

# q theatre: SUNSET BOULEVARD

by Q Magazine Beauty & Entertainment Editor

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This evening (Wednesday the 29th of May 2024) I had the privilege of attending the red carpet opening of Sunset Boulevard, at Melbourne's Princess Theatre, presented by Opera Australia and GWB Entertainment.

Sarah Brightman played the lead roll of Norma Desmond. Ms Brightman, for those that aren't familiar with her work, is an International singing superstar and UNESCO Artist for Peace Ambassador, and is the world's best selling soprano. She has pioneered the classical crossover music movement and is famed for possessing a vocal range of over three octaves. Sarah is the only artist to have simultaneously topped the Billboard dance and classical music charts. Her voice has rung out from theatres, arenas, cathedrals, world heritage centres and Olympic stadiums, bringing to life some of the world's most beautiful music.

Sarah's work transcends any specific musical genre, synthesising many influences and inspirations into a unique sound and vision. Today, she remains among the world's most prominent performers, with global sales of 30 million units having received more than 180 gold and platinum awards in over 40 countries.

She currently graces the stage of Melbourne's Princess Theatre, which is where I got to see her perform live, completing a bucket list item for myself. Her rendition of Norma Desmond was nothing short of impeccable. Her vocals were sublime, and her acting was just as good. Everything she was selling, we as the audience bought. Tim Draxl played the roll of Joe Gillis, and was also absolutely brilliant, and totally enjoyable to watch. Robert Grubb played Max Von Mayerling - Ms. Desmonds butler of sorts. The operatic prowess witnessed from the aforementioned, was duplicated in ample quantities making the 3 leads a true force to be reckoned with. The entire cast played their rolls well.

Staging was second to none. Sets were seamless and a very impressive compliment to the actors performances. Lighting also was totally complimentary to the overall feel and atmosphere of the production.

All in all, a totally enjoyable performance that people from all walks of life can, and will, enjoy greatly.

Sunset Boulevard is playing now at the Princess Theatre, then is playing at the Sydney Opera House from August 28th. If you have an opportunity to see this production, I totally recommend you do, it's fabulous.

**Feel free to whet your appetite by viewing [this YouTube vision](#) or find out everything you need to know to arrange a great night at the theatre, [click here](#).**

