

# Phillip Rhodes

Baritone



“ Baritone Phillip Rhodes as Escamillo impressed because he not only sang with decent French but actually sang with elements of French style giving the music a slight nasal twang which was perfect. In this relatively small theatre, he was able to demonstrate his nicely fluid top, and decent low notes in the Toreadors song. For all the fame of the music, this is a role which can easily fall flat in the theatre, and Rhodes ensured that it didn't.”

**Planet Hugill, Robert Hugill, 12 June 2017**

“ Phillip Rhodes made a particularly strong impression as the angry Ankarstrom; and the confrontation with Amelia in the opening scene of Act III was, perhaps, vocally and emotionally the highpoint of the opera.”

**Opera Now, Antony Arblaster, April 2018.**

UK-based baritone Phillip Rhodes begins the 2018-19 Season with his house debut at Nederlandse Reisopera in the role of Scarpia *Tosca*. The artist travels to Welsh National Opera for his house and role debut as the Speaker *The Magic Flute* (also covering Renato *Un ballo in maschera*) before making his Royal Opera House debut in the role of Escamillo *Carmen*.

Last season Phillip continued his long association with Opera North in the roles of Alfio *Cavalleria rusticana*, Silvio *Pagliacci* and Renato *Un ballo in maschera* receiving outstanding reviews. At Grange Park Opera he sang the role of Jud Fry *Oklahoma!* and ended the season at Dorset Opera in the role of the King *Le Cid*.

Recent highlights include in his native country New Zealand, he appeared as Judge Turpin *Sweeney Todd* (also covering the title role); as Scarpia in a new production and his debut as Pere Germont *La Traviata*. In the UK he stepped into the roles of Mizgir *The Snowmaiden* and Peter/Father *Hansel und Gretel*, both for Opera North, and at the new festival at The Grange he made his role debut with his portrayal of Escamillo.

Phillip won exceptional reviews for his performance as Enrico *Lucia de Lammermoor* at Auckland Opera Studio and joined the artist roster at The Royal Opera House Covent Garden to cover the role under the aegis of a special grant provided by the Kiri Te Kanawa Foundation.

Enjoying a long relationship with Opera North (UK), Phillip sang the roles of Marcello *La Boheme* and Aeneas *Dido and Aeneas* to excellent reviews. He joined the cast of *Andrea Chenier* for the role of Roucher while covering Gerard, and also covered the roles of Iago *Otello* and Balstrode *Peter Grimes*.

At English National Opera he appeared as Older Man in Tansy Davies' new commission, *Between Worlds* directed by Deborah Warner which won him decisive reviews. Other recent highlights include his debut as Count de Luna *Il Trovatore* at Dorset Festival Opera, where he previously brought Scarpia into his repertoire for the first time.

In previous seasons, Phillip appeared as Monterone *Rigoletto* at Opera New Zealand and in the title role of their new production of

*Hohepa*, presented at the New Zealand International Arts Festival. Early appearances with the company include Tonio *Pagliacci* and Alfio *Cavalleria Rusticana* as well as Geronimo *Il Matrimonio Segreto* (Cimarosa) and Signor Bruschino *Il Signore Bruschino* at Opera Barga Festival in Italy. Phillip also appeared in New Zealand as Maori Chef/Captain Cook in *Trial of the Cannibal Dog* by Matthew Suttor and John Downie.

Following his graduation in 2004 with a Diploma in Arts and Voice in Hawkes Bay where he was born, Phillip became an Emerging Artist with New Zealand Opera, appearing in step-out roles in several productions as well as singing Marcello, covering Monterone and inaugurating the title role in *Turpin*, a world premiere.

In 2005, Phillip won the prestigious New Zealand Aria Competition and quickly followed this success by winning the highly significant Lexus Song Quest, which brought him to the attention of Dame Kiri who still maintains her interest in his career. Phillip gratefully acknowledges the support and guidance of the Kiri Te Kanawa Foundation.

In 2006, Phillip toured with New Zealand Opera in the role of Malatesta *Don Pasquale* and sang the role of Monostatos *Die Zauberflöte*. He appeared as Ping *Turandot* and covered Enrico *Lucia di Lammermoor* and played Grandfather Clock and Black Cat in Auckland Opera Factory's production of *L'Enfant et Les Sortilèges*.

In 2008, Phillip was awarded a scholarship to attend the Cardiff International Academy of Voice under the tutelage of Dennis O'Neill, where he remained for three seasons. He won Second Place in the International Montserrat Caballe Competition held in Zaragosa, Spain, and appeared in concert with the legendary diva in Cologne, Germany.

EXCLUSIVE INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATION

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