



**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Tuesday 8 March 2016**

**International Women's Day**

## **MORE THAN 11,000 TICKETS SOLD TO SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE'S FOURTH ALL ABOUT WOMEN FESTIVAL**

More than 11,000 tickets were sold to Sydney Opera House's fourth *All About Women* festival at Bennelong Point on Sunday 6 March. Almost 1000 more joined in via livestream across 19 satellite events around Australia and New Zealand. And it's not over yet; the festival will continue to engage people in ideas that matter to women on International Women's Day – on site, online or for some people, on their own sofa.

On site, [Lynette Wallworth's \*Evolution of Fearlessness\*](#) – a video experience inviting visitors to engage with the stories of resilient women who have survived incredible hardship – continues free in the Opera House Western Foyers through International Women's Day and until 13 March. This intimate exhibition uses interactive technology to share moving, uplifting human connections.

Online, viewers can enjoy encores of many *All About Women* sessions – with local and international speakers including **Anne-Marie Slaughter**, **Carrie Brownstein**, **Jennifer Clement** and **Rosie Waterland** now available on [YouTube](#) and soon to be released as Opera House [podcasts](#), recorded through the Opera House's Intel Broadcast Studios.

On [YouTube](#), local comedians **Celeste Barber** and **Adele Vuko** star in fictional film trailers for female-led genre films that are *Not Showing In Cinemas This Summer*; these films that pass the famous 'Bechdel test' are unique digital content created for the festival in response to [Lenny Letter's "Realistic Female-Driven Film Treatments"](#).

On sofas in selected living rooms, [Brian Lobel's one-to-one performance piece \*You Have To Forgive, You Have To Forgive Me, You Have To Forgive Me\*](#), which was presented for free in the Western Foyers at *All About Women*, continues; competition winners are this week enjoying Brian's interactive performance in their own homes.

The festival, timed to celebrate International Women's Day on 8 March, has grown in size and ambition since launching in 2013. Providing a platform for women's voices and celebrating the power of storytelling, *All About Women* this year ranged over all six venues within the Sydney Opera House, while the program expanded with initiatives including:

- Live-streaming keynote sessions "What Needs To Change" and Piper Kerman's "Orange is the New Black" into 19 regional, interstate and New Zealand libraries, theatres and cultural centres, enabling presenting partners to curate their own ode to International Women's Day featuring local talent and free or accessible tickets;
- Welcoming 350 teens aged 13-17 who took up the offer of free tickets to the "What Needs To Change" panel, featuring **Anne-Marie Slaughter**, **Ann Sherry**, **Masha Gessen**, **Crystal Lameman** and **Mallory Ortberg**;
- Engaging online discussion through the [Sydney Opera House Talks & Ideas Medium](#) site with five essays on such issues as violence, equality in the home, gendered distribution of wealth, and masculinities, commissioned from writers **Bec Shaw**, **Kerry Carrington**, **Van Badham**, **Margie Orford** and **Jennifer Whelan**;
- [Advice for my Younger Self](#) - a digital content piece produced in partnership with Intel which asked women to give advice to their younger selves. The beautiful video shows how many women wished they had trusted their own instincts when they were younger and had more positive reinforcement.

**Ann Mossop, Head of Talks and Ideas at the Sydney Opera House and co-curator of *All About Women***, says, "All About Women has grown in both popularity and size since it started in 2013. Audiences are clearly hungry to talk about the issues that really matter to them and to meet the women who inspire them with their stories and life's work. This year audiences loved speakers like Anne-Marie Slaughter, Miranda July, Piper Kerman and Mallory Ortberg. They join our amazing list of alumni – including Rosie Batty, Alison Bechdel, Sylvia Earle, Leymah Gbowee, Germaine Greer and Anita Sarkeesian – to create a festival that is a platform to share ideas and celebrate women of achievement.

**Danielle Harvey, Head of International Development at the Sydney Opera House and co-curator of *All About Women***, says, "All About Women is not just for audiences in Sydney. By distributing our talks online, creating new content that engages with the themes in unique ways, and livestreaming into venue partners right around Australia and New Zealand, we are engaging with audiences around the world and giving everyone access to these great ideas and women. Last year we received an email from a YouTube subscriber who lived in a small country town in Britain, telling us that All About Women and the Festival of Dangerous Ideas keeps her connected to feminists and thinkers just like her. This is why the Sydney Opera House Talks & Ideas program exists and we are excited to keep finding even more ways to grow and reach our audiences around the world."



