



MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 23 August

Tickets on sale to the general public Friday 26 August

SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE PRESENTS
THOMAS PIKETTY

Rockstar economist makes Australian debut

“At the heart of every major political upheaval lies a fiscal revolution.” – Thomas Piketty

“The distribution of wealth is too important an issue to be left to economists, sociologists, historians, and philosophers.” – Thomas Piketty

Officially Thomas Piketty is a world-leading thinker, bestselling author, professor at the prestigious *École des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales* and associate chair at the Paris School of Economics.

Popularly, however, Piketty is a “rockstar economist” (*Financial Times*) – even, “the Beyoncé of celebrity economists” (*The Sydney Morning Herald*).

Before Pope Francis and Barack Obama declared inequality the defining issue of our time, Piketty exploded onto the bestseller lists with a 700-page tome titled *Capital in the 21st Century*, hailed by *The Economist* as not only a “blockbuster analysis of wealth and income distribution” but a publishing sensation.

Translated – and truncated – into a 200-page English language version, Piketty’s academic outline of the evolution of inequality unleashed worldwide public reaction.

Published in 2013, *The New York Times* bestseller argues that, while inequality is not new it is getting worse. More fundamentally, *Capital* argues that inequality is an inevitable outcome of capitalism and that a “global tax on wealth” the only possible remedy. Analysing data from 20 countries – ranging as far back as the 18th century – Piketty uncovers key economic and social patterns to support his key thesis: that political intervention is required to curb the dangerous inequality driven by returns on capital exceeding the rate of broader economic growth.

Piketty’s output has been as urgent as his message since *Capital*. Last year he published *The Economics of Inequality*, which offers an introduction to the conceptual and factual background necessary for interpreting changes in economic equality over time.

In 2016, he published *Chronicles: On Our Troubled Times*, a collection of his essays for *Le Monde* and *Libération* over the past decade, analysing the financial crisis and its effects in 700-word, rather than page, pieces.

Ann Mossop, Head of Talks and Ideas at the Sydney Opera House, says “*We have been talking to Thomas Piketty about coming to speak in Australia ever since Capital was published, so I am delighted that he will be here in October. Sydney Opera House Talks & Ideas audiences flock to the venue when we program the world’s leading thinkers on economic and social issues. Thomas Piketty follows in the fascinating footsteps of previous Opera House guests Niall Ferguson, Paul Krugman, Yanis Varoufakis and Joseph Stiglitz.*”

Sydney Opera House Talks and 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*, the immersive half-day talk events *For Thought*, and an arts talks series called *Culture Club*.

KEY INFORMATION:

What: Thomas Piketty: Inequality
When: Sunday 23 October, 4pm
Where: Sydney Opera House Concert Hall
Tickets: Premium \$50 / A Reserve \$40 / Student \$25
Duration: 75 minutes

More info: http://www.sydneyoperahouse.com/whatson/Thomas_Piketty16.aspx

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Thomas Piketty is in Australia at the invitation of Monash University and Sydney Opera House to present talks in Melbourne and Sydney.

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MEDIA CONTACT:

Julia Lenton, Communications Manager, Talks & Ideas / jlenton@sydneyoperahouse.com / +61 410 748 039

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