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Cover:

Officially recognised as a global cultural icon, Sydney Opera House welcomes everyone through live performance every day.

The Hon. Frank Sartor, MP
Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo
and Minister for the Arts

Sir, we have the pleasure of presenting the Annual Report of the Sydney Opera House for the year ended 30 June 2007, for presentation to Parliament. This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the *Annual Reports (Statutory Bodies) Act 1984* and the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983*.

Kim Williams AM
Chairman

Sue Nattrass AO
Interim Chief Executive

Who We Are

Sydney Opera House is a global landmark, part of our nation's DNA and provides a central element of the emotional heart of the city of Sydney. The focal point of our magnificent harbour, it is a place of excitement and of warmth, of welcome and wonder, where art and architecture uniquely combine to enchant and enliven artists, audiences and visitors.

As one of the busiest performing arts centres in the world, Sydney Opera House provides over 1,500 performances each year. With seven primary venues: the Concert Hall, Opera Theatre, Drama Theatre, Playhouse, The Studio, Forecourt and Utzon Room, 'the House' offers audiences an opportunity to experience the best from every performing art form.

The experience is broadened with a 'must-visit' harbour-side precinct that offers dining, shopping and entertainment opportunities.

One of the most popular visitor attractions in Australia, Sydney Opera House sees more than 4 million people visiting the site each year. Some 1.2 million people attend performances and over 328,000 people take a guided tour to explore the magic inside of one of the most recognised buildings in the world. Sydney Opera House is State, National and World Heritage listed.

As a performing arts centre, Sydney Opera House promotes and supports many performing arts companies, including the four key presenting partners: Sydney Symphony, Opera Australia, Sydney Theatre Company and The Australian Ballet as well as many other important Australian companies and artists.

Sydney Opera House also has increased the profile and reach of its own programs, with more than 700 performances this year offering an eclectic mix of artistic and cultural activities for all ages from the educational through to the experimental.



Key Dates

- 1957 Jørn Utzon wins Sydney Opera House design competition (January)
- 1959 Work begins on Stage 1 – building the foundations despite Utzon's protest that plans were not finalised (March)
- 1966 Jørn Utzon resigns (February)
- 1973 First guided tours of Sydney Opera House (July)
- 1973 First performance in Sydney Opera House – Australian Opera performed Prokofiev's War and Peace in the Opera Theatre (September)
- 1973 Opening Ceremony and Royal Concert with Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh (October 20)
- 1979 Concert Hall Grand Organ completed (May)
- 1999 Opening of The Studio – new venue for contemporary performing arts (March)
- 1999 Jørn Utzon is re-engaged and appointed design consultant to the Sydney Opera House (August)
- 2000 Sydney Opera House Producers Unit established (October)
- 2002 Sydney Opera House Utzon Design Principles published (May)
- 2003 Sydney Opera House Conservation Plan published (June)
- 2003 State Heritage Listing achieved (December)
- 2004 Backstage Tour launched (April)
- 2004 Utzon Room opened – first venue at Sydney Opera House designed by Jørn Utzon (September)
- 2004 Recording Studio opened (October)
- 2005 National Heritage Listing achieved (July)
- 2006 Asian Language Tour launched in Japanese, Korean, Mandarin (January)
- 2006 Colonnade opened by HM Queen Elizabeth II – designed by Jørn Utzon, it is the first change to the exterior of the building since its completion in 1973 (March)
- 2007 World Heritage Listing achieved (June)