



MEDIA RELEASE
Monday 18 May 2016

SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE PRESENTS

Deadly Voices from the House

PODCAST

A whole new perspective, via your headphones

Actor, writer, director and Sydney Opera House Head of Indigenous Programming **Rhoda Roberts AO** shares personal stories from her extraordinary life and career in the first of a new podcast series, ***Deadly Voices from the House***, that takes intimate interviews with Indigenous and artists and leaders to the world.

A creative powerhouse, Roberts most recently directed ***Songlines***, the first Indigenous Lighting of the Sails, for Vivid 2016. The Facebook Livestream of the 'lights on moment' on 27 May reached more than 8 million people, with more than a quarter of them overseas, and became the most successful piece of digital content ever produced by the Sydney Opera House.

She was honoured in this year's Queen's Birthday honours list for her distinguished service to the performing arts, leadership, advocacy and promoting contemporary Indigenous culture.

For 21 years, Roberts has interviewed First Nations artists and leaders, including Archie Roach, Deborah Mailman and Warren Mundine, in a syndicated radio show. Now for the first time ***Deadly Voices from the House*** podcasts will be available monthly, free on [iTunes](#).

For the first podcast, Opera House Head of Talks & Ideas **Ann Mossop** turns the tables, interviewing Roberts –who enjoyed an impressive career in health care in Australia and the UK before even moving into the arts – about her incredible life.

Her arts career has spanned roles as Creative Director of the Sydney Olympic's Opening Ceremony and Artistic Director of Olympic Arts Festivals and The Festival of the Dreaming. She continues to evolve her craft as a festival director through the Opera House's Homeground Festival, an annual celebration of First Nation's culture from around the world, and the Boomerang Festival in Northern NSW.

Roberts' reveals her family history is equally remarkable:

"Dad had come to Sydney to train as a minister....[he] went to America to train at the Oral Roberts Theological College in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and his roommate there was Martin Luther King Jr – so he was very inspired by the Southern Baptist evangelical movement."

As for the podcasts:

"Evolving Deadly Voices from the House into a podcast allows First Nations leaders to share insights, stories and opinions in the same intimate listening environment but with a global audience. I'm excited about how 'the new' collides with the world's oldest continuing culture in this new digital medium," says Roberts.

Recorded in the Opera House's Grammy Award-winning Intel Broadcast Studios, ***Deadly Voices from the House*** continues the rich history of the site known for thousands of years as Tubowgule, a place of celebration and ceremony for the Gadigal people.

[Listen to the first episode of Deadly Voices from the House](#)

KEY INFORMATION

WHAT: Deadly Voices from the House
WHEN: Monthly
WHERE: iTunes || National Indigenous Radio Service || Community Radio Network
MORE INFO: http://www.sydneyparahouse.com/about/program_deadly_voices_at_the_house.aspx
MEDIA IMAGES: [Download here](#)

ABOUT THE HOST – RHODA ROBERTS AO



Rhoda Roberts is a member of the Bundjalung nation, Widjabul clan of Northern NSW and South East QLD.

She is the Head of Indigenous Programming, Sydney Opera House, the Creative Director of Rhoda Roberts Gallery & Events, and Festival Director of the Boomerang Festival. As an actor/producer and director, she works as a consultant and is a sought-after speaker and performer in theatre, film, television and radio.

Rhoda was producer of Vibe Australia, Creative Director of Sydney New Year's Eve and Festival Director, Garma Festival, produced by the Yothu Yindi Foundation, and a co-founding member of Australia's first national Aboriginal theatre company, the Aboriginal National Theatre Trust (ANTT).

She has been Creative Director for the Awakening Segment Sydney Olympic Games Opening Ceremony; Rugby World Cup 2003; Athens handover ceremony; the opening ceremony of the Musee Du Quai Branly, Paris; Japan Expo; and World Youth Day events. She was the Artistic Director of Sydney Dreaming Festival and Australia Day events where, for ten years, she developed and directed the Woggan ma Gule annual ceremony to honour the day.

Rhoda's previous board memberships include: Indigenous Tourism Australia, Australia International Cultural Council Playwriting Australia (Chair), Sydney Opera House Trust, Dreaming Festival, NSW Australia Day Council, Darling Harbour Authority, National Aboriginal and Islander Skills Development Association (NAISDA), NSW Anti-Discrimination Board, Actors Equity, Aboriginal National Theatre Trust and The Yothu Yindi Foundation Garma Festival Board.

In June 2016, Rhoda was awarded the title of Officer (AO) In The General Division Of The Order Of Australia, for her distinguished service to the performing arts through a range of leadership and advocacy roles in the development, promotion and presentation of contemporary Indigenous culture.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

Shelley Watters, Communications Manager, Performing Arts (Mon-Wed)
swatters@sydneyparahouse.com
(02) 9250 7286 / 0415 901 440