

CLEOPATRA & ANTONY



Shakespeare's epic tale of passion, power, and empire returns to the Melbourne stage for the first time in almost 10 years!

Melbourne Shakespeare Company is proud to present Shakespeare's *Antony and Cleopatra*, directed by multi-award-winning artist **Sonya Suares** in a production that puts Cleopatra front and centre!

"For centuries this play has been known as Antony and Cleopatra, but Sonya understands it belongs just as much to Cleopatra. She is one of Shakespeare's most complex, intelligent and charismatic women. By putting Cleopatra first, we're inviting audiences to see the story through her lens" explains Artistic Director Jennifer Sarah Dean.

Following a string of acclaimed, sold-out seasons including *Othello* (2025), and *Hamlet* (2024) and *Julius Caesar* (2023), the company returns with a bold new production of this rarely performed epic.

Following an open casting call that attracted hundreds of submissions, the production brings together some of Melbourne's most sought-after performers including Akina Edmonds (*HAMILTON*) as Cleopatra, Louis Lucente (*MS FISHER'S MODERN MURDER MYSTERIES*) as Antony, Tsungirai Wachenuka (*SLAP.BANG.KISS*) as Charmian, and Jennifer Vuletic (*LOOKING FOR ALIBRANDI*) as Agrippa.

Sonya's previous directorial credits include *The Lucky Country*, *Nora: A Doll's House*, and *Sweeney Todd*. Sonya is also the founder of *Watch This* whose productions have accrued thirty-one Green Room Award nominations and seven wins.

This production blends sharp contemporary direction with Shakespeare's rich language, offering audiences a visceral and compelling night of theatre that should not be missed!

Praise for previous Melbourne Shakespeare Company productions includes:

"Exquisitely told and shouldn't be missed" — Australian Arts Review

"An invigorating production that would honour the program of any main-stage company" — The Age

Cast:

Cleopatra – Akina Edmonds

Antony – Louis Lucente

Charmian – Tsungirai Wachenuka

Octavius – Damon Baudin

Agrippa – Jennifer Vuletic

Philo/Caesarion/Eros – Amir Antoine

Iras/Octavia – Julia Hanna

Alexas/Menas – Mikey Sakinofsky

Enobarbus – Laura Iris Hill

Ventidius/Messenger/Soldier – Mark Yeates

Pompey/Thyreus – Deep Sroa

Soothsayer/Menecrates – Angelo Torres

Lepidus/Proculeius – Tim Wotherspoon

Creatives:

Director – Sonya Suares

Assistant Director – Kirby Lunn

Movement & Fight Director – Thomas Royce-Hampton

Set Designer – Eloise Kent

Costume Designer – Samantha Hastings

Lighting Designer – Rob Sowinski

Sound Designer – David Stewart

Producer & Production Manager – Seamus Allan

Artistic Director – Jennifer Sarah Dean

Marketing Coordinator – Ryan Hamilton

Performance Details

Dates: Thursday 20 August – Sunday 13 September, 2026

Opening: Saturday August 22nd, 2026

Times: 7:30pm (Tuesday to Saturday) and 5:00pm (Sunday)

Venue: fortyfivedownstairs, 45 Flinders Lane, Melbourne , VIC, 3000, AU

Tickets: \$39.00 – \$55.00

For bookings visit melbourneshakespeare.com

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For more information, interviews, and assets please contact Marketing Coordinator
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