

For immediate release: 14 July 2026

Soundworks Productions presents

## Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street

*Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim*

*Book by Hugh Wheeler*

*Directed by Benjamin Samuel*

*Choreographed by Skylar Delphinus*

**11 to 20 September 2026**

**Chapel off Chapel (The Chapel):**

**12 Little Chapel Street, Prahran**

[www.sweeneytodd.com.au](http://www.sweeneytodd.com.au)



One of the most celebrated musicals of the twentieth century, **Sweeney Todd** is a savage and chilling reckoning with greed, injustice, and the hunger for revenge. This September, **Soundworks Productions** offers music theatre lovers a robust reimagining, plunging audiences into a **Grand Guignol**-inspired world where the machinery of commerce devours the powerless, where justice is a commodity only the wealthy can afford, and where one man's destruction becomes his grotesque obsession. Coupled with **Sondheim's** extraordinary score, this latest offering by the multi-award-winning company has never felt more relevant.

Set in 19th-century London, **Sweeney Todd** tells the tale of Benjamin Barker; a man who returns home after spending 15 years in an Australian penal colony. Taking on the alias **Sweeney Todd**, he seeks vengeance against the corrupt Judge who destroyed his life. Hearing his wife is dead and his daughter is now the Judge's ward, Todd reopens his barber shop above Mrs. Lovett's struggling meat pie business and here his initial pursuit of revenge spirals into a murderous rampage against society. Forming an advantageous partnership with an opportunistic Mrs. Lovett, this much-lauded, macabre operatic thriller excitedly draws audiences towards an electrifying and gruesome conclusion.

*"This is probably the darkest musical by **Stephen Sondheim**", explains Director **Benjamin Samuel**.*

*"It's set against the grimy backdrop of London during the throes of the Industrial Revolution and this production is rooted in a single governing image: Victorian London as a machine. Not just a metaphor for a machine, but all characters functioning as part of one. Every set element, every prop, every transition carries the logic of industrial manufacture."*

*Following the success of **Soundworks Productions'** previous shows, it felt fitting to explore this challenging work by another Broadway legend. The atmosphere of the show is perfectly captured in this lyric sung by **Sweeney Todd**, "There's a hole in the world like a great black pit and the vermin of the world inhabit it and its morals aren't worth what a pig could spit...". It's particularly interesting because of its fusion of dark comedy with gruesome/grotesque imagery and striking subject matter, all of which is driven by a compelling and haunting score."*

Having built their reputation on musically rigorous, theatrically bold interpretations of classic works, **Soundworks Productions** will embrace the intimacy of **Chapel off Chapel's** converted church space with their design of this upcoming season, placing audience members right inside the claustrophobic world of Victorian London's underclass. Not seen on the Melbourne stage now for two years, this latest production of **Sweeney Todd** also combines a team of remarkable creatives with an ensemble of Melbourne's finest musical theatre performers, promising a thrilling night out for lovers of live performance. Not to be missed!

**Soundworks Productions** is a community of musicians, actors, and theatre makers. The company works to connect creatives and artists at all stages of their careers to develop their craft, discover innovative practices, collaborate, and create together. As an independent theatre company, they champion innovative and challenging presentations of musical theatre works, drawing on a talent pool of both emerging and established artists to present engaging and stimulating theatre.

**Praise for Soundworks Productions:**

★★★★ – **ArtsHub** (*Songs For A New World*)

*“Musically, this production is a standout.”* – **Theatre Matters** (*Songs For A New World*)

*“A heartfelt, visually stunning, and deeply resonant production...”* – **Theatre Travels** (*Songs For A New World*)

*“The production was damn good...”* – **Melbourne Observer** (*Songs For A New World*)

*“Soundworks have risen to the challenge and put on a powerful and memorable show.”* – **Theatre Travels** (*Parade*)

*“... heartfelt and triumphant.”* – **The Blurb** (*Parade*)

*“... a sombre and timely piece but presented here with enormous verve, a universally talented cast, a touching love story, skilled direction and choreography, a great musical score and songs...”* – **Stage Whispers** (*Parade*)

**Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim**

**Book by Hugh Wheeler**

**Directed by Benjamin Samuel**

**Musical Direction by Jack Barnard**

**Choreographed by Skylar Delphinus**

**Performed by Aidan Niarros, Kate Yaxley, Ashley Garner, Annabelle Rosewarne, Amy McMillan, Christian Gillett, Daniel Hillman, Brendan Matthews, Teddy Burgess, Jess Rogers, Ally Long, Joshua Gordon, Matthew Casamento, and Teresa Giansiracusa**

**Set and Prop Design by Harry Gill**

**Lighting Design by Sidney Younger**

**Sound Design by Thanu Moulton**

**Costume Design by Jessamine Moffett**

**Stage Manager Ashleigh Walwyn**

**11 – 20 September 2026**

**Wed – Sat 7:30pm, Sun 6:30pm, matinees Sat 2pm and Sun 1pm**

(subject to update, please check Chapel off Chapel booking page to confirm show times)

**Preview: Friday 11 September 7:30pm**

**Opening Night: Saturday 12 September 7:30pm**

**Tickets: \$85 Full, \$79 Concession, \$75 Grps 4+, \$49 Preview, \$50 Restricted Viewing**

**Bookings: Online via [www.sweeneytodd.com.au](http://www.sweeneytodd.com.au)** (this event has assigned seating)

**Enquiries: 03 8290 7000**

**Venue: Chapel off Chapel (The Chapel) – 12 Little Chapel Street, Prahran**

**[www.soundworksproductions.com.au](http://www.soundworksproductions.com.au)**

*Duration: 2 hrs 20 mins plus interval*

*Age Suitability: 16+*

*Warnings: Simulated violence, loud noises, strobe lighting, theatrical haze, horror themes and dark humour*