

Opera House opens global doors for emerging arts leaders

– Second recipient of Lloyd Martin Travelling Scholarship announced by Sydney Opera House –
– Inaugural winner highlights new digital opportunities to engage Australian audiences in the arts –

Sydney – offered on an exclusive basis to The Australian: The Sydney Opera House today announced the second recipient of its international scholarship to support and inspire the next generation of Australian arts leaders.

The 2015 [Lloyd Martin Travelling Scholarship for Emerging Arts Leaders](#) has been awarded to community engagement manager and facilitator Anke Timm. In 2016 Anke will undertake an international study tour to London, Berlin, Hamburg, Oslo, New York and Washington among others to research innovative inclusive arts projects that engage people of all ages and abilities as participants and audiences.

The inaugural winner of the \$20,000 annual scholarship, Carl Nilsson-Polias, Sydney Theatre Company's Content Manager, travelled to the US and Europe earlier this year to study organisations that have found innovative ways to translate shows and events into digital content. This included the National Theatre in London, MoMA in New York and the US National Football League. Carl began sharing insights from his eight-week study tour with the wider Australian arts industry through a series of workshops held at the Opera House this month.

Sydney Opera House CEO Louise Herron AM said: "The Lloyd Martin Travelling Scholarship is helping the next generation of Australian arts leaders to address the very dynamic and competitive global environment confronting arts organisations.

"Ensuring that the Opera House is open to everyone is a priority. We will be extremely interested to see what Anke uncovers during her overseas studies. Carl's work has already made it clear that this scholarship is engendering new thinking, from the many and varied ways digital content is being used to engage existing audiences and create new audiences, to his key finding that digital needs to move 'further up the food chain' in arts organisations and be embedded from the top down."

Inaugural scholarship winner Carl Nilsson-Polias said: "Digital technology can provide so much more than just a suite of marketing products or platforms. It is an art in itself, whether that's through live-streaming, web-based performances or exhibitions, or digital enhancement of a physical space. The scholarship gave me the opportunity to study an area that is increasingly vital to engaging contemporary audiences."

The Lloyd Martin Travelling Scholarship honours the memory of the Opera House's longest-serving general manager, and has been made possible by the generous support of the Alexandra and Lloyd Martin Family Foundation.

Lloyd Martin joined the Opera House when it first opened in 1973. He succeeded Frank Barnes as general manager in 1979 and steered the Opera House through formative years, before retiring in 1997.

The scholarship funds a tour or residency for arts administrators in the formative stages of their careers, when overseas experience will most benefit their professional development, the organisation for which they work and the broader arts community.

It is open to staff of the Opera House and its seven flagship resident companies: the Australian Chamber Orchestra, Bangarra Dance Theatre, Bell Shakespeare, Opera Australia, Sydney Symphony Orchestra, Sydney Theatre Company and The Australian Ballet.

2015 scholarship winner Anke Timm said: “This is an incredible, career-defining moment for me. To be able to undertake this level of research into my chosen field is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

“When you look at the issue of inclusion in and access to the arts on a global scale, you realise that Australia is a relatively small community. I believe there is a huge amount we can learn from both grassroots projects and large performing arts companies and venues at an international level.

“Accessibility and inclusion is not just about ability, it also refers to multi-generational and multi-faith environments – we need to consider all aspects. I hope to be able to look at how overseas organisations are already addressing this through the arts, ultimately helping Australian cultural institutions to apply these learnings to future strategies.”

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Sydney Opera House

The Opera House is a masterpiece that belongs to all Australians. One of the world's most recognised and celebrated buildings, it contributes significantly to the cultural life of the city. The World Heritage-listed Opera House welcomes more than 8.2 million visitors on site every year and hosts 1,900 performances attended by 1.45 million people. It is one of the world's busiest cultural precincts.