

Phantom Made Easy:  
A Scene by Scene Guide to  
What Is Happening Onstage

# THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA



Dear Friends,

Soon you will see *The Phantom of the Opera*, one of the world's most popular musicals. The show began in London in 1986 and opened in the United States in 1988. It has been at Broadway's Majestic Theatre ever since. This makes it the longest-running Broadway show ever.

The production you will be seeing is a spectacular new production of *The Phantom of the Opera* with new direction, sets, lighting and choreography. This show opened at the Sydney Opera House on the 26 August 2022 and is now playing at Arts Centre Melbourne.

Set in late 1800s France, it tells the story of a man who has a facial difference and lives beneath an opera house. People are afraid of this mysterious man and are cruel towards his unusual appearance. He loves a beautiful young singer, and he helps her to become the leading lady of the opera house.

The aim of this guide is to help people understand the story, be able to follow along with the music and prepare for what to expect. This guide may help reduce anxiety and be especially useful to Autistic people and those with learning disabilities. *Phantom Made Easy* breaks down each scene using simple language and pictures so that the setting is clearly explained along with why people do and say the things that they do. Unfamiliar terms are defined as well. Modifications that might be made for a performance for a relaxed performance are not included in this guide.

We hope *Phantom Made Easy* will provide parents, educators and people with disabilities with a go-to resource for understanding this wonderful show.

## The show is about...



**Christine Daaé**

Christine is a singer and dancer. She and Raoul were friends when they were children.



**The Phantom of the Opera**

The Phantom lives beneath the Opera House. He wears a mask to hide his face. He loves Christine. He writes music and is a dangerous man.



**Raoul Vicomte de Chagny**

Raoul is a rich man who wants to help the Opera House and its Opera Populaire.



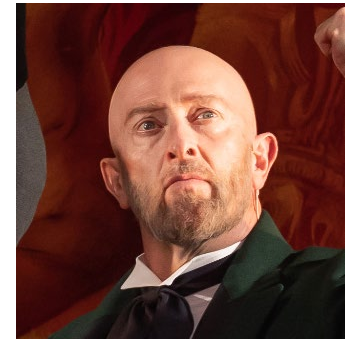
**Gilles André**

Monsieur André is the new co-manager of the Opera House and co-owner of the Opera Populaire.



**Carlotta Giudicelli**

Carlotta is the lead female singer of the Opera Populaire. She believes she is the best singer of all.



**Richard Firmin**

Monsieur Firmin has the same job as Monsieur André. They are business partners.



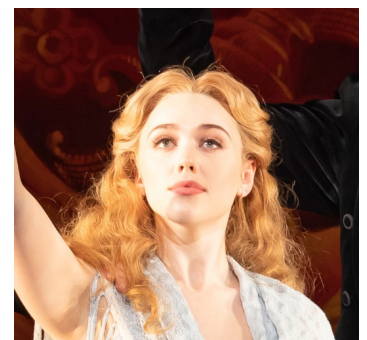
**Madame Girya**

Madame Girya is the ballet teacher.



**Ubaldo Piangi**

Ubaldo Piangi is the lead male singer of the Opera Populaire.



**Meg Girya**

Meg is Madame Girya's daughter, a dancer and Christine's friend.

## About

The photographs in this guide are provided by the Australian production of *The Phantom of the Opera*.

Sometimes actors stay in a role for a long time. Sometimes they leave the show so that they can learn a new role in another show. Sometimes substitutes, called understudies or alternates, perform for an actor when the actor is sick or unable to perform for one or just a few shows.

Perhaps you will see some of the actors in these pictures when you see *The Phantom of the Opera*. Even if you do not, the costumes and scenery will be the same and you will be able to recognize which actor plays which part when you see them on stage.

Sometimes the characters will argue or have physical fights. It's important to remember that these characters are played by actors who are pretending, and that in real life they are friends.

Any fights that occur have been carefully rehearsed so that everyone is safe.

Sometimes the voice of the Phantom will echo throughout the auditorium, and you might think he's in the theatre near you. This is a special sound effect but if you are confused, remember it's all pretend.

