with high profile Producer Kenny Wax will tour extensively across the UK from 2020.

**Right:** Promotional poster for China tour 2016 (Tong Productions)



## Biography: Simon Tedeschi (Mozart, co-writer)

Simon Tedeschi is one of Australia's most renowned and sought-after pianists, awarded several prestigious prizes including first prize in the Keyboard division of the Royal Overseas League Competition (UK), Symphony Australia's Young Performer of the Year Award, and the Legacy Award from the Creativity Foundation (USA). Also recipient of a Centenary of Federation Medal, Tedeschi has performed in major concert halls throughout Europe, North America and Asia, and for world leaders such as George W. Bush, Vladimir Putin, Nelson Mandela and the Dalai Lama.

As a soloist, Tedeschi regularly performs with orchestras around Australia and worldwide, with conductors including Richard Bonyngue, Alan Gilbert, Jun Märkl and Sir William Southgate. Since returning to Sydney in 2010 after several years in the USA, Tedeschi has performed for the Sydney and Adelaide Symphony Orchestras, Sydney Opera House, Melbourne Recital Centre, Musica Viva, Queensland Music Festival and numerous concert series.

His wide-ranging discography includes acclaimed recordings of concerti by Grieg, Tchaikovsky and Mozart, and solo albums, Gershwin and Me and Gershwin: Take Two, and Tender Earth (ABC Classics), all making the top 5 in the ARIA and Limelight Classical Charts, with this last selected as 'Editor's Choice' in Limelight magazine, and 'CD of the Week' on both ABC Classic FM and Fine Music 102.5 FM. Gershwin: Take Two was also nominated for a 2014 ARIA Fine Arts Award (Engineer of the Year/Virginia Read).

Tedeschi also played the hands of acclaimed pianist David Helfgott for the Oscar-winning film Shine, directed by Scott Hicks.

## Curriculum Connections

**Performing Arts:** Music, theatre, song, musicianship, opera

**Fine Arts:** Music, Opera, Composition, Classical Instruments

**Social Studies:**

- Culture: European classical music and its influence on world music.
- History: The life and times of Mozart, Fashion in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century

**Emotional/community development:**

- Instilling the joy of classical music in young people.
- Collaboration: String quintet parts suitable for local musicians of a professional or high standard provides an opportunity for deeper community engagement, collaboration and development opportunities.
- Creativity

## Education

A post show exchange with the cast/ musicians allows young audiences to meet the cast/ musicians, and explore/learn about the instruments, scores and themes of Mozart's greatest works. An informal and relaxed environment encourages deep engagement and learning in an environment that is fun, participatory and inclusive.

## Awards for CDP

**2016 SYDNEY CRITICS AWARD** Best Children's Production for "The 52-Story Treehouse"

**2015 SYDNEY THEATRE AWARD** Best Children's Production for "The 52-Story Treehouse"

**2011 GLUGS HAYES GORDON MEMORIAL AWARD** Contribution to Theatre

**2009 SYDNEY THEATRE AWARD** Best Production for Children for "*The Gruffalo*"

**2008 DROVER AWARD** for Touring Excellence

**2007 HELPMANN AWARD** Best Regional Touring Production for "*Six Dance Lessons in Six Weeks*" Ensemble Theatre Production in association with CDP

**2007 DROVER AWARD** Touring Legend Christine Dunstan Outstanding performance by an individual or company.

**2005 DROVER AWARD** Tour Management Excellence for "*The 3 Divas*" and "*Flatfoot*"

**1999 SCOTSMAN FRINGE FIRST** Award at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival for Outstanding Production of a New Work for Tyler Coppins "*Lyrebird, Tales of Helpmann*"

**1995 DIVA AWARD** Best Production at the Sydney Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras for "*Venus & Adonis*"