

# PRE-SHOW IN-THE-KNOW

## FAST FACTS

### TITLE

*Arcadia* by Tom Stoppard

### ABOUT THE PLAY

**Fall in love with wit, intelligence, chaos and romance**

Tom Stoppard's much-loved *Arcadia* is recognised as one of the 20th century's greatest plays – a cocktail of ravishing comedy, literary sleuthing, romantic entanglements and scientific discoveries.

In a stately home in the British countryside, poets, tutors, academics and lovers roam the corridors some 200 years apart, each uncovering their own particular mystery. In April 1809, bright young Thomasina and her tutor Septimus are inventing chaos theory a century too early – or perhaps they are simply falling in love? Two hundred years later, two scholars try to piece history together from the puzzling fragments that remain. Along the way, there will be indiscrete affairs, mistaken identities, hermits, duels and ... horticulture.

Often picked out as audiences' favourite play, *Arcadia* at the Sydney Opera House promises to be a thrilling night at the theatre. With tickets selling fast, this is an event not to be missed.

Directed by Richard Cottrell, whose production of Stoppard's *Travesties* was a hit in 2009, *Arcadia* brings back to STC the delightful talents of Ryan Corr (*Sex with Strangers*), Blazey Best (*Travesties*), Andrea Demetriades (*Arms and the Man*), Glenn Hazeldine (*After Dinner*) and Josh McConville (*Noises Off*) in a play that will entrance, stimulate and illuminate.

### CAST

Blazey Best, Ryan Corr, Honey DeBelle, Andrea Demetriades, Jonathan Elsom, Georgia Flood, Julian Garner, Glenn Hazeldine, Josh McConville, Will McDonald, Michael Sheasby, Justin Smith

### STYLE

Play of Ideas, Tragic Comedy

### RUNNING TIME

2 hours 45 minutes

## ACTIVE AUDIENCE

### THINK ABOUT

- Chaos theory, thermodynamics
- Romanticism versus Classicism
- 'Et in Arcadia Ego'
- The idea of something that is lost, being found by someone else

### WATCH AND LISTEN FOR

- The end of the Enlightenment way of thinking and how this is echoed in the re-design of Sidley Park's garden
- Clever comic wordplay
- The major ideas of the play symbolised in the table and artefacts on the table
- The piano playing

### MEMORABLE MOMENTS

- The turtle
- The banter between Septimus and Thomasina
- Thomasina talking about the rice pudding
- The waltz at the end