



MEDIA RELEASE
Monday 14 December

GP tickets on sale Friday 18 December

SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE IN ASSOCIATION WITH SYDNEY WRITERS' FESTIVAL PRESENT
RICHARD DAWKINS: MY LIFE IN SCIENCE
IN CONVERSATION WITH NATASHA MITCHELL
Sydney Opera House, Sunday 28 February 2016

"Dawkins... is a master of scientific exposition and synthesis. When it comes to his own specialty, evolutionary biology, there is none better." – The New York Times

Oxford professor, evolutionary biologist and popular author **Richard Dawkins** will return to the Sydney Opera House next year to celebrate his life in science with experienced science broadcaster and host of *Radio National Life Matters*, **Natasha Mitchell**.

Catapulted into public fame with the publication of *The Selfish Gene* in 1976, Dawkins has had a major impact on the field of science as both an academic and an eloquent and passionate science communicator to the general public. Chronicled in the second volume of his memoirs *Brief Candle in the Dark*, Dawkins has become increasingly involved in public conversations about scientific ideas, culture and religion. He is considered one of the Four Horsemen of New Atheism (alongside Christopher Hitchens, Daniel Dennett and Sam Harris), with his 2006 bestseller *The God Delusion* critiquing religion and promoting scientific principles over creationism and intelligent design. Dawkins is also considered the founder of the "meme", coining the concept (defined as a self-replicating unit of culture passed from person-to-person) in 1976.

Natasha Mitchell, founding presenter and producer of the popular science, psychology and culture radio program *All in the Mind* and former vice president of the World Federation of Science Journalists, is Dawkins' perfect sparring partner, continuing the conversation and discussing some of the highlights of his scientific journey and dynamic career.

Dawkins has appeared as part of the Sydney Opera House's Talks and Ideas program on two occasions, to launch his book *The Greatest Show on Earth* in 2010 and in conversation with Professor Lawrence Krauss in 2012. *The Unbelievers*, the documentary shadowing Dawkins and Krauss on their tour around the world and featuring their appearance at the Sydney Opera House, premiered as part of the *Festival of Dangerous Ideas* in November 2012.

Ann Mossop, Head of Talks and Ideas at the Sydney Opera House, says *"It is always a pleasure to welcome the great science communicator Richard Dawkins to the Sydney Opera House to discuss his ideas. We are looking forward to hearing him talk about his life in science when Natasha Mitchell joins him in conversation as part of our year-round Talks and Ideas program."*

Sydney Opera House Talks and Ideas presents ideas, conversation and debate from leading thinkers and culture creators from around the world, extending the reach of live events with unique content online. As well as a year-round program of inspiring events, Sydney Opera House Talks & Ideas features annual festivals *All About Women* and the *Festival of Dangerous Ideas*, and one-day talks events *For Thought* and *Carnegie Conversations: Experiments in Democracy*.

More info: www.sydneyoperahouse.com/ideasatthehouse



INFORMATION:

What: Richard Dawkins: My Life in Science
When: Sunday 28 February 2016
Where: Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House
Tickets: From \$35
More info: <http://www.sydneyoperahouse.com/>

ABOUT RICHARD DAWKINS:

Richard Dawkins first catapulted to fame with his iconic work *The Selfish Gene* (1976) which he followed with a string of prestigious books, the latest of which was Part 1 of his autobiography, *An Appetite for Wonder* (2013). He is a Fellow of both the Royal Society and the Royal Society of Literature and the recipient of numerous honours and awards. He remains a fellow of New College, Oxford. In 2013, Dawkins was voted the world's top thinker in *Prospect* magazine's poll of 10,000 readers from over 100 countries.

Twitter: [@RichardDawkins](https://twitter.com/RichardDawkins)

ABOUT NATASHA MITCHELL:

Natasha Mitchell has been presenter of *ABC Radio National's* long-running daily program *Life Matters* since 2012. She was the founding presenter and producer of *All in the Mind* from 2002-2012. Natasha served as a board member and then vice president of the World Federation of Science Journalists between 2009-2013 and was the co-editor of the anthology, *The Best Australian Science Writing 2013*. Natasha has an engineering degree with first class honours from Monash University and a postgraduate diploma in science communication from the Australian National University, with also involved touring nationally with the Questacon Science Circus.

Twitter: [@natashamitchell](https://twitter.com/natashamitchell)

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