

HIGHLIGHTS 2006/07



Jørn Utzon. Photo Jozef Vissel courtesy Josef Lebovic Gallery

Officially acknowledging our unique place in the world, UNESCO announced Sydney Opera House's World Heritage Listing on 28th June 2007, the youngest cultural site ever to be included. The listing came 18 months after nomination, 33 years after our official opening and 50 years after Jørn Utzon was announced as winner of the design competition. (Refer page 25)



Meeting our commitment to *Live Performance Every Day*, live broadcasts, anniversary celebrations, world premieres, prize-winning programs, new artists and new audiences were encompassed in this year's performance fare. Sydney Symphony, Opera Australia, The Australian Ballet, Sydney Theatre Company and Sydney Opera House all contributed to an increase of 7% in the total audience for the year to 1,212,270. (Refer page 10)

Successfully expanding our own programs to encompass greater diversity and use of performance venues, Sydney Opera House presentations achieved a 68% increase in audiences (to 313,727). Sydney Opera House tours also broadened their offering and grew tour attendances by 21% (to 328,224). (Refer page 11 and 23)

Redefining how we want to be perceived in the world, we undertook a broad review of our brand, engaging Trustees, staff, presenters and other key stakeholders in the process and crystallising its essence as *Live Performance Every Day*. In March 2007, we launched an extensive program of engagement to translate the brand essence into every element of performance and visitor experience and to embed it into every aspect of our culture. (Refer page 55)

Commencing major improvements to accessibility, work began on the \$38 million Western Foyers Project this year with completion due in 2009. Realising the vision of Jørn Utzon, the project will complement the exterior colonnade opened by HM Queen Elizabeth II in March 2006. In addition to a completely refurbished foyer, a 40-person lift will link to the Western Theatres and new escalators will provide access from the Box Office to the Southern Foyers. (Refer page 25)

Demonstrating that our new safety initiatives are working, lost time through injuries fell to 4.21 hours per thousand, down from 9.25 in 2005/6 and Workers Compensation cases fell to 27, down from 57 in 2005/6. These substantial ongoing improvements are a direct result of initiatives introduced in collaboration with our business partners. (Refer page 33)

Designed to enrich Australia's cultural future at its most important venue, our Annual Giving Program was successfully launched in March 2007. The fund is to support performance, access and education initiatives, including bringing artists to the stage and young or disadvantaged people to the performing arts. 288 people donated a total of \$473,746 and \$617,870 has been pledged. A further \$1m has been pledged for capital projects. (Refer page 70)