



Sydney Opera House switches on the ultimate Vivid destination

- Deep Purple Pool Hall pop-up bar returns to round out Vivid-inspired food and drink menus –
- Exclusive tours offer rare access during annual Opera House contemporary music takeover –
- Vivid Light Walk extends to Opera House Forecourt for the first time –

Sydney – Monday, 9 May 2016. Pop-up pool halls, special menus, Forecourt lights and backstage nights: **Vivid LIVE** will transform every part of the Sydney Opera House from 27 May to 18 June during Vivid Sydney, the world's largest festival of light, music and ideas.

Inside, the world's greatest contemporary music artists will play on the stages. Outside, the groundbreaking [Songlines](#) will showcase ancient Indigenous stories on the sails. Everywhere, visitors to the Opera House site will be able to eat, drink and explore, bathed in the glow of this soaring animated art piece directed by the Opera House's Head of Indigenous Programming, **Rhoda Roberts**.

In keeping with this year's stunning Lighting the Sails, restaurants across the Opera House will celebrate Australia's rich culinary heritage, from fingerlimes, lemon myrtle and strawberry gum to locally sourced oysters and yabbies.

Exclusive Vivid LIVE guided tours and VIP backstage experiences will be available each evening, offering visitors the chance to discover the Opera House's famous theatres and spaces before taking in the illuminated sights around the Sydney Harbour.

For the first time, the Opera House Forecourt will also become part of the citywide Vivid Light Walk, with a very special installation, [Flurry](#). The interactive space uses LED lighting to make the public the performer, their presence triggering light effects within a structure they can walk through to the illuminated water's edge.

Meanwhile, the Deep Purple Pool Hall is back for ten nights only in the Concert Hall Northern Foyer. This hidden, harbourside speakeasy, equal parts dive bar and cantina, invites visitors to soak up the very special atmosphere of Vivid LIVE.

Director of Visitor Experiences, Jade McKellar said: *"The Opera House is such a well-loved part of Vivid Sydney. To celebrate this year's special Lighting of the Sails, we wanted to go one step further by creating the ultimate destination for people to experience this world-renowned winter festival."*

"From pioneering contemporary music to ground-breaking indigenous art and interactive lighting installations, the Opera House will offer incredible artistic experiences combined with unique food, beverage and tour offerings. We want people to feel free to linger and discover more about this unique festival."

WHAT'S ON AT SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE

FOOD & DRINK

For thousands of years, Bennelong Point was known as Tubowgule, a rocky promontory reached at high tide via shell middens, evidencing the feasting, ceremony and celebration that took place on the site. For Vivid Sydney 2016, **Opera Bar** will serve oyster shots enriched with Indigenous berries and herbs for vibrant colouring, with 'bush tucker', including fingerlimes, lemon myrtle and smoked macadamia nuts. Colourful cocktails, a GIF photo booth, projections and lights will add to the playful Vivid Sydney festival atmosphere.



Chef Peter Gilmore's menu at **Bennelong** celebrates the abundant flavours and diversity of Australian produce, and no dish highlights this more than the locally sourced Red claw yabbies from Mandandanji country in South West Queensland, served with lemon jam, cultured cream and buckwheat pikelets. 'The Bennelong Billy', an Aussie rum-based cocktail with river mint, quandong liqueur and strawberry gum served over crushed ice will also be on offer.

As the lights come on, the **Eat Drink, Western Foyers** heaters will turn up, ready to serve winter warmers featuring a selection of award-winning NSW wine and produce, carefully curated by Chef Lauren Murdoch. Sample Palmer's Island Mulloway with roast tomato sauce, saffron potato and rouille or if you're on the go, a pop-up on the Forecourt will serve Lozzie's Hot Dogs, jaffles, soup and other family-friendly food and drinks.

Available from May 27 – 18 June.

The team behind Tios and The Cliff Dive are back in a perfect haze with the hotly anticipated return of the **Deep Purple Pool Hall**.

This hidden speakeasy, is likened to a piece of Americana flotsam washed up on Sydney Harbour. Guests will follow the eight-ball up the western stairs to discover a unique festival pop-up bar, operated by Aria catering.

The venue is about juxtaposing high and low culture, bringing artisanal beer and wine from some of Australia's smallest and best producers to the domain of Opera and sparkling wine.

After a few rounds of pool, revellers can immerse themselves in the world of Vivid LIVE with exhibitions from seminal New Order and Joy Division punk photographer Kevin Cummins and influential films and documentaries on show.

Open for ten nights only, May 27 – June 5, 6pm 'til late.

VIVID LIVE EXCLUSIVE TOURS

Guided tours will be available for extended hours each night, offering visitors the chance to discover the Opera House's famous theatres and spaces before taking in the illuminated sights of Sydney Harbour.

A two-hour **Backstage Tour** will explore behind the scenes and stages including the state-of-the-art recording studio as the Opera House prepares for the evening's Vivid LIVE shows, wrapping up with dinner and drinks in the famous Green Room.

Sydney Opera House tours will run at extended hours from May 27 – 18 June, Backstage Tour – Vivid LIVE will run from May 27 – 13 June.

VIVID LIGHT WALK – FLURRY

Flurry is an interactive 'architectural sculpture' that sits at the harbour's edge, created by Australian artist Eliot Rosenberg. Its curved organic shape and arches create a vaulted tunnel on the way to the Sydney Opera House, extending the Light Walk onto the Forecourt for the first time. The structure twists in on itself, forming two interior spaces attuned to movement.

People can interact with the installation by spinning, waving, dancing and jumping, their movements and gestures delivering personalised lighting performances that transform the translucent 'skin' of the structure with shifting waves of coloured light.

From 27 May-18 June.

Hi res images are available for download [here](#).

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**For further media information, please contact:**

Danielle Edwards, Publicity Coordinator – Visitor Experiences
+61 2 9250 7209 / +61 424 548 876 / dedwards@sydneyoperahouse.com

About Vivid LIVE at Vivid Sydney

From 27 May – 13 June, Sydney Opera House will welcome some of the most ambitious and innovative local and international artists for Vivid LIVE – a celebration of music on the nation's most famous stages – held as part of Vivid Sydney, the world's largest festival of light, music and ideas.

Vivid LIVE invites the world's leading music artists and performers to raise the roof of the Sydney Opera House's theatres, rehearsal spaces, recording studios and most famously, its iconic sails, which are transformed into a unique lighting canvas each year for Vivid Sydney.

Now in its eighth year, Vivid Sydney, features large scale light installations and projections (Vivid Light); music performances and collaborations (Vivid Music including Vivid LIVE at the Sydney Opera House); and creative ideas, discussion and debate (Vivid Ideas), celebrating Sydney as the creative hub of the Asia-Pacific. Vivid Sydney is owned, managed and produced by Destination NSW, the NSW Government's tourism and major events agency and runs from 27 May to 18 June 2016. For more information visit www.vividsydney.com.

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.