

Musical Matilda meets Melba

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SOPRANO Emily Burke will reprise her role as Dame Nellie Melba in Opera Queensland's *Waltzing our Matilda* at Redlands Performing Arts Complex on Sunday.

Burke, of Murarrie, last played the role in 2009 and said this year was special because it marked 150 years since Melba's birth.

"She's a quintessential diva - that's how we portray her. She can

be pretty harsh especially because some of the other singers in it aren't opera singers so she tends to look down her nose at people who are singing folk tunes - the character is quite humorous," Burke said.

Waltzing our Matilda is a theatrical journey through the music and history of Queensland as told by Australian poet Banjo Paterson.

"This is a particularly good show because it has lots of songs people know and lots of characters who are famous Queenslanders," Burke said.

"It's a fantastic script with a variety of comedic and heartfelt moments."

Other characters include Paterson, Bundaberg-born soprano Gladys Moncrieff and renowned Queensland tenor Donald Smith.

The Redlands performance will also feature Smith's son, tenor Robin Donald Smith, as a special guest artist.

➔ *Waltzing our Matilda* is at Redlands Performing Arts Centre at 2pm on July 31. Visit www.rpac.com.au to book

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DIVA REPRISED: Soprano Emily Burke again plays the role of Dame Nellie Melba in *Waltzing Our Matilda*.



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