

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**Monday 1 June**

**GP tickets on sale Friday 5 June**

**SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE presents**

## **SIR RICHARD EVANS: Why we still talk about the Nazis**

**Sydney Opera House Studio (26 July)**

Cambridge University's **Professor Sir Richard J Evans** will speak at the Sydney Opera House in July, addressing the Third Reich in history and memory and discussing why it is that we still talk about the Nazis.

The Nazis still have a strong hold on us, with news stories, books and movies continuing to explore the events and personalities of the Third Reich. In the decades since 1945, the way we understand this period has evolved, with a more historical approach giving way to one that foregrounds the memories of those involved and the moral dimensions of the conflict. This may be part of why we are still so interested in the Nazis, but is not the whole story. Does it exert such a grip because it represents racism at its most extreme, a form of genocide that is unique? What has shaped the way we see the Nazis? And why do the Nazis still have such a powerful hold on our imagination?

Regius Professor of History (2008-2014) at the University of Cambridge and President of Wolfson College, Sir Richard J Evans regularly contributes essays, reviews and obituaries to Guardian UK. His general area of research is modern German and European history, especially social and cultural history since the mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century. Evans was a Visiting Fellow at the Humanities Research Centre, Australian National University, Canberra, in 1986. He is the author of over 20 books, with key publications including *The Feminist Movement in Germany* (1976), a three-volume history of the Third Reich (2003-2005) and his most recent book, *Altered Pasts* (2014), which addresses the history of history.

**Head of Talks & Ideas at the Sydney Opera House, Ann Mossop**, said, *"This year marks 70 years since the end of World War II and our society still has an intense fascination with the Nazis and that particular period of history. It's a great opportunity to speak to one of the world's greatest experts on the Third Reich and discuss the cultural, social and historical reasons why it continues to linger in both history and memory."*

**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 events *For Thought* and *Carnegie Conversations: Ideas for a better Australia*. The next *Festival of Dangerous Ideas* program will be announced mid-July and take place on 5-6 September 2015.

### **INFORMATION**

**What:** Sir Richard Evans  
**When:** Sunday 26 July, 11am  
**Where:** Studio, Sydney Opera House  
**Tickets:** From \$35  
**More info:** <http://www.sydneyoperahouse.com/>

## ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Richard J. Evans's general area of research interest is modern German and European history, especially social and cultural history, since the mid-nineteenth century. He has worked on movements of emancipation and liberation, including the feminist movement and the labour movement, on social inequality in the urban environment, on the social history of death and disease, and on crime and punishment, especially the death penalty in German history since the seventeenth century. He also has an interest in historiography and the history of the discipline of history. Since acting as principal expert witness in the David Irving libel trial before the High Court in London in 2000, his work has dealt with Holocaust denial and the clash of epistemologies when history enters the courtroom. He has published a large-scale history of the Third Reich in three volumes, published by Penguin. He has been Editor of the Journal of Contemporary History since 1998 and a judge of the Wolfson Literary Award for History since 1993. Over the years, his work has won the Wolfson Literary Award for History, the William H. Welch Medal of the American Association for the History of Medicine, the Fraenkel Prize in Contemporary History, and the Hamburg Medaille für Kunst und Wissenschaft. He is a Fellow of the British Academy, the Royal Society of Literature and the Royal Historical Society, and an Honorary Fellow of Jesus College, Oxford, Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, and Birkbeck College, London. His most recent book is on British historians and the European Continent and he is currently completing a book on the years 1815-1914 for the Penguin History of Europe. He is PI for the Leverhulme-funded 5-year project on Conspiracy and Democracy.

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