

# HARLEQUIN

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Release Date:** 9/10/2024

**End Date:** 10/13/2024

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## **Olympia Symphony and Harlequin come together for a ‘massive’ *Sweeney Todd***

**Olympia, WA** – September 10, 2024 - Harlequin Productions and the Olympia Symphony Orchestra will present *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* by Hugh Wheeler and Stephen Sondheim, October 11 – 13, 2024 at the Washington Center for the Performing Arts in downtown Olympia, WA. Harlequin Artistic Director Aaron Lamb will direct, and Olympia Symphony Music Director and Conductor Alexandra Arrieche will conduct. The two organizations will be joined by members of the Masterworks Choral Ensemble under the direction of Artistic Director and Conductor Ben Luedcke.

*Attend the dark, witty, and Tony Award-winning tale of love, murder, and revenge set against the backdrop of 19th-century London. A bloody, worldwide success since being awarded eight Tonys, (including Best Musical), for its Broadway premiere, Stephen Sondheim’s and Hugh Wheeler’s tasty, thrilling, theatrical treat has simultaneously shocked, awed, and delighted audiences worldwide. This musical thriller must be heard with a full orchestra, organ, and choir!*

Soon after Alexandra Arrieche was brought on as Music Director and Conductor of the Olympia Symphony in 2022, she and OSO Executive Director Jennifer Hermann reached out to Lamb with the idea of a collaboration. They quickly agreed that they wanted to work together, and when Lamb brought Arrieche the idea of *Sweeney Todd*, she immediately agreed. As Arrieche recalls, “I fell in love with Harlequin Productions even before moving to Olympia. There’s something truly exciting about the organization and its way of telling stories. I’ve always loved collaborating, and I knew the Olympia Symphony and Harlequin Productions would be a perfect match.”

Though it only runs for a weekend, this will be a fully staged production. Audiences will see scenic elements designed by Jeannie Beirne, costumes by Darren Mills, and visual effects, all with an orchestra and choir sharing the stage. Says Arrieche, “What makes this production unique is having the orchestra embedded within the set. Having these two organizations share the stage will create a powerful energy never seen before, flowing throughout the stage and the entire theater.” Lamb agrees that “...this collaboration will likely be much more than the sum of its parts (and not just because there will be upwards of 65 people onstage). I’m so excited and humbled to be able to lead the theatrical side of this massive production, and so grateful to Alex for reaching out. *Sweeney Todd* will certainly be much more than either of us could produce on our own.”

**Link to publicity photos here:** <https://harlequinproductions.org/sweeney-todd-publicity-photos/>

**Link to the Harlequin show page here:** <https://harlequinproductions.org/show/sweeney-todd/>

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Link to the Olympia Symphony show page here: <https://www.olympiasymphony.org/oso-sweeney-todd>

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## Production Information

**WHAT:** *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*, a co-production of Harlequin Productions and the Olympia Symphony Orchestra with members of the Masterworks Choral Ensemble, runs one weekend only at the Washington Center, October 11-13, 2024. Book by Hugh Wheeler, music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, based on an adaptation by Christopher Bond. Directed by Aaron Lamb, conducted by Alexandra Arrieche, Masterworks music direction by Ben Luedcke.

**WHEN:** October 11 - 13, 2024

**WHERE:** State Theater, 202 4<sup>th</sup> Ave East, Olympia, WA 98501

**TICKETS:** Tickets are available online at [harlequinproductions.org](http://harlequinproductions.org) and [olympiasymphony.org](http://olympiasymphony.org), by phone at 360-786-0151 and 360-753-8586, or in person 12-5:30 pm, Tuesday-Saturday at the Washington Center Box Office, and beginning 2 hours before performances at the Washington Center.

Single tickets \$26 - \$99

### **SPECIAL DATES FOR THE AUDIENCE:**

**Opening Night:** Friday, October 11 at 7:30 pm

**Closing:** Sunday, October 13 at 2:00pm

**CATEGORY:** Musical Thriller

**AGE RECOMMENDATION:** 13 and older with guidance

### **CAST:**

Sweeney Todd	Eric Jensen*
Mrs. Lovett	Justine Cameron
Johanna	Julia Kuzmich
Anthony Hope	Noah Fletcher
Judge Turpin	Jeff Church
Beadle Bamford	Max Lopuszynski
Tobias Ragg	Nick Hall
Beggar Woman	Jana Tyrrell
Adolfo Pirelli	Jerod Nace

\* Indicates membership in the Actor's Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

*Sweeney Todd* is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.

[www.mtishows.com](http://www.mtishows.com)

*Harlequin Productions is a professional not-for-profit theater company in Olympia, WA. We seek to invigorate, educate, and empower our community and all people to feel more, think more, play more, and judge less through the mirror of real live theatre.*