

# Sydney Opera House

## Filming Guidelines

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# Welcome

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*'Sydney Opera House constitutes a masterpiece of 20<sup>th</sup> century architecture. Its significance is based on its unparalleled design and construction, its exceptional engineering achievements and technological innovation, and its position as a world-famous icon of architecture. It is a daring and visionary experiment ...'*

- Sydney Opera House 2007 UNESCO World Heritage listing

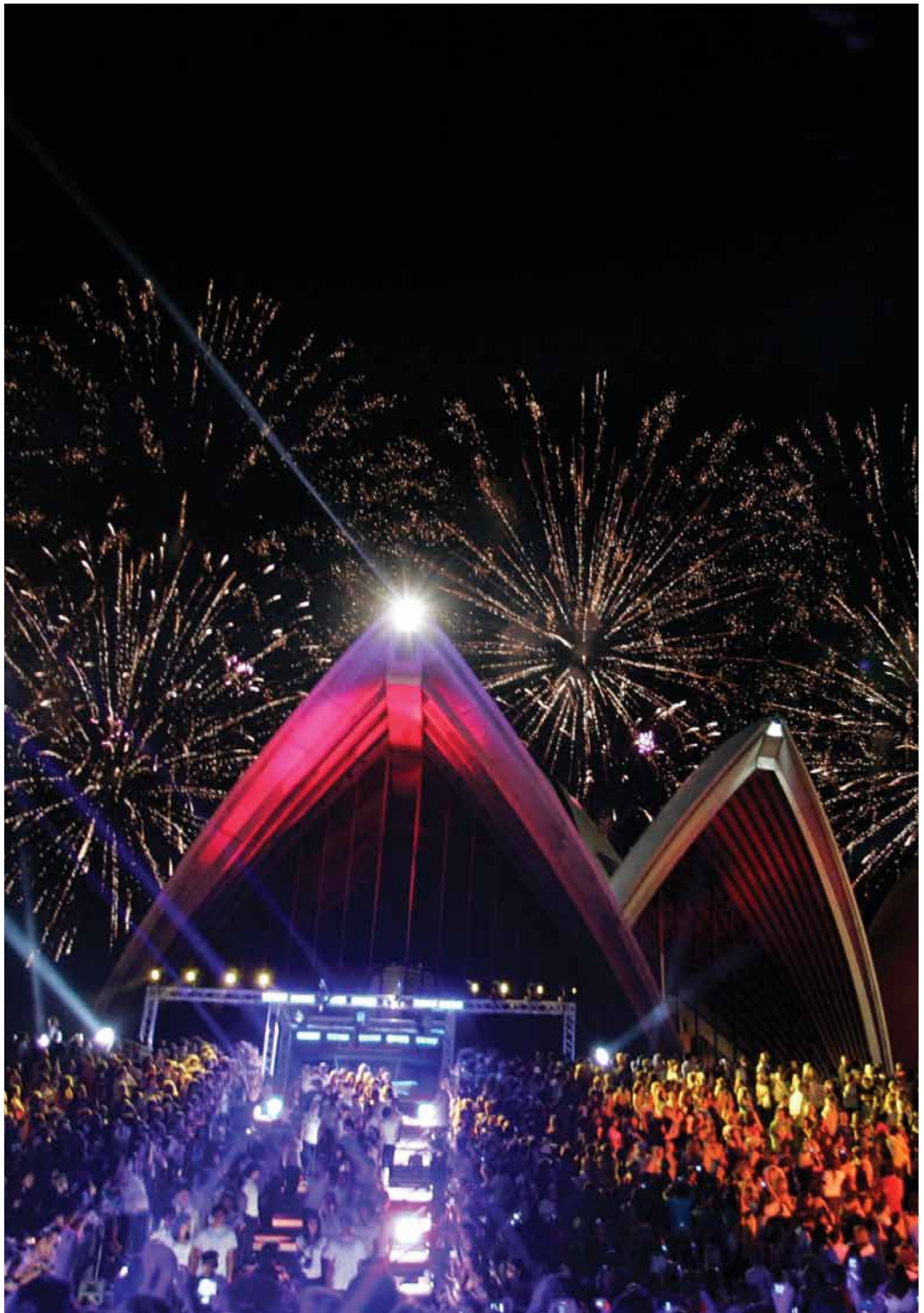
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Sydney Opera House is one of the world's most famous buildings - it's estimated some four billion people recognise the iconic soaring white sails. Danish architect Jorn Utzon's masterpiece, set in a remarkable waterscape at the tip of Bennelong Point, a peninsula jutting into Sydney Harbour, joined the World Heritage list in 2007.

