



**MEDIA RELEASE**  
Wednesday 16 November 2016

## **IT'S A LONG STORY: NEW SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE PODCAST SERIES REVEALS THE STORIES BEHIND THE STARS**

What galvanised African American activist **Alicia Garza** to co-create #BlackLivesMatter? How did **Henry Rollins** make the jump from shift manager at Häagen-Dazs to lead singer of US punk rock band Black Flag? How does NSW Australian of the Year **Deng Thiak Adut's** former life as a Sudanese refugee and child soldier inform his practice of the law?

Find the answer to these questions and more in a new Opera House podcast-first series launched today. With its first season hosted by award-winning Australian broadcast journalist **Hamish Macdonald**, *It's A Long Story* unpacks the influences and eureka moments that formed some of its most acclaimed and influential guests.

**Head of International Development at the Sydney Opera House and co-curator of the Festival of Dangerous Ideas, Danielle Harvey**, says: "*We welcome so many wonderful thinkers and artists every year. The Opera House's founding Act charges us with being a place for the discussion of issues of local, national and international importance and It's a Long Story is a way of telling the stories behind the stories on our stages. The medium of a podcast is a wonderful way to share more of what happens on and off the stages of the Sydney Opera House.*"

Nine interviews were recorded with local and international speakers at the Festival of Dangerous Ideas in September 2016 in the Sydney Opera House's Intel Broadcast Studios. In addition to Rollins, Garza and Adut, the first season of *It's A Long Story* features hard-hitting and illuminating interviews with:

- **Jesse Bering**, experimental psychologist, Associate Professor in Science Communication at the University of Otago and the author of *Perv: The Sexual Deviant in All of Us* and *Why is the Penis Shaped Like That?*;
- **Sheila Watt-Cloutier**, Canadian Inuk activist and author of *The Right to Be Cold*, which views global warming as a gross violation of the human rights of Inuit people and tells Sheila's story of being sent away from her traditional land at the age of 10;
- **Lionel Shriver**, author of *We Need To Talk About Kevin* and *The Mandibles*;
- **Priyamvada Gopal**, professor of postcolonial literature at the University of Cambridge, *Guardian UK* contributor, and author of *Literary Radicalism in India: Gender, Nation and the Transition to Independence*;
- **Lev Grossman**, *TIME* book critic and author of *New York Times* bestselling trilogy, *The Magicians*;
- **Alok Jha**, science correspondent for ITV News and the author of *The Water Book: The Extraordinary Story of Our Most Ordinary Substance*.

The first series of *It's A Long Story* will be released fortnightly from midnight on Tuesday 15 November.

The *It's A Long Story* theme music was composed by **Hrishikesh Hirway**, the creator and host of [Song Exploder](#), and the co-host of [The West Wing Weekly](#) with Joshua Malina. *It's A Long Story* artwork was designed by Melbourne-based artist [Ellen Porteus](#).

### **LISTEN TO IT'S A LONG STORY:**

Via [iTunes](#) or [Stitcher](#). iTunes is recommended for Apple devices and Stitcher is recommended for Android devices.

Click here to download behind-the-scenes images and headshots of podcast guests:  
[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ii0x03l3aqtjnee/AACTLa\\_rHBpNWRdiUisFUMqua?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ii0x03l3aqtjnee/AACTLa_rHBpNWRdiUisFUMqua?dl=0)

Click here to embed the *It's A Long Story* trailer via Soundcloud:  
<https://soundcloud.com/sydneyoperahouse/introducing-its-a-long-story-teaser>



## NOTES TO EDITOR:

**Hamish Macdonald** is an award-winning International Affairs Correspondent and Harvard Fellow. In recent years Hamish has covered war in Ukraine, the rise of ISIS in the Middle East, missing Nigerian schoolgirls, and the Gaza conflict. Previously, Hamish worked as anchor and correspondent for Al Jazeera English. At Australia's Ten Network he was creator, Executive Producer & host of prime-time documentary series *The Truth Is?*. Hamish has received a prestigious Walkley Award for Journalism and a Human Rights Australia Award for Journalism. Britain's Royal Television Society named him "Young Journalist of the Year" in 2008 and *GQ Magazine* named Hamish "Media Man of the Year" in 2012. Follow Hamish Macdonald on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/hamishNews>

### **Sydney Opera House 'Ideas at the House' Podcast:**

The Sydney Opera House has been releasing full audio recordings of sessions from their year-round Talks & Ideas program since early 2014 on the [Sydney Opera House Talks & Ideas](#) podcast channel, which includes more than 100 pieces of content, including talks from speakers such as Rosie Batty, Carrie Brownstein, and Anne-Marie Slaughter, and an exclusive journalism workshop hosted by Ira Glass earlier this year.

Catch up on the Sydney Opera House Talks & Ideas Podcast over at iTunes: <https://itunes.apple.com/au/podcast/sydney-opera-house-talks-ideas/id640445035?mt=2>

Many talks from the Sydney Opera House Talks & Ideas program, including the Festival of Dangerous Ideas and the All About Women festival, have also been filmed and are available to view on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/ideasatthehouse>

### **Deadly Voices from the House:**

In July 2016, [Deadly Voices from the House](#) was launched as a podcast, after over 20 years of success as a syndicated radio show on the National Indigenous Radio Service and the Community Broadcasting Association of Australia. Hosted by the Sydney Opera House Head of First Nations Programming, **Rhoda Roberts AO**, *Deadly Voices from the House* features a diverse selection of prominent Indigenous leaders from the music, arts and culture sector and has this year featured interviews with Adam Goodes, Linda Burney and Danielle Ireland-Piper.

Catch up on *Deadly Voices from the House* Podcast on iTunes: <https://itunes.apple.com/au/podcast/deadly-voices-from-the-house/id1133030715?mt=2>

### **Intel Broadcast Studios:**

The Intel Broadcast Studios is the Grammy Award-winning recording and broadcasting studio facility in the Sydney Opera House – the engine room of the Opera House's digital stage – connecting the building's six venues and outdoor performance spaces through an advanced fibre-based digital audio-video network.

## ABOUT THE 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 more than 2000 performances attended by more than 1.5 million people. Deloitte has estimated the total cultural and iconic value of the Sydney Opera House to Australia at \$4.6 billion. On its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2013, the Opera House embarked upon a Decade of Renewal to prepare it for future generations of artists, audiences and visitors.

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