## Prologue

### The Stage of the Paris Opera House, 1905

- An old man and an old woman in a wheelchair are at an auction. The man is Raoul, the Vicomte de Chagny, a French nobleman. The old woman is Madame Giry. At an auction, an item is sold to the person willing to pay the most money. The auction takes place at the grand Paris Opera House. It has been closed for many years.
- The auctioneer is the person in charge of selling the items. Raoul buys a poster from the opera "Hannibal" and a music box with a monkey playing cymbals.
- The Opera House's chandelier is being sold. The auctioneer says it was the chandelier that featured in a famous disaster which took place at the Opera House involving a mysterious man known as The Phantom of the Opera.
  - The Phantom wore a mask to cover part of his face.
  - To understand the story, we must go back to the late 1800s, when Raoul was a young man.

#### Chandelier:

A chandelier is a large, beautiful light that hangs from a ceiling.



# Act 1, Scene 1

## The Dress Rehearsal of "Hannibal," Paris, Late 1800s



**Monsieur:**  
This is the French word for Mister. It is used often throughout the show.

- The Opera Populaire is the name of the group of singers, actors and dancers who perform in the Paris Opera House. They are rehearsing for the opera "Hannibal." A rehearsal is a practice session for actors. "Hannibal" is the story of a war General.

- Carlotta Giudicelli and Ubaldo Piangi are the most important people in the show. Carlotta plays Hannibal's wife and Piangi plays Hannibal. Carlotta holds up a severed head as she sings. This is a prop and is not real, but it might be shocking to see.



- The man in charge of the Opera House, Monsieur Lefèvre, is going to retire. This means he will stop working. Then, Richard Firmin and Gilles André will be in charge. They watch Meg and Christine, dancers in the show.
- André asks Carlotta to sing. While she sings, a sandbag falls to the ground. This was not supposed to happen. Joseph Buquet, the man in charge of the curtains and other items hanging from the roof, blames the Phantom of the Opera. Carlotta is angry and says she will not perform.
- Madame Girly, Meg's mother and the ballet teacher, gives André and Firmin a message from the Phantom. The message says he has his own seat in the Opera House and they must pay him his salary. A salary is a regular payment of money.
- Meg and Madame Girly say that Christine can sing Carlotta's part. André and Firmin do not want to cancel the show, but they do not think Christine can sing the part. Meg and Madame Girly talk them into it.
- Christine performs instead of Carlotta. In the audience, Raoul watches Christine. They were childhood friends. Raoul is a patron of the Opera House. This means he gives money to the Opera House.

## Act 1, Scene 2

### Behind the Stage / Dressing Room



Christine see the Phantom in the mirror.

- Madame Giry tells Christine that “he” will be pleased, but she does not say who “he” is.
- Backstage, Christine hears the Phantom’s voice. He says “Brava”, which means she did a good job. Christine is surprised.
- Meg arrives. She asks how Christine learned to sing so well. Christine says that she learns from an “Angel of Music,” but has never seen him. Her teacher, the angel of music, is the Phantom. The other dancer’s prepare to practice in their ballet tutus.
- André and Firmin bring Raoul to see Christine. Christine is happy to see him. They talk about their childhood memories and a poem called “Little Lotte.” Christine first heard about an “Angel of Music” in this poem.
- Raoul asks Christine to dinner, but she says no. She tells him the Angel of Music is very strict. Raoul wants her to go anyway and leaves for a moment to get his hat.
- The Phantom has been listening and makes fun of Raoul. The Phantom appears in Christine’s mirror. The mirror opens and the Phantom reaches for Christine.
- The mirror closes behind Christine and Raoul returns. The door to the dressing room unlocks, and Raoul sees that the dressing room is empty.

# Act 1, Scene 3

## The Underground Lair



- The Phantom and Christine have disappeared through the mirror and are traveling to the Phantom's home under the Opera House. It is a dark place down a vanishing staircase and across an underground lake.
  - The Phantom and Christine sing about the Phantom's power over Christine. She hears his voice in her head all the time, but never understood whether he was real or a dream.
- When they arrive at the Phantom's home, he sings a song about choosing Christine to sing the music he writes.
- The Phantom carries Christine and lays her down on a bed. He is still singing that she will help him make his music.



## Act 1, Scene 4 The Morning After



- While Christine is sleeping, the Phantom is writing a song at his organ. He takes his mask off.
- Christine wakes up and is curious about where she is. She finds the Phantom's mask. She wants to know who he is.
- Christine is shocked at the sight of the Phantom's face and backs away.
- The Phantom is angry. He sings that he looks like a monster but is a person who loves beautiful things. He wants Christine to see a man and not a monster when she looks at him.
- Christine gives him the mask and he places it on his face.
- The Phantom says he and Christine must return to the Opera House before André and Firmin make any more mistakes.

