

Koukias makes impact with bold new work

To Traverse Water
IHOS Opera
Princes Wharf No 1,
until November 14

WHEN you think of *Figaro*, possibly the best opera written, you think of Mozart and a cracking good libretto by da Ponte.

When you think of an IHOS opera, you think ensemble.

Con Koukias wrote the music for this bold and incredibly exhilarating new work, but the impact comes equally from his score, Ann Wulff's visual art direction, Julie Wyszowski's work as dramaturg and the contributions of sundry ingenious mechanical engineers and fabricators.

Again, with Mozart it usually all happens up there in a box set, but *Traverse Water* happens all around you.

In a story at the same time, slow and intensely theatrical, this work ex-



plores a woman's journey from Greece to her new homeland in Australia, and the emotional impact and ultimate pain of the separation.

The themes of water and distance are omnipresent, and IHOS has exploited the enormous dimensions of shed number one and its waterproof floor to give them literal substance.

Koukias's score, with its roots in Byzantine chant is a thing of beauty and it is brought to life by some of Tasmania's best voices.

The whole thing takes its time to be dynamic and different.

It is thought-provoking and exciting theatre.

— WAL EASTMAN