



**PERFORMING  
FOR TODAY**



Sydney Opera House is one of the busiest and most successful performing arts centres in the world. Operating 363 days, 1,269,996 people attended 1,661 performances over the year.

### Performance

Through our own programming division, *Sydney Opera House Presents*, our resident companies and major hirers we generated a wealth of diverse performances including international artists and ensembles, local and newly commissioned works, emerging artists and programs for families and schools.

*Sydney Opera House Presents* aims to complement the programming of our resident companies and extend the cultural experiences available to the people of Sydney and NSW. Our programming under this banner represented 44% of all performances across our venues.

### Partnerships

Resident companies – The Australian Ballet, Opera Australia, Sydney Symphony and Sydney Theatre Company – were responsible for 54% of our total audiences and 34% of all performances.

Our Major Partners NAB and HP, our five Media Partners and our 20 Corporate Sponsors help us to achieve our business objectives.

Our 417 private donors generously contributed \$545,305, an increase of 15% year on year, to allow us to invest in the world's best performing artists and to extend our access and education programs to a wider audience.

### People

Some 7 million people visit the site every year.

375,559 people attended *Sydney Opera House Presents* performances an increase of 19%.

As part of our commitment to extend access to the broadest possible community, 45% of patrons to our programs were new to Sydney Opera House.

53,726 children attended our Kids at the House and House:Ed programs designed for young audiences.

2,709 people attended the Balnaves Open House Program that extends access to the broader community by offering \$5 tickets.

Approximately 120,000 unique visitors visit our website every month.

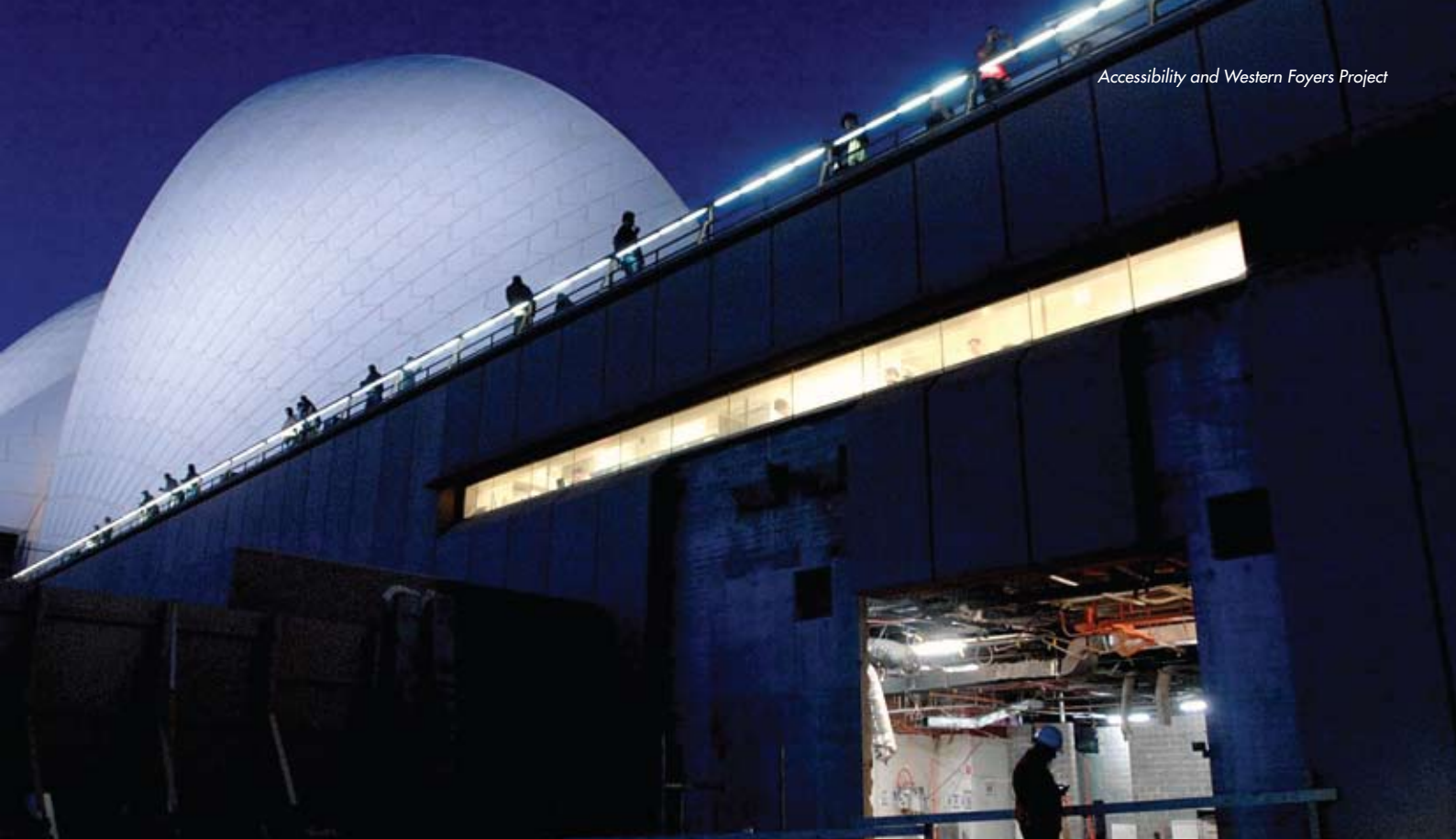
605 people are employed at Sydney Opera House and help us to achieve success every day. They are joined by many, many other people on site who work with our resident companies, food and beverage operators, building and maintenance contractors and retailers – all of whom contribute to our vibrant community.