## FUN FACTS & STATS:

- More than 11,000 tickets were sold to the *All About Women* festival;
- Attendance has more than doubled since the first *All About Women* in 2013;
- 350 tickets were given away to teens aged 13-17 for the "What Needs To Change" keynote panel;
- 1000 Sydney Opera House visitors experienced Lynette Wallworth's exhibition on Sunday 6 March;
- 140 people experienced Brian Lobel's performance installation *You Have To Forgive Me, You Have To Forgive Me, You Have To Forgive Me*;
- Almost 3500 people came to the Sydney Opera House to experience *All About Women* on Sunday 6 March;
- Almost 1000 people attended the 19 satellite events around Australia and New Zealand;
- #AllAboutWomen was trending on Twitter by 1pm;
- There were 4.1K uses of #AllAboutWomen across Twitter and Instagram;
- 14 speakers travelled from around the world to speak at All About Women;
- 13 speakers travelled from around Sydney and Australia, plus seven Women of Letters speakers and four members of Sleater-Kinney;
- 14 chairs travelled from around Sydney and Australia;
- There were 17 solo sessions and 6 panels on the day.

## SELECT QUOTES:

- *"The 'Unfinished Business' is the unfinished business of achieving genuine gender equality... We have no idea what men really want.. because we are still imposing gender inequality on them."* - [Anne-Marie Slaughter, Unfinished Business](#)
- *"My most common answer when people ask me, 'what is it like to be a woman in a band?' I say 'you asking me that question is part of the experience. This conversation is part of the experience of being female and doing anything.'"* - [Carrie Brownstein, Hunger Makes Me A Modern Girl](#)
- *"[In Mexico] A snakeskin belt is more valuable than a girl's life. How did that happen?"* - [Jennifer Clement, Stolen Women](#)
- *"Women in prison might use a lot of F words but Feminism is not one of them."* - [Kerry Carrington, Women & Violence](#)

**IMAGES:** Click [here](#) to download a range of images from All About Women 2016.

**Sydney Opera House Talks & Ideas** presents ideas, conversation and debate from leading thinkers and culture creators from around the world, extending the reach of live events with unique content online. As well as a year-round program of inspiring events, Sydney Opera House Talks & Ideas features annual festivals *All About Women* and the *Festival of Dangerous Ideas*, in-depth talks series *For Thought*, and the arts talks series *Culture Club*.

Now in its fourth year, *All About Women* is one of Sydney Opera House's flagship festivals. It is a full day of talks and discussions about ideas that matter to women, providing an important platform for women's voices. Featuring 30 guests from Australia, Canada, France, Mexico, North Korea, Russia, South Africa and the United States, the packed 2016 program co-curated by Danielle Harvey and Ann Mossop explores issues ranging from equality, unconscious bias and violence to the economy, masculinity, female incarceration, Indigenous activism, and the power of the female memoir. Speakers include Anne-Marie Slaughter, Miranda July, Piper Kerman, Carrie Brownstein, Jennifer Clement, Mallory Ortberg, Margie Orford and more. For more information, visit: <http://aaw.sydneyoperahouse.com/>

## CONNECT WITH SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE TALKS & IDEAS:

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/IdeasAtTheHouse>  
**Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/ideasatthehouse>  
**Instagram:** <http://instagram.com/sydneyoperahouse/>  
**YouTube:** <https://www.youtube.com/user/ideasatthehouse>  
**iTunes Podcasts:** <https://itunes.apple.com/au/podcast/sydney-opera-house-ideas-at/id640445035?mt=2>  
**IATH Hub:** <http://www.sydneyoperahouse.com/ideasatthehouse>

## MEDIA CONTACT:

Julia Lenton / Communications Manager, Talks & Ideas / [jlenton@sydneyoperahouse.com](mailto:jlenton@sydneyoperahouse.com) / +61 410 748 039

