

Sydney Opera House Announces New Director of Performing Arts 24 August 2006

Sydney Opera House has today announced the appointment of Rachel Healy to the position of Director of Performing Arts.

Rachel is currently the General Manager of Company B at Belvoir St Theatre, where she has worked since 1997.

SOH CEO Dr Norman Gillespie said "We are delighted that Rachel has accepted this pivotal position. Her hands-on experience in the industry over the last 15 years will be invaluable in meeting the many demands of the role."

"This position is key is in driving our artistic vision, enhancing our major relationships with our presenting partners and the delivery of high quality technical services."

"In the last few years SOH's role as a presenter has grown significantly both through our own productions and work presented jointly with the major presenting companies," he said.

Rachel said that in undertaking her new role she recognises that as Australia's leading performing arts centre, it was imperative for SOH to maintain an international outlook as part of its vision.

"I look forward to keeping an international perspective to our programme so that we are providing opportunities for artists as well as bringing our audiences along with us."

Prior to Rachel's appointment as General Manager of Company B at Belvoir St Theatre in 1997 she worked with the Australian Ballet, Handspan Theatre in Melbourne and Magpie Theatre, the youth wing of the State Theatre Company of South Australia.

Rachel has served on a number of arts boards, including Legs on the Wall, the Arts Industry Council (Victoria) and was Deputy Chair of the Theatre Board of the Australia Council. In 1998 she was awarded the inaugural Nugget Coombs Award for Arts Administration in the Young Manager category and in 2002 Rachel was awarded a fellowship from the Harvard Club of Australia to participate in a study course in management of not-for-profit companies at Harvard Business School.

Rachel will commence on November 6.