### Precinct

Work continued on the \$38m Accessibility and Western Foyers Project, to be completed by mid 2009. This project includes a large capacity lift and installation of two new escalators, ensuring better access for less mobile patrons.



# **BUILDING FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS**



Our achievements to date are significant and our commitment to promoting and developing access to our performances and preserving our world heritage listed status is ongoing.

### **Ensuring Sydney is a cultural powerhouse and world stage for the performing arts**

We are committed to investing in Sydney and Australia's performing arts offering. Our investment in the performing arts will continue to see growth in our performance programs, collaborations with our resident companies and the presentation of the world's finest artists. Our expenditure in the performing arts increased to \$8.5m this year, an increase of 8%.

#### **Education and Access**

We are committed to expanding access to our award-winning and far-reaching education program and exploring opportunities for technology to enable us to deliver educational content direct to schools.

Sydney Opera House is dedicated to facilitating access to performances inside our venue to a broad section of the community. Thanks to the generosity of Neil Balnaves, the Balnaves Open House Program, now in its second year, provides \$5 tickets to disadvantaged people within our community. Through performances in our iconic building we aim to provide inspirational experiences that allow people to transcend the every day.

### **Preservation and development of our World Heritage Listed architectural masterpiece**

Remaining works for our Accessibility and Western Foyers Project are to be completed by mid next year. In addition to completely refurbished foyers, a large capacity lift will link to the Western Foyers and main Box Office while new escalators will provide access from the main Box Office to the Southern Foyers of the Concert Hall and Opera Theatre.

Work continues on securing a workable design and funding parameters for the renewal of the Opera Theatre and Concert Hall to bring them up to a contemporary standard for our performing companies, artists and patrons.

#### **Growing our fundraising activities**

The Sydney Opera House fundraising program is essential to our ability to invest for the next generation. Funds raised via our Annual Giving Program are directed to four streams of our business: bringing the best of the world's performers to our stage; enhancing and developing our education program; enabling access to the House through a variety of programs; and preserving and protecting our World Heritage building and precinct.

### **Developing a digital content distribution capability**

In 2008, Opera Australia in collaboration with Sydney Opera House and the Australian Film Commission presented a free live telecast of *Carmen* to screens on the Sydney Opera House Forecourt, Federation Square in Melbourne and to eight regional cinemas, across Australia. The Australian Ballet, also in collaboration with Sydney Opera House and the Australian Film Commission broadcast a live performance of *The Nutcracker* to the Forecourt and to eight locations in regional Australia.

Sydney Opera House is committed to using digital technology to extend access to the performing arts beyond the confines of its venues by using broadcasts to distribute content to live sites, cinemas, internet and DVD.

#### **Sustainability**

A sustainability group has been created with a focus on developing plans to reduce our ecological footprint, water-use and energy.