

what to watch

Building operations manager Dean Jakubowski (right). Below: Presenter Marta Dusseldorp.



Fifty and FABULOUS

THE ICONIC SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE CELEBRATES ITS HALF CENTURY



From far left: Anthony Carthew, Philippa Martin, Alan Croker, Ben Marshall, Louise Herron, Grace White and John Lomax all play a role in the successful running of the Opera House.

did you know?

THE ORIGINAL COST ESTIMATE TO BUILD THE SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE WAS \$7 MILLION. THE FINAL COST WAS \$102 MILLION, LARGELY PAID FOR BY A STATE LOTTERY.

INSIDE THE SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE

SERIES PREMIERE Sunday, 7.30pm, ABC, DOCUMENTARY

One of the world's most iconic buildings, The Sydney Opera House, is about to turn 50. Designed by the late Danish architect Jørn Utzon, the structure was formally opened by Queen Elizabeth II in October 1973 and quickly became a global centre for performing arts, with decades of productions gracing its many stages.

And as the anniversary nears, *Inside The Sydney Opera House* shows what it takes to run the landmark building that means so much to so many.

"It's like a beehive, where there are millions of worker bees all integral to the survival of the queen," actor and presenter of this special, Marta Dusseldorp, says.

"And in this case, the queen is the Opera House itself and all the people who work there, seen on stage or not, to make sure it survives."

From maintaining the distinctive white sail roof to evicting seals who take up residence on its docks and everything – including the performances – in between, this eye-opening look shows the Opera House as never before.

"The Opera House really is one of those places that without everyone

is impossible," Marta, 49, says. "This is a great way to show just how much goes on to make it all work."

Filmed over one of the most challenging years of the Opera House's long history, including COVID lockdowns, a New Year's Eve celebration, Australia

Day and the multimillion-dollar refurbishment of the main Concert Hall, this is a revealing inside look at a building that is for many, the ultimate Australian landmark.

"It's a real jewel in our crown, isn't it?" Marta says. "We don't have too many places that are as culturally significant. And the whole story of how it came to be and how it's kept operating is something I find fascinating."

Blame GAME

ADAM'S MISHAP LANDS HIM IN THE FIRING LINE

He's gay himself, but Adam finds this bar out of his comfort zone.

THIS IS GOING TO HURT

Wednesday, 8.30pm (AEDT), BBC First, COMEDY DRAMA

Careers are on the line this week when Adam and Shruti are told that patient Erika has made a formal complaint. But that's not all. Adam's boss Lockhart insists he won't be taking the blame for his mishap, he wants to pass the buck.

In *This Is Going To Hurt*, Adam (Ben Whishaw) has already submitted his statement about Lockhart

(Alex Jennings) agreeing to send Erika (Hannah Onslow) home, putting junior doctor Shruti (Ambika Mod) in a spot as to which side of the blame she falls on.

After a tearful conversation with her mum, Shruti heads out for a dinner with Vicky (Ashley McGuire), with whom she offloads her concerns and upset.

Vicky tells her straight that the job doesn't get any easier and that if she can't hack it, perhaps she needs to pack it in. Despite the directness of Vicky's words, Shruti finds talking with her helpful.

"Shruti is extremely competent, intelligent and capable, but the realities of

the ward mean she's often overwhelmed and unsupported," Ambika says.

After some rare good news, Adam eventually starts to enjoy himself by unwinding on a night out with partner Harry (Rory Fleck Byrne).

Watch out for a cameo from real-life Adam Kay – who wrote the bestselling book on which the series is based – towards the end of the episode. He plays a disgruntled cyclist who gives TV Adam a rude awakening after he falls asleep in his car when the traffic lights are red.

Erika (left) and her sister Paula (Rosie Akerman) watch over her premature baby.