This cultural landmark is one of the world's great performing arts centres, hosting more than 2500 events a year. Since opening in 1973, Sydney Opera House has attracted the world's finest performers from across a range of art forms. It's not only an opera house but a busy venue that hosts concerts, drama, ballet, contemporary dance, comedy, cabaret, chamber music and more. It's also the principal venue for our finest performing arts companies, including Opera Australia, the Australian Ballet and Sydney Symphony.

With so much activity – and such photogenic good looks – it's no surprise Sydney Opera House is also one of the world's most sought-after filming locations. We regularly host national and international crews who want to film the Sydney Opera House.

These guidelines show the diverse locations offered in and around the Sydney Opera House and how to hire the right location for your needs.



# Lights, Cameras...

Sydney Opera House is a popular filming location for both domestic and international markets. The range of filming activities in and around the House is as diverse as our arts programming. It includes TV dramas, reality-TV shows, feature films, television commercials, travel infotainment, entertainment and performance, fashion shoots, documentaries and more.

*We are proud to have played a role in many successful projects.  
Recent examples include:*

## **Documentaries**

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*Engineering Connections*  
National Geographic  
(TV broadcast, worldwide)

*The World Heritage 100. Taikan!*  
NHK, Japan  
(TV broadcast, Japan)

*Man Made Marvels*  
Discovery Channel  
(TV broadcast, worldwide)

*My America*  
Firefly Productions  
(TV broadcast, US)

## **Feature Film**

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*Mao's Last Dancer*  
Great Scott Production  
(Feature film, worldwide)

## **Travel Infotainment**

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*GMTV*  
(Breakfast TV show, UK)

## **DVD**

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*Dorothy the Dinosaur's Sydney Adventure*  
The Wiggles

*Choir of Hard Knocks*  
ABC

## **Reality TV**

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*Australian Idol*  
Channel Ten  
(TV series, Australia)

*The Spanish Mole*  
Freehand Productions  
(TV show, Spain)

## **TV Commercial**

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*Still Call Australia Home*  
Qantas Airlines  
(TVC, Australia)

*There's Nothing Like Australia*  
Tourism Australia  
(TVC, worldwide)

## **Drama**

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*Dance Academy*  
ABC Television  
(TV show, Australia)

# Locations

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Film crews have been delighted to discover the striking modern lines, abundance of light and huge variety of interior and exterior locations in and around Sydney Opera House. There's everything from grand theatres and stages to soaring sails, intimate spaces, wide-open boardwalks, foyers with harbour views – even a futuristic curved tunnel.

## *Forecourt*

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This spectacular open-air venue comes with breathtaking harbour views. The world-famous white sails provide a striking backdrop and unmistakable association with Sydney Opera House. The Monumental Steps rise towards the main building, providing amphitheatre-style seating on a granite cobblestone surface. The Forecourt has hosted concerts by Crowded House, Bjork, Michael Buble, Massive Attack and Jamiroquai, the world premiere of a Star Trek film, and special events such as Sydney Olympics, New Year's Eve and several finales of reality-TV show Australian Idol.

## *Concert Hall*

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The Sydney Opera House's largest interior venue, designed primarily for acoustic performances, features a soaring vaulted ceiling, brush box and white birch timber finishes and seating for 2679 people. It's also home to the Sydney Opera House Grand Organ, the largest mechanical tracker-action organ in the world with 10,000-plus pipes. Sydney Symphony, Australian Chamber Orchestra, Sydney Festival and Sydney Philharmonia Choirs regularly perform in this space. Touring artists such as Andre Rieu, Burt Bacharach, Olivia Newton-John, Harry Connick Jnr, Barry Humphries, Patti Smith, James Morrison, Delta Goodrem and Moby have performed here.

## *Opera Theatre*

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This proscenium-arch lyric theatre occupies the eastern shell and is the Sydney Opera House's second-largest interior venue. It features an orchestra pit that accommodates up to 70 musicians and seating for 1507 people that includes stalls, a dress circle and boxes. Opera Australia, the Australian Ballet and Sydney Opera House all present annual programs here.

## *Drama Theatre*

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This medium-sized proscenium-arch theatre is accessed through the Western Foyer. It's regularly used by the Sydney Theatre Company, Bangarra Dance Theatre, Sydney Festival, Sydney Opera House and Bell Shakespeare. It suits drama, dance and small-scale musical productions, as well as spoken-word performances.

