

## Otello rides a Harley Davidson



**Melbourne, Feb 5, 2019 ([IssueWire.com](http://www.IssueWire.com))** - NATIONAL Touring Opera presents Verdi's masterpiece Otello at 7:30 pm Saturday 16 March 2019 at the Phoenix Theatre.

The NTO production of Otello will be staged in present-day Melbourne and the story takes place in an underground biker headquarters. The opera overture commences with the roar of Harley Davidsons as the Winged Lions biker gang return from war with a rival gang. Otello, the leader of the biker gang, has just married Desdemona but another gang member, Iago, devises a plan that will make Otello question her fidelity. Desdemona is innocent, but as Iago's poison begins to seep into Otello's mind, his paranoia and suspicion begin to increase and all sense of reality disappears. Our audience is left in nail-biting suspense as to how far and deep Iago can spin his web of deception and pull the strings of his puppets. Sung in Italian with English surtitles and conducted by Chris Jewell.

Local talent Manfred Pohlenz will be singing the role of the Iago and international soprano Rachael

Birthisel will perform in the role of Desdemona. Other cast members include Cameron Sibly as Cassio, Sasho Ujgunoski as Otello, Maria La Civita as Emelia, Nick Xiao as Roderigo and Andrew Alesi as Montano. Tickets may be purchased online at [www.nationaltouringopera.com](http://www.nationaltouringopera.com) or by phone on 0437 254 259.

## **Media Contact**

NATIONAL TOURING OPERA

[admin@nationaltouringopera.com](mailto:admin@nationaltouringopera.com)

+61 437 254 259

Melbourne Victoria

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