



**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Tuesday 28 June**

**Tickets on sale to the public Friday 1 July**

**THE SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE & THE CENTRE FOR INDEPENDENT STUDIES PRESENT**  
**PJ O'ROURKE**

*"Highly pungent and wickedly accurate observations... [from a] boisterous, pedal-to-the-floor humourist"*  
– *The New York Times Book Review*

*"His essays have a way of beguiling you with their nihilistic sense of fun, exuberance and to-hell-with-everything-help-yourself-to-another-drink-attitude"* – *The Spin Off*.

Hot from the Trump-Clinton campaign trail, renowned political satirist **PJ O'Rourke** will take to the Concert Hall stage on 9 August to deliver his incisive, witty take on the upcoming US election.

After his address, O'Rourke will be in conversation with senior fellow at the United States Studies Centre, **Tom Switzer**.

Famous for his gonzo journalism and sharp conservative commentary, O'Rourke reluctantly gave Hillary Clinton his back-handed endorsement in May this year: "I endorse Hillary Clinton for President. She is the second-worst thing that could happen to America. I endorse her. And all her pomps. And all her empty promises. Better the devil you know than the Lord of the Flies on his own 757."

O'Rourke continued: "I mean, she's wrong about absolutely everything, but she's wrong within normal parameters."

He further lampooned Donald Trump on an American game show. "I mean, this man just can't be President," he said. "They've got this button, you know, in the briefcase. He's going to find it."

Born in Ohio, O'Rourke studied at Miami and Johns Hopkins Universities, describing himself as a left-leaning hippie in his student days. He emerged, however, as a political observer with libertarian views, writing for several underground publications, including *The Rip Off Review of Western Culture*, *Harry and the New York Ace*, before joining *National Lampoon* as managing editor.

In the 1980s, O'Rourke became a freelance writer. His work was published in *Playboy*, *Vanity Fair*, *Car and Driver* and *Rolling Stone*, where he was foreign affairs desk chief until 2001. He has written 18 books, including *Parliament of Whores* and *Give War a Chance*, which both reached #1 on *The New York Times* bestseller list.

**CIS founder and Executive Director Greg Lindsay AO** says "We are delighted to welcome PJ back to Australia in the year of our 40th birthday. He is one of the world's most perceptive commentators, but does so in a way that invariably leaves you with a smile on your face no matter how serious the subject."

**Head of Sydney Opera House Talks & Ideas Ann Mossop** says: "The chance to hear from PJ O'Rourke in this particular election year is too good to miss. The occasion builds on the insightful and provocative series begun earlier this year, when the Opera House partnered with the Centre for Independent Studies to present controversial British psychiatrist Theodore Dalrymple and eloquent historian Niall Ferguson. PJ O'Rourke's talk promises to be a perfect prelude to the November vote in the US."

This event will take place as part of the Lighthouse Lecture Series; a public program celebrating the CIS' 40<sup>th</sup> 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.



**KEY INFORMATION:**

**What:** PJ O'Rourke  
**When:** Tuesday 9 August, 8pm  
**Where:** Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House  
**Tickets:** From \$ 40, plus booking fee  
**More info:** [http://www.sydneyoperahouse.com/whatson/P\\_J\\_ORourke.aspx](http://www.sydneyoperahouse.com/whatson/P_J_ORourke.aspx)

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