## Act 1, Scene 5 Backstage

- Backstage, Buquet is frightening the ballerinas by imitating the Phantom. He makes a loud noise with a sandbag and uses a piece of rope as a pretend lasso.
- He tells the ballerinas that the Phantom has yellow skin and a black hole where his nose should be. Buquet says the Phantom uses the lasso to kill people. He tells them to be careful and they run away frightened.
- Madame Girya warns Buquet that he should not talk about the Phantom. He will be in danger if he does.

## Act 1, Scene 6 The Managers' Office

- Carlotta has quit and Christine is missing. André is worried, but Firmin says people everywhere are talking about the opera and buying tickets.
- Almost everyone has received letters from the Phantom. André's letter says that Christine was a success, but the dancing was terrible. Firmin's letter asks for money.
- Raoul's letter says that Christine is with the Angel of Music. He thinks André and Firmin sent the letter, but they did not.
- Carlotta and Piangi think Raoul wrote their letter. It says that Christine must sing that night instead of Carlotta. Carlotta will have a silent part in the opera "Il Muto."
- Madame Girya announces that Christine has returned. She also has a letter saying that Christine must sing instead of Carlotta. The Phantom writes that this is a last chance for André and Firmin to follow his instructions. If they do not obey, there will be a disaster worse than any before.
- André and Firmin do not obey. They beg Carlotta to sing the lead role of the Countess.
- Raoul asks Madame Girya if Christine's Angel of Music is the same person as the ghost of the Opera House. Madame Girya warns André and Firmin to rethink their decision. She says they are fools to disobey the Phantom.
- The Phantom has overheard the conversations and declares war against the Opera House, André and Firmin.

## Act 1, Scene 7

### "Il Muto"

- The Opera Populaire is giving its first performance of "Il Muto."
- As the orchestra performs the show's overture, Raoul, André and Firmin take their seats. Raoul sits in Box Five, where the Phantom usually sits, because every other seat is taken.
- The overture ends and the story begins. As André and Firmin planned, Christine plays the silent Pageboy and Carlotta is the Countess.
  - The Phantom is angry because Raoul is sitting in Box Five. His voice interrupts the performance and Meg, Christine and Raoul call out. Carlotta calls Christine a toad for speaking when her part is a silent one. A toad is an insult for someone who behaves badly.
- The Phantom says Carlotta is the toad. When she tries to sing again, she can only croak like a frog.
- The Phantom's shadow is seen behind the stage curtain. The chandelier lights blink on and off and the chandelier shakes as he pulls a rope that holds it up. Carlotta coughs blood into a handkerchief and runs off the stage.
- André and Firmin announce that the opera will begin again in 10 minutes with Christine as the Countess, and the ballet dancers will perform until then.
  - As the dancers perform, the stage perspective shifts.
- The Phantom is behind the scenes and reaches around the neck of Buquet to kill Buquet. Buquet will drop the ground and lie dead.
- André and Firmin tell the audience to stay in their seats.
- Christine is frightened and runs with Raoul to the roof of the Opera House.

## Act 1, Scene 8 The Rooftop of the Opera House



- There is a huge statue of Apollo, a god from Greek and Roman mythology, above the Opera House.
- Christine tells Raoul that she is afraid of the Phantom. Christine is frightened by his face and knows he will kill people, yet she is drawn to his music and thinks he is sad. She thinks she hears his voice. Raoul says there is no Phantom of the Opera.
- Raoul sings that he wants to protect Christine forever and Christine sings that she wants everything Raoul tells her to be true. Christine returns to the stage and Raoul follows.
  - The Phantom comes out from behind the statue. He is angry with Christine now. He gave her his music but she loves Raoul. He wants revenge.
  - During bows of "Il Muto," Christine is dressed in Carlotta's costume and wig. The Phantom laughs from Box Five and makes the chandelier drop from the ceiling. The chandelier crashes down and the stage curtains begin to fall. Dancers and singers run off frightened. Christine watches the theatre around her collapse.

# INTERMISSION

# Act 2, Scene 1

## Masquerade Party, New Year's Eve, 12 Months Later

**Masquerade Party:**  
a party where  
people wear masks.



- The Phantom has been gone for 12 months. No one at the Opera House has seen him since he shattered the chandelier.
- André and Firmin are having a New Year's Eve Party at the Opera House to celebrate their next season. The party is a masquerade. All guests wear masks.
- Raoul and Christine are engaged. This means they have promised to marry each other. The Phantom wants Christine for himself.
- The Phantom interrupts the party. He is wearing a red costume with a gold mask, but everyone knows who it is.



