



MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday 24 August 2016

EXPLORE THE DEEP AND THE SOLITARY AS THE FESTIVAL OF DANGEROUS IDEAS GOES VIRTUAL

3-4 September 2016, Sydney Opera House

"Virtual reality was once the dream of science fiction. But the internet was also once a dream and so were computers and smartphones." – Mark Zuckerberg

Experience the depths of the sea in virtual reality when *Oceans VR: Net Positive* has its world premiere at the Festival of Dangerous Ideas at the Sydney Opera House on 3-4 September.

The Economist's Environment Correspondent **Miranda Johnson** will discuss the threat of overfishing to the world's largest ecosystem in conversation with ABC *The Business* presenter, **Ticky Fullerton**, on Sunday 4 September as a ticketed festival event in The Studio.

The immersive *Oceans VR: Net Positive* experience – produced by *The Economist* in conjunction with Object Normal – will be available in the Western Foyers all weekend.

The Guardian's first virtual-reality experience, **6x9**, will also be available in the Western Foyers. **6x9** puts viewers in a US solitary-confinement cell six-feet wide and nine-feet long.

Other festival activations in the Western Foyers include free coffee from founding partner The Ethics Centre and an interactive, analogue installation called *Vox Box* where you can divulge the questions you really want to ask... or be asked. From relationships, happiness, work, the future and more, this is the latest 'Vox Pop' from The Ethics Centre who have previously collaborated with *Vice* and Kirk Docker of the ABC's newest hit program *You Can't Ask That*.

In the Concert Hall Southern Foyer, FODI Event Partner Australian Ethical's installation *Fete of the World* will give audiences the chance to play carnival-inspired games and learn more about the consequences of their investment decisions. Players will go in the draw to win a \$2,000 managed fund prize.

Bookshops by Kinokuniya will pop-up in the Concert Hall Southern Foyer and Western Foyers, with many FODI speakers signing books after their sessions. DJ Jack Shit will also be spinning tunes outside the Western Foyers venues.

For those looking to live and dine adventurously, Sydney Opera House eateries are offering FODI-themed menu items, including a 'mystery meal' from Opera Kitchen (\$20, with vegetarian and vegan options available), a mystery cocktail from Opera Bar smoked through a decanter (\$18), or Bennelong's bespoke cocktail creation which emerges under a wisp of chocolate smoke (\$23).

'Dine Dangerously' offers will be available from Monday 29 August until the end of the FODI weekend. Bennelong is also offering FODI patrons 10% off the Cured and Cultured menu during lunch on Saturday 3-Sunday 4 September – just show your ticket to receive the discount.

The world's brightest and most powerful thinkers will take over the Sydney Opera House in less than two weeks for the eighth annual Festival of Dangerous Ideas, when more than 25,000 ticket buyers will hear from speakers on topics ranging from Australian and American politics, to the Black Lives Matter movement, and the Indigenous suicide epidemic. Tickets are still available to key sessions in the Concert Hall: Alicia Garza with Stan Grant, A.C. Grayling, Annabel Crabb & David Marr, Alexei Sayle and *Mercy: Justice and the Law Vs Compassion*.

More information & tickets: <http://www.sydneyoperahouse.com/fodi>

Download Images: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/xel49x93axhvaig/AAD3cKfMkR3047Ly8ycmMKyca?dl=0>

FODI is a flagship festival as part of the **Sydney Opera House Talks & Ideas** program, which also features *All About Women* (celebrating International Women's Day in March), *For Thought* in partnership with Wheeler Centre and the University of Melbourne, the *Culture Club* arts talks series, and key solo events throughout the year.

#FODI



MORE INFORMATION:

What: *Oceans VR: Net Positive, 6x9 & Vox Box*
Venue: Sydney Opera House, Western Foyers
Dates & Times: Saturday 3 September from 9:30am
Sunday 4 September from 9:30am

What: *Fete of the World*
Venue: Sydney Opera House, Concert Hall Southern Foyer
Dates & Times: Saturday 3 September from 10:30am
Sunday 4 September from 11am

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