



**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Wednesday 9 September**

**GP tickets on sale Friday 18 September**

**SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE PRESENTS**

# **PAUL KEATING IN CONVERSATION WITH KERRY O'BRIEN**

**Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House, Tuesday 20 October 2015**

On the eve of the launch of *KEATING* by **Kerry O'Brien**, the formidable award-winning journalist will go head-to-head with his subject, **Paul Keating**, in conversation in the Concert Hall at the Sydney Opera House.

Published in hardback by Allen & Unwin on Wednesday 21 October, *KEATING* is the long-awaited collaboration between Paul Keating – Australia's 24<sup>th</sup> Prime Minister, visionary, reformer, true believer, polymath and rabble rouser – and the country's sharpest political interviewer, Kerry O'Brien.

**Ann Mossop, Head of Talks and Ideas at the Sydney Opera House, says** *"Keating and O'Brien are both extraordinary wordsmiths. Keating is a noted political orator and wit, O'Brien is the forensic interviewer without peer. To see them live on stage will be essential for students of politics, but it is also going to be a great show, plain and simple."*

In the forthcoming book, O'Brien and Keating wrestle with history to produce a tour de force of political wisdom and personal insight that weaves through the Keating years in a unique and compelling way.

Building on the transcripts of the must-watch television event of 2013, ABC TV's *Keating: The Interviews*, O'Brien has gathered an enormous bank of new material, gleaned from many hours of further conversation with Keating, to create a book that is more forensic and all encompassing than the TV series.

Kerry O'Brien captures the hallmarks of the man – the nimble mind, wit, sweep of vision, ruthlessness and stubborn drive for power – as Keating explains the historic events, back room stoushes and moments of drama and pathos that the political world inevitably holds.

**Ideas at the House** is Sydney Opera House's talks and ideas program. It presents ideas, conversation and debate from leading thinkers and culture creators. Ideas at the House online extends the reach of live events with unique content. As well as a year-round program of inspiring events, Ideas at the House features the annual festivals *All About Women* and the *Festival of Dangerous Ideas*, and one-day talks events *For Thought* and *Carnegie Conversations: Ideas for a Better Australia*.

More info: [www.sydneyoperahouse.com/ideasatthehouse](http://www.sydneyoperahouse.com/ideasatthehouse)

**INFORMATION:**

**What:** Paul Keating in conversation with Kerry O'Brien  
**When:** Tuesday 20 October, 6.30pm  
**Where:** Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House  
**Tickets:** From \$35  
**More info:** <http://www.sydneyoperahouse.com/>



## **ABOUT KERRY O'BRIEN:**

Kerry O'Brien has been reporting and commenting on Australian politics for 50 years. He started as a news cadet in 1966 and was a press secretary to Gough Whitlam after he left government. During his career, O'Brien has won six Walkley Awards including the Gold Walkley. He was the founding presenter of *Lateline* and then the long-time presenter of *7.30 Report*. He currently hosts *Four Corners* on ABC Television.

## **ABOUT PAUL KEATING:**

Paul Keating was born in Sydney on 18 January 1944. He was educated at De La Salle College in Bankstown where he obtained the Intermediate Certificate in 1958. Mr Keating left school at 15, joined the Australian Labor Party at this time and in 1966 became President of the NSW Youth Council, the predecessor to Young Labor.

In 1969 Mr Keating was elected to the House of Representatives as the Member for Blaxland, centred around the suburb of Bankstown, where he had lived all his life. In 1975 he became the youngest ever federal minister and held the portfolio of Minister for Northern Australia in the Whitlam Cabinet. Between 1976 and 1983 Mr Keating served in the Opposition Shadow Ministry and was spokesperson for a number of portfolios including agriculture, minerals and energy. During this period Mr Keating was also President of the NSW Branch of the ALP. When the ALP was returned to Government in March 1983, Mr Keating became Treasurer, a position he held until 1991.

Mr Keating became Prime Minister in December 1991 and led the ALP to an historic fifth term of Government in March 1993. As Prime Minister, he continued his progressive reform program, which included the establishment of a National Training Authority, a national superannuation scheme to redress low national savings and labour market and training reforms which addressed Australia's long-term unemployment problems. Other key achievements of the Keating Government included the review of the Sex Discrimination Act, the historic Mabo legislation recognising the land rights of Australia's Indigenous people and the introduction of legislation ensuring protection of endangered species. Following the defeat of the ALP in March 1996, Mr Keating resigned from Parliament.

He continues to take a close interest in the national issues with which he was associated in public life. Mr Keating has been awarded Honorary Doctorates in Laws from both Keio University in Tokyo and the National University of Singapore.

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Kerry O'Brien will tour Australia from Wednesday 21 October. For further information or to request copies of the book, contact Stella Chambers at Allen & Unwin:

Stella Chambers / 02 8425 0184 / 0410 452 879 / [stellac@allenandunwin.com](mailto:stellac@allenandunwin.com)