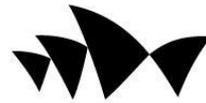


PRESS RELEASE: Wednesday 12 August 2015



PRINCIPAL PARTNER



Sydney Opera House presents

Dance Rites: Australia's national Indigenous dance competition

Sunday 22 November | Western Broadwalk, Sydney Opera House

The Sydney Opera House today announced a ground-breaking dance competition to revitalise Indigenous cultural leadership and practices. The inaugural [Dance Rites](#) competition will be held on Sunday 22 November 2015 on the Western Broadwalk at Sydney Opera House. Registrations are now open and will close on **Sunday 6 September 2015**.

The competition is open to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across Australia who have or would like to develop a dance group. The winner will receive \$15,000 and the opportunity to perform at Homeground at Sydney Opera House in 2016, an annual celebration of First Nation music, dance and culture attended by more 10,000 people. One runner-up will receive \$5,000 in prize money.

Inspired by the highly successful *Pow Wow Circuit* in North America and *Kapa Haka Festival* in New Zealand, *Dance Rites* aims to reinvigorate a range of cultural practices including language, dance, traditional instruments and skin markings to ensure that they are passed from one generation to the next.

Head of Indigenous Programming at Sydney Opera House, Rhoda Roberts, said: *"All cultures keep their classics alive, but if things continue, in 30 years the songman and woman and their classic art form, and audience, will be entirely lost."*

Each group will present three dances – a welcome and farewell dance, one of which must include a chant in local language, and a third 'wildcard' dance of the group's choosing. Further information is available from the Sydney Opera House website: www.sydneyoperahouse.com/Dancerites

Media images are available to download [here](#).

HOW TO REGISTER FOR DANCE RITES:

Download the [registration form](#) or contact the *Dance Rites* Team on 02 9250 7281 or via dancerites@sydneyoperahouse.com and a registration pack can be mailed out. Registrations close Sunday 6 September.

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The Opera House acknowledges the generous support of our [donors](#), particularly the [Creative Music Fund](#), Project Patron of *Dance Rites*. With thanks to [NAISDA](#), [National Film and Sound Archive](#) and [Arts Northern Rivers](#) for their continued support of *Dance Rites* 2015.

