

# SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE AND ABC TV FORGE PARTNERSHIP FOR NEXT GENERATION

**Sydney – Monday, April 4 2016: The Sydney Opera House and ABC TV** today announced a three-year partnership that will bring live performances, educational experiences and tailored content from the nation's leading performing arts centre to children across Australia via the ABC's broadcast and digital platforms.

Combining the forces of two powerhouses of Australian culture and education, this innovative collaboration aims to create deeper and more meaningful opportunities for Australian children to engage with world-class art and performance.

Through the new partnership, live-streamed performances, interactive artist-and-author forums, and bespoke digital education content will be available on ABC3 and iview providing high-quality, Australian, educational performing arts experiences for young viewers everywhere.

It launches on Monday 4 April, when more than 700 school students nationwide connect with London-based **Mr Stink** author **David Walliams** and playwright **Maryam Master**, whose live-action adaptation of the bestselling children's book runs at the Opera House from 9-24 April. Performer **Curtis "Curly" Fernandez** will be live on the Opera House stage with Maryam Master, leading students through a question-and-answer session with Walliams. The footage of this live-streamed Opera House conversation between Walliams, Master and the students will then be broadcast on ABC3 within the Education block on Friday 8 April at 11am, following on from the broadcast of the BBC special of Mr Stink at 10.00am. It will be available on iview after the broadcast.

**Sydney Opera House Head of Children, Families and Creative Learning Bridgette Van Leuven** said: "By joining forces, we can harness the power of the ABC's broadcast and digital platforms to allow audiences to connect and interact with the world-leading creative content produced at the Sydney Opera House. Together, these two preeminent national institutions can enrich the cultural and creative lives of educators, children and families. It's about inspiring 21<sup>st</sup> century students and equipping them to deal with a fast-changing world.

"Both leaders and innovators in education, the Sydney Opera House and the ABC have played a transformative role in the lives of Australians. Now these two institutions are creatively working together to confidently serve the next generation."

**Richard Finlayson, ABC Director of Television** said: "The ABC is pleased to partner with the Sydney Opera House to support its Children, Families and Creative Learning Program. As the home of national conversations, culture and stories, the ABC shares a vision to enrich the cultural experiences of all Australians and nowhere is that more important than with our future leaders via our Children's and Education programming."

This innovative partnership will ensure children, parents and educators have new access to the Opera House's creative, cultural and live performance experiences via ABC television, a trusted source of entertaining and educational content for more than 60 years.

## **Sydney Opera House**

The Opera House is a masterpiece that belongs to all Australians. It is the country's number one tourist destination and its busiest performing arts centre, welcoming more than 8.2 million visitors a year on site and hosting 1,900 performances attended by 1.4 million people. On its 40th Anniversary in 2013, the Opera House embarked upon a Decade of Renewal to prepare it for future generations of artists, audiences and visitors. The Sydney Opera House's Children, Families & Creative Learning program comprises a year-round series of cross-art performing arts, digital and creative learning experiences for children, families, students and teachers. The annual program engages with over 150,000 participants through its onsite, online and outreach programs and encourages all to explore their creativity, curiosity and the scope of their learning capabilities.

## **ABC**

The ABC's vision is to be the independent home of Australian conversations, culture, and stories. In pursuing that vision, the ABC places audiences at the centre of its activities and strategies for the future.

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