## *Playhouse*

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Originally designed for chamber orchestra recitals, the Playhouse was adapted and fitted-out to accommodate theatre productions and is now one of the most intimate performance venues within the House. The space is regularly used by Sydney Festival, Sydney Opera House and Bell Shakespeare.

## *The Studio*

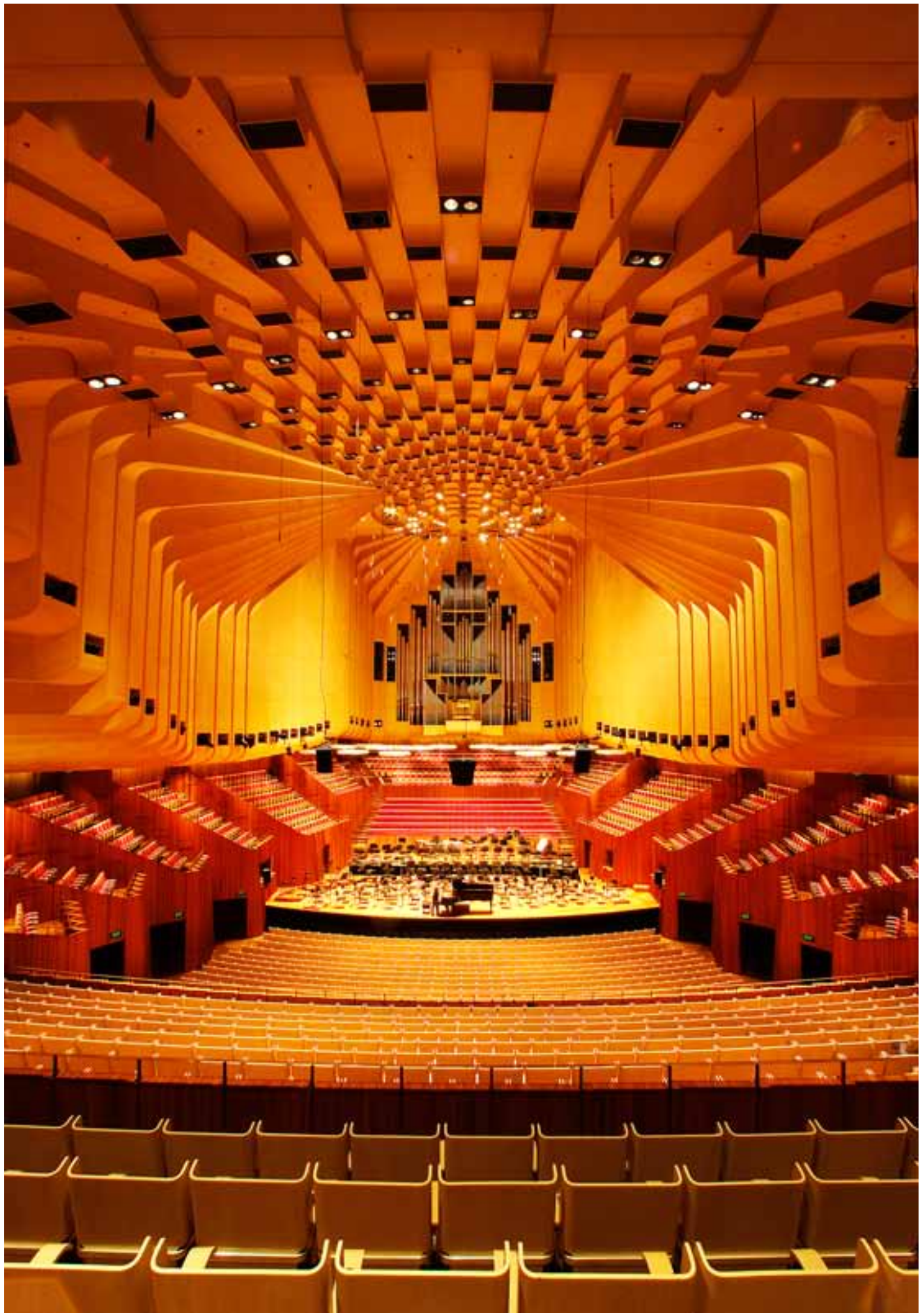
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Situated between the Playhouse and Drama Theatre on the Western Boardwalk, The Studio is a flexible contemporary performing arts venue. Audiences can watch performances from upper and lower levels, and the lower-level seating can be stacked away to transform the space into a standing venue. The Studio hosts everything from cabaret and comedy to avant-garde theatre and rock gigs.