- He has written an opera, "Don Juan Triumphant." He wants it performed immediately with Christine in the lead role. He gives the script to André and says if his instructions are not followed, he will do something worse than when he broke the chandelier.
- The Phantom sees Christine and says her voice belongs to him.
- The Phantom disappears as the guests run away in panic.
- Madame Giry goes to investigate.

## Act 2, Scene 1 Backstage

- Raoul wants to talk to Madame Girya backstage. He thinks she knows who the Phantom is.
- Madame Girya remembers a circus in Paris long ago. A man there was good at writing music, but his face was so frightening that he was kept locked in a cage.
- Madame Girya tells Raoul that the man was a musician, a scholar, an architect, and an inventor too. The man escaped the circus. Everyone forgot about him except her. He is the Phantom of the Opera.
- Madame Girya thinks that she has said too much and that the Phantom might have heard her. She says that there have been too many accidents. She is frightened and leaves.
  - Raoul follows her.

## Act 2, Scene 2

### The Managers' Office

- André and Firmin are reading "Don Juan Triumphant," the Phantom's opera about a Spanish hero. They do not like it, but they are afraid to not perform it.
- They find two more letters from the Phantom. The first says two musicians in the orchestra are playing the music wrong. He wants new musicians.
- The second letter says that some people cannot sing and should be taken out of the show. Those who cannot act have small roles in the show.
- Carlotta and Piangi have a third letter. Carlotta is angry because she has been given the smallest part in the show.
- Christine and Raoul arrive. André says that Christine will sing the lead in "Don Juan." Carlotta does not think Christine can do it. André and Firmin are afraid of what the Phantom might do if Christine is not the lead.
- Carlotta blames Christine for putting her in the smallest part. Christine says that she did not do it and will not perform.
- Madame Giry has a letter from the Phantom. It says that Carlotta cannot act, that Piangi should lose weight, that André and Firmin should not work at the Opera House, and that Christine should return to the Phantom for lessons.
- Raoul knows the Phantom will come to the first performance of "Don Juan Triumphant." He decides this will be the right time to capture the Phantom.
  - Madame Giry says a trap is a bad idea. She reminds everyone that the Phantom has killed people. Carlotta and Piangi think Madame Giry is helping the Phantom.
  - Christine is upset and frightened and does not want to perform. Raoul says Christine must perform to help them catch the Phantom.
  - Christine is confused about whether she loves Raoul or the Phantom. She runs away. Raoul says that the next bad thing to happen in the theatre will happen to the Phantom.

## Act 2, Scene 3

### A Rehearsal for "Don Juan Triumphant"

- Rehearsals have started for the Phantom's opera.
- Piangi cannot sing the music as the Phantom has written it. Carlotta says that Piangi's way of singing it is better. Madame Girya reminds Carlotta that the Phantom might be listening.
- Piangi tries again to sing. He cannot do it, and everyone begins talking.
- Suddenly, the piano starts to play by itself, and flames shoot up out of it. Everyone sings the music as the Phantom wrote it, without arguing.
- Christine sings separately, the same words she first sang about the Phantom.
- Christine moves away from the group and sings the poem she and Raoul recited when they were children, as bells begin to ring. Part of the poem is, "Her father promised her / That he would send her the Angel of Music / Her father promised her."
- Christine leaves the Opera House.



## Act 2, Scene 4 A Graveyard

- Christine goes to the graveyard where her father is buried. She sings to the grave of her father. She says that she has been wishing he was still alive for 3 long years. She knows she needs to grieve and move on.
- The Phantom appears and softly sings to Christine. For a moment, Christine wonders whether she sees her father or the Phantom. The Phantom says he is the Angel of Music and calls Christine to him.
- Raoul arrives and stops Christine before she can reach the Phantom. Raoul tells the Phantom that he will never have Christine for himself.
- Raoul punches the Phantom. The Phantom throws invisible fireballs at Raoul. Raoul is not afraid and they fight. The Phantom laughs at Raoul's bravery.
- Just before the Phantom throws his last invisible fireball, Christine pulls Raoul away and they leave the graveyard.
- The Phantom is furious. He declares war on both Christine and Raoul and vanishes.

