



Media Release

For immediate release

Sydney's arts precinct at Walsh Bay throws open its doors.

OPEN DAY AT THE WHARF

SYDNEY'S ARTS PRECINCT – WALSH BAY

Sunday 5 December 2010 from 10am - 4pm

The Wharf, Pier 4 & 5, Hickson Road, Walsh Bay

Admission and all workshops, events and forums: FREE

On Sunday 5 December 2010, Sydney's arts precinct throws open all its doors, inviting visitors to explore the many arts companies located at Pier 4/5 ("The Wharf") in Walsh Bay. Resident companies **Sydney Theatre Company, Bangarra Dance Theatre, Sydney Dance Company, Australian Theatre for Young People, Sydney Philharmonia Choirs, Regional Arts NSW, Accessible Arts, The Song Company, Gondwana Choirs** and **Sydney Children's Choir** are all taking part. In addition **Sydney Writers' Festival** and **Biennale of Sydney**, who regularly present work in the area, will participate and neighbouring resident, **Bell Shakespeare**, will also play a part. On offer will be opportunities to explore the work of each Company, to visit rarely seen behind-the-scenes spaces, participate in workshops, attend forums, take special tours and enjoy diverse performances of drama, music and dance.

The dizzying array of free activities includes workshops in acting, singing, performance, stage fighting, writing, designing, directing, circus skills, stage make-up, lantern making and puppetry, all run by leading practitioners; 'Meet the Artist' events including sessions with some of Sydney's leading actors, directors and playwrights; dance workshops including jazz, ballet and hip-hop; live performances by Bangarra Dance Theatre, Sydney Dance Company, atyp, STC's The Residents, Sydney Philharmonia Choirs and from visiting bands; and numerous activities and events for children.

Free discussions and forums are on offer throughout the whole day, with just one of the highlights being all of the artistic heads of Sydney's leading arts companies sharing one platform. Participants include Andrew Upton and Cate Blanchett (STC), Stephen Page (Bangarra), Rafael Bonachela (SDC), Fraser Corfield (atyp), Roland Peelman (The Song Company), Brett Weymark (Sydney Philharmonia Choirs), Chip Rolley (Sydney Writers' Festival), Catherine de Zegher and Gerald McMaster (Biennale), Lyn Williams (Gondwana) and John Bell (Bell Shakespeare), to name a few.

Visitors to Open Day can explore backstage areas that are rarely open to the public, including scenic art, set construction, props and costume departments, archives and rehearsal rooms, as well as the many performance spaces.

There'll also be plenty of food and drink options available on the day. Visitors can enjoy special menus from The Wharf Restaurant, Sydney Dance Café, Hickson Road Bistro, Simmer on the Bay, Fratelli Fresh, Ventuno, Fire Fly, Ottoman and others. Food and drink stalls will also be positioned all around The Wharf.

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Entry and participation in all events, workshops, tours etc is free. Those wishing to join workshops and / or to guarantee their places on special guided tours, are encouraged to register for these in advance by phoning STC's Box Office on 02 9250 1777 or visiting sydneytheatre.com.au/openday. The website will be live from Monday 8 November 2010. Registrations will be available from Monday 22 November 2010 at sydneytheatre.com.au/openday

Sydney's Arts Precinct

The Wharf, situated at Pier 4 and 5, Walsh Bay, is formerly a working pier that was officially handed over to Sydney Theatre Company in 1984. It is now home to composers, carpenters, actors, directors, dancers, choreographers, designers, painters, stage managers, electricians, mechanists, administrators and many others working alongside each other in an extraordinary environment to create a diverse array of arts events. Here, ideas are grown and collaborations born, sets are built, costumes sewn, productions are being rehearsed and then presented, all suspended above the waters of Sydney Harbour.

The nearby Sydney Theatre at 22 Hickson Road was developed from the old Bond Stores to become a state-of-the-art 850 seat theatre in 2004.

It was announced earlier this year that neighbouring Pier 2/3 will also be brought to life by cultural activity, housing more Australian arts companies and performance venues in the future.

All spaces will be open to visitors and will host the plethora of activities and events on Open Day, Sunday 5 December 2010.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES please contact:

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Transport

We recommend catching public transport to the Open Day. The Wharf is a ten minute walk from Circular Quay via The Rocks.

Free shuttle buses will be on loop every 20 minutes, stopping at Wynyard (Carrington Street), The Rocks (George Street, outside DFS Stores) and The Wharf. The first bus departs from Wynyard at 9.45am and the last bus from The Wharf at 4.15pm.

There will also be additional free bike parking on Hickson Road.

Access

Selected forums will be Auslan interpreted and a new lift located between Australian Theatre for Young People and Sydney Dance Company will be open to access Sydney Theatre Company on Level 1.

Food and Drink

Walsh Bay's local restaurants and bars will all be serving café-style food throughout the day. Sample food from The Wharf Restaurant, Sydney Dance Café, Hickson Road Bistro, Simmer on the Bay, Fratelli Fresh and others. Food and drink stalls will also be positioned around The Wharf.

Open Day at The Wharf is supported by Arts NSW, City of Sydney, Walsh Bay Partnership.