## *Utzon Room*

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This dramatic new space with rare views east over Sydney Harbour features signature Utzon touches of natural timbers and finishes, and a 14-metre-wide floor-to-ceiling tapestry that is Utzon's first decorative artwork. The room's massive concrete structural beams rise from the ground to the ceiling. Now restored to their original beauty, they reflect light from the harbour, producing an exquisite dappled effect on the beams.



# Locations



*Sails*



*Concert Hall*



*Concert Hall*



*Opera Theatre*



*Opera Theatre*



*Lighting of the sails*



*Monumental Steps*



*Forecourt*



*The Studio*



*The Studio*



*Utzon Room*



*Utzon Room*



*Western Broadwalk*



*Western Broadwalk*



*Western Foyer*



*Western Foyer*



*Podium Level*



*Concert Hall Southern Foyer*



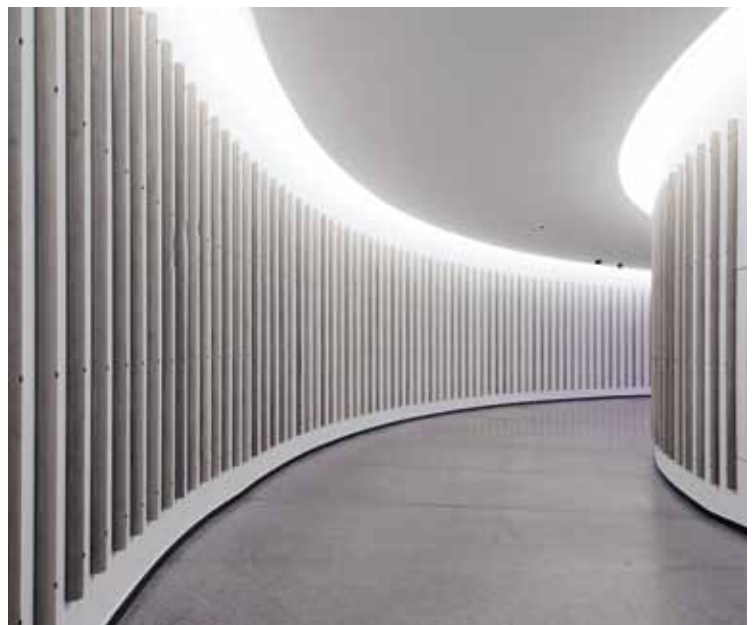
*Concert Hall Northern Foyer*



*Concert Hall Northern Foyer*



*Western Foyer Lift*



*Western Foyer Tunnel*

# Venue Hire

As well as being Australia's most iconic building, Sydney Opera House is also one of the busiest performing arts centres in the world. We warmly welcome interest from domestic and international film crews and do our utmost to facilitate location requests.

As our performance calendar has become busier and busier, Sydney Opera House has developed two types of venue-hire fees. Hiring a venue or space for your exclusive use is charged at the standard daily venue-hire fee. You can also hire a venue or space on a half-day or hourly rate but this type of hire can only be booked within eight weeks of the filming date.

In addition to venue-hire fees, there are additional fees for our labour costs (these vary according to the size of your crew) and any specialist Sydney Opera House staff you may require to provide services such as lighting, sound and security for the duration of your shoot.

# Commercial Licensing

Venue-hire and labour-cost fees are required to facilitate access across the Sydney Opera House site. To unlock full value from filming at Sydney Opera House, a commercial license is required prior to any commercial filming taking place. The license fee is assessed by the Commercial Partnerships team on an individual basis.

The team will work with you to determine the appropriate commercial licensing fee and consider such elements as the broadcast's distribution and frequency, estimated audience, type of media outlet, syndication, merchandising, territory rights and the licensing period.

# How to Apply

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If you'd like to talk to us about your film project before filling out an application form, please phone our Film Contact Officer on (02) 9250 7488, who will be happy to guide you through the process and discuss your individual requirements. Our Film Contact Officer can also give you more information about:

1. Our interior and exterior locations, availability and venue-hire fees
2. Labour costs and specialist Opera House support staff
3. Commercial licensing fees
4. How to fill out the application form

Thanks for your interest in including Sydney Opera House in your film project. We hope to see you here soon.

# Site Map

## MAP KEY

- LOWER LEVEL
- GROUND LEVEL
- UPPER LEVEL