## Act 2, Scene 5

### The Opera House Stage before the Premiere

- It is the night of the first performance of "Don Juan Triumphant." The audience is not seated yet.
- André and Firmin have police and firemen on guard, ready to shoot the Phantom. One policeman is hiding in the orchestra pit ready to shoot toward Box Five.
  - While the orchestra is practicing, the police lock the exit doors. The Phantom arrives and his voice travels from place to place around the theatre until at last it comes from Box Five.
- The policeman in the orchestra pit fires a shot toward Box Five. Raoul scolds him for firing too early.
- The Phantom's voice is heard again, and everyone looks up. He says the audience must come into the Opera House and the opera should begin at once.

## Act 2, Scene 6 "Don Juan Triumphant"



- A few hours later, the performance of "Don Juan Triumphant" has reached its final scene. Christine is singing the female lead role, Aminta, and Piangi sings as Don Juan.

- Piangi exits the stage. Secretly, backstage, the Phantom kills him. The Phantom himself will be Don Juan when that character next appears.
- Christine realises that she is singing with the Phantom instead of Piangi and quickly removes his hood to reveal the Phantom.
- The Phantom changes his song and sings to Christine using her name. He removes a ring he's been wearing and puts it on to Christine's finger.
- Before the song ends, Christine removes the Phantom's mask and wig, revealing his face to the audience.
- As the police try to get near him, the Phantom runs after Christine and throws an invisible fireball.
- Raoul shoots at the Phantom but hits a Policeman, who falls into a curtain revealing Piangi hanging from a noose. He has been killed by the Phantom
- A dancer screams and the scenery changes to reveal what is happening backstage. Everyone realises that the Phantom has killed Piangi and they are trying to run out of the building.
- Madame Girya tells Raoul she knows where Christine and the Phantom are. Raoul wonders whether to trust her. She tells him how to protect himself from the lasso the Phantom uses to kill people, by keeping his hand at the level of his eyes.
  - Meg wants to go with them, but Madame Girya says "no".

## Act 2, Scene 7

### The Underground Lair

- The Phantom is angry with Christine and tells her that the reason he wears a mask and lives under the Opera House is because of his disfigured face.
- An angry mob follows them. The Phantom hears them in the distance calling him a murderer.
- Raoul reaches the underground lake and decides to cross it by himself. Madame Girya warns him again to keep his hand near his eyes to protect himself from the Phantom's lasso. Keeping his hand up will prevent the lasso from closing.
  - Raoul reaches the place where the Phantom lives
- Christine asks the Phantom why he kills people and asks if she will be next.
- The Phantom explains that because he is ugly, no one ever loved him, not even his mother. He has been sad all of his life.
  - The Phantom says Christine must stay with him forever.
- Christine tells the Phantom that the way he thinks is a bigger problem for him than the way he looks.
- The Phantom hears Raoul and Christine is shocked to see him in the Phantom's lair.
  - Raoul demands that the Phantom let Christine go.
- The Phantom releases Christine and puts his lasso around Raoul's neck. The Phantom drags Raoul towards the wall, with the lasso around Raoul's neck. *This scene has been carefully rehearsed so that while it appears dangerous, the actors are all safe.*
- The Phantom tells Christine to choose between letting Raoul live or die. He will let Raoul live if she chooses to stay with the Phantom forever.
- Christine says that any kindness she felt toward the Phantom has turned to hate but, as she listens to him, she realises that she can show him that he is not as alone as he thinks he is. She walks toward him and kisses him for a long time as Raoul watches.

- The Phantom feels love for the first time in his life. He uses fire to break the lasso and free Raoul.
- The Phantom hears the angry mob. He tells Raoul and Christine to forget him and everything that has happened, and orders Raoul to use the boat to take Christine away. The Phantom is left alone.
- The monkey music box begins to play, and the Phantom sings the song from the masquerade party. The Phantom says that he loves Christine.
- Christine comes back and quietly returns the Phantom's ring then leaves with Raoul. The Phantom doesn't see her. The Phantom says that without her, his music means nothing
- The Phantom picks up his cloak just as Meg and the policemen arrive in the lair. Meg tries to protect the Phantom, but as she steps back the Phantom has vanished. All that is left is his mask, and she holds it up.

## THE END



The curtain will fall and the lights on the stage will go dark. This means the story has finished. When the curtain rises again, the performers will return to the stage to bow. This is a chance for you to show your appreciation for their hard work. People in the audience might clap and cheer, which can be loud. You can join in if you like, or cover your ears with your hands if it is too noisy.

