

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday 12 October

GP tickets on sale Monday 19 October

SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE PRESENTS
CARNEGIE CONVERSATIONS: EXPERIMENTS IN DEMOCRACY

Sydney Opera House, Sunday 29 November

Former Greek Finance Minister **Yanis Varoufakis** and Canadian sci-fi author and activist **Cory Doctorow** will discuss critical issues facing Western governments, when *Carnegie Conversations: Experiments in Democracy* brings global debates to a local audience at the Sydney Opera House on Sunday 29 November.

Yanis Varoufakis is the Professor of Economics whose seven-month stint as Greece's Minister of Finance this year gave him a unique, eye-of-the-storm perspective on the global financial system and what it means for governments and their citizens when things go wrong.

Cory Doctorow is a science fiction author, online activist, journalist and blogger who believes burgeoning Internet surveillance will get worse before it gets better. Doctorow will draw on material from his award-winning books *Homeland*, *In Real Life* and *Information Doesn't Want To Be Free* to explore what it will take to rouse the Internet from its state of surveillance.

Head of Talks and Ideas at Sydney Opera House Ann Mossop said, *"Whenever we are unhappy with the way our governments deal with contemporary challenges, we fall back on our assumption that democracy is still the best and fairest form of government. By its nature democracy is flexible, and this means we can be optimistic about it changing to meet changing needs. However it also means that it can be radically affected by trends in global and local politics, economics and technology. I look forward to welcoming our speakers to the Sydney Opera House to illuminate some of these challenging and changing ideas."*

Principal of M.H. Carnegie & Co., Mark Carnegie, said, *"It is great to be working with the Opera House on Carnegie Conversations: Experiments in Democracy. I am looking forward to listening to two incredible thinkers and their perspective on issues that affect us all."*

Launched in May 2015, *Carnegie Conversations* began by discussing *Ideas for a better Australia* with speakers that included Nick Bryant, Marcia Langton, Julian Burnside, Ann Sherry, Holly Ransom, Andrew Charlton and Peter Singer, in a program focused on critical ideas about ethics, ageing, politics and freedom of speech.

Ideas at the House is Sydney Opera House's talks and ideas program, responding to the Sydney Opera House's mandate to create a meeting place for the discussion of issues of local, national and international importance. It presents ideas, conversation and debate from leading thinkers and culture creators and extends the reach of live events with unique content online. As well as a year-round program of inspiring events, Ideas at the House features the flagship festivals *All About Women* and the *Festival of Dangerous Ideas*, and talks series *For Thought* and *Carnegie Conversations*. Click here for more info: www.sydneyoperahouse.com/ideas



SESSIONS

2.30pm-3.45pm

Democracy Under Siege

Yanis Varoufakis

Chair: Mary Kostakidis

4pm-5.15pm

Saving the Internet from the Surveillance State

Cory Doctorow

Chair: Fenella Kernebone

KEY INFORMATION

What: Carnegie Conversations: Experiments in Democracy
When: Sunday 29 November, 2.30pm and 3.45pm
Where: Studio, Sydney Opera House
Tickets: Single session \$30 or see both sessions for \$50
More info: <http://www.sydneyoperahouse.com/>

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MEDIA CONTACT

Julia Lenton / jlenton@sydneyoperahouse.com / 02 9250 7825 / 0410 748 039

EVENT PARTNER

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