



MEDIA RELEASE

Monday 14 March

Tickets on sale to the public Friday 18 March

THE SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE & CENTRE FOR INDEPENDENT STUDIES PRESENT

NIALL FERGUSON & THEODORE DALRYMPLE

"If the history of the 20th Century proved anything, it proved that however bad things were, human ingenuity could usually find a way to make them worse." – Theodore Dalrymple

"I would say I'm a 19th-century liberal, possibly even an 18th-century one." – Niall Ferguson

Two of the world's most compelling thinkers – historian, commentator and public intellectual, **Niall Ferguson**, and psychiatrist, writer and researcher **Theodore Dalrymple** -- will bring their particularly incisive wit and wisdom to the stage of the Sydney Opera House in April and May, co-presented with Sydney-based research institute The Centre for Independent Studies.

In *An Evening with Niall Ferguson*, the Scottish-born Harvard University professor, known for his provocative and contrarian views on international history and economic policy, will discuss his life and work. A prolific commentator and contributing editor to the *Financial Times*, Ferguson is the author of 11 books. In 2011 his film company released its first feature-length documentary, *Kissinger*, which won Best Documentary at the New York International Film Festival.

Theodore Dalrymple - nom de plume of the "sceptical doctor" Anthony Daniels - will explore social and economic inequality in a session titled *Is Society Broken? How to think about poverty, crime and inequality*. A retired doctor and psychiatrist who worked in prisons in Britain's second largest city, Birmingham, Dalrymple has famously chronicled "life at the bottom", anatomising the development of a multigenerational underclass in Western democracies. His lively and provocative essays and books – including *Life At The Bottom*, *If Symptoms Persist*, *Spoilt Rotten! The Toxic Cult of Sentimentality* and *The Wilder Shores of Marx* challenge liberal mainstream views about the causes of crime and the reality of poverty. *Dalrymple is the CIS' Max Hartwell Scholar-in-Residence for 2016*.

CIS founder and Executive Director Greg Lindsay AO says *"In our 40th anniversary year we cannot think of a more iconic organisation to partner with to host these world renowned thinkers to contribute to the Australian intellectual landscape."*

Head of Sydney Opera House Talks & Ideas Ann Mossop says: *"We are delighted to partner with the CIS to present talks by Niall Ferguson and Theodore Dalrymple as part of the Centre's 40th birthday celebration. Both are speakers who will make an important contribution to our annual program. Niall Ferguson is a distinguished historian and public intellectual of significant reach and impact. Theodore Dalrymple is a brilliant writer with a unique voice in public conversations about poverty, crime and the lives of the underclass."*

The two events will take place as part of the Lighthouse Lecture Series; a public program celebrating the CIS' 40th Anniversary.

Sydney Opera House Talks and Ideas presents ideas, conversation and debate with leading thinkers and culture creators from around the world, extending the reach of live events with unique content online. The year-round program of inspiring Sydney Opera House Talks & Ideas events features annual festivals *All About Women* and the *Festival of Dangerous Ideas*, and the immersive *For Thought* series.

The **Centre for Independent Studies** is Australia's leading independent public policy research institute. The Centre for Independent Studies seeks to encourage and provide independent, fact based practical research and encourage/provoke debate that promotes liberty, the rule of law, free enterprise and an efficient democratic government.

PRINCIPAL PARTNER

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KEY INFORMATION:

What: Theodore Dalrymple: *Is Society Broken? How to think about poverty, crime and inequality.*
When: Monday 18 April, 6pm
Where: Studio, Sydney Opera House
Tickets: Insiders \$28 / Full \$35
More info: http://www.sydneyoperahouse.com/whatson/theodore_dalrymple.aspx

What: *An Evening With Niall Ferguson*
When: Sunday 22 May, 7.30pm
Where: Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House
Tickets: Discount for Insiders / B Reserve \$35 / A Reserve \$45 / Premium \$55
More info: http://www.sydneyoperahouse.com/whatson/niall_ferguson_2016.